

DECISIONS OF THE CABINET RESOURCES COMMITTEE

10 NOVEMBER 2005

COMMITTEE:

*Councillor Mike Freer (Chairman)

Councillors

* Anthony Finn BSc (Econ) FCA * John Marshall
* Lynne Hillan * Brian Salinger

* Denotes Member present

\$ Denotes Member absent on Council business

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the special meeting held on 27 October 2005 were approved.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

All members were present.

3. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS:

Members declared the following interests set out below:

Member	Subject	Interest
Cllr Lynne Hillan	Land at the junction of Warrens Shawe Lane and Springwood Crescent, Edgware (Agenda Item 4)	Personal and prejudicial interest as her company does business with Notting Hill Housing Trust. Cllr Hillan left the room during consideration of this item.
Cllr John Marshall	The former Watling Boys Club, Dryfield Road, Burnt Oak, HA8 (Agenda Item 7)	Personal but non-prejudicial interest as he was acquainted with someone who was connected to one of the organisations. Cllr Marshall remained in the room during consideration of this item and took part in the decision making process.

Member	Subject	Interest
Cllr John Marshall	Vacant site, junction of Avion Crescent and Grahame Park Way, Colindale, NW9 (Agenda Item 8)	Personal but non-prejudicial interest as he had received hospitality from one of the organisations that tendered but not shortlisted. Cllr Marshall remained in the room during consideration of this item and took part in the decision making process.
Cllr Mike Freer	Spencer House, 156/162 Station Road, Hendon, NW4 3TG (Agenda Item 10)	Personal but non-prejudicial interest as he had received hospitality from one of the organisations that tendered but not shortlisted. Cllr Freer remained in the room during consideration of this item and took part in the decision making process.

4. LAND AT THE JUNCTION OF WARRENS SHAW LANE AND SPRINGWOOD CRESCENT, EDGWARE (Report of the Cabinet Member for Resources – Agenda Item 4)

For the reasons set out in the Cabinet Member’s report, the Committee

RESOLVED –

1. That subject to:

- i. Notting Hill Housing Trust agreeing to make a contribution of £25,000 towards the provision of leisure facilities within the Borough, and £42,861 towards education;
- ii. To the outcome of the advertising of the intention to sell part of the land and grant a lease of the remainder pursuant to Section 123 (2A) of the Local Government Act 1972; and
- iii. The prior approval of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister if necessary;
Approval be given to
 - (a) 0.0117 hectares/0.029 acres approximately of the former playground being sold freehold to Notting Hill Housing Trust at nil consideration;
 - (b) Notting Hill Housing Trust being given licence to develop approximately 0.077 hectares/0.19 acres of the former playground site with a six bed care home; and
 - (c) Upon completion of the development in (b), Notting Hill Housing Trust be granted a 75 year lease of the development at a rent of a peppercorn and upon terms similar to those agreed for other properties in the Learning Disabilities accommodation re-provision project.

5. WRITE-OFFS OF HOUSING BENEFIT AND COUNCIL TAX BENEFIT OVERPAYMENTS (Report of the Cabinet Member for Resources – Agenda Item 5)

For the reasons set out in the Cabinet Member's report, the Committee

RESOLVED – That the amount of £212,891.05 as detailed in the report is written off.

6. SOUTH FRIERN LIBRARY AND ADJOINING PREMISES (Report of the Cabinet Member for Resources – Agenda Item 6)

The Committee noted a paper from JPL Homes which was circulated at the meeting and an amendment to Option 2 of the JLP Homes proposal to read:

*“A mixed use scheme combining a 4,700 sqft (super) replacement library facility (shell finish only), 21 residential units and 23 parking spaces. 6 of the residential units are to be allocated for **shared ownership** and will be transferred to Warden Housing Association at 60% TCI”.*

For the reasons set out in the Cabinet Members' report, the Committee

RESOLVED – That the recommendation set out in the exempt report for the freehold sale of the South Friern Library site and adjoining properties be approved.

7. THE FORMER WATLING BOYS CLUB, DRYFIELD ROAD, BURNT OAK, HA8 (Report of the Cabinet Member for Resources – Agenda Item 7)

For the reasons set out in the Cabinet Members' report, the Committee

RESOLVED – That the recommendation set out in the exempt report for the freehold sale of the Watling Boys Club be approved.

8. VACANT SITE, JUNCTION OF AVION CRESCENT AND GRAHAME PARK WAY, COLINDALE, NW9 (Report of the Cabinet Member for Resources– Agenda Item 8)

For the reasons set out in the Cabinet Members' report, the Committee

RESOLVED – That the four tenderers listed in paragraph 2.2 of the exempt report be invited to work up scheme proposals for discussion with the Head of Planning and to submit final financial offers with the results being reported to a future meeting of the Committee.

9. DISPOSAL OF DEANSBROOK DAY CENTRE, DEANSBROOK ROAD, EDGWARE (Report of the Cabinet Member for Resources– Agenda Item 9)

For the reasons set out in the Cabinet Members' report, the Committee

RESOLVED – That the appropriate Chief Officers be instructed to proceed with the freehold sale of the Deansbrook Day Centre in accordance with the recommendation contained in the addendum report that was circulated after the tender closing date of 26 October 2005.

10. SPENCER HOUSE, 156/162 STATION ROAD, HENDON, NW4 3TG (Report of the Cabinet Member for Resources– Agenda Item 10)

The Committee noted amendments to paragraphs 1.1, 4.1 and 8.4 of the report to read six tenderers and not seven tenderers.

For the reasons set out in the Cabinet Members' report, the Committee

RESOLVED – That the six tenderers listed in paragraph 2.2 of the exempt report be invited to work up scheme proposals for discussion with the Head of Planning and to submit final financial offers with the results being reported to a future meeting of the committee.

11. WRITE OFFS TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY (Report of the Cabinet Member for Resources– Agenda Item 11)

For the reasons set out in the Cabinet Members' report, the Committee

RESOLVED – That the action taken be noted.

12. REVENUE MONITORING (Report of the Cabinet Member for Resources– Agenda Item 12)

Before this item was discussed, the Borough Treasurer, Clive Medlam left the room as the report included reference to the provision made in the 2004/2005 accounts for the Underhill investigation and associated legal costs.

The Committee noted a supplemental report which contained a resolution from Council on 8 November 2005 that, having regard to the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel on 23 September 2005, the Members' Allowances Scheme for the year 2005/06 be amended:

- i. In Schedule 1 of the Scheme, to include payment of a Scale 4 Special Responsibility Allowance (currently £4,250) to the Chairman of the Audit Committee, backdated to the appointment of that Committee by the Annual Meeting of Council on 17 May 2005;
- ii. That the Cabinet Resources Committee be requested to consider financial provision for payment of the SRA for the Audit Committee Chairman from 6 April 2006.

For the reasons set out in the Cabinet Members' report and the supplemental report, the Committee

RESOLVED –

1. That the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account budget monitoring position be noted.
2. That an amendment to the 2005/06 budget be approved for the £315,000 additional recycling costs and the base budget pressure of £465,000 for 2006/07 be noted.
3. That Heads of Service be instructed to return confirmed forecast underspends to the centre and take appropriate management action to contain emerging budget pressures.
4. That the Members' Allowances Scheme for the year 2005/06 be amended In Schedule 1 of the Scheme, to include payment of a Scale 4 Special Responsibility Allowance (currently £4,250) to the Chairman of the Audit Committee, backdated to the appointment of that Committee by the Annual Meeting of Council on 17 May 2005; and that financial provision be made for payment of the Special Responsibility Allowance for the Audit Committee Chairman from 6 April 2006.

13. FEES & CHARGES FOR BUILDING CONTROL, PARKING AND PLANNING 1 JANUARY 2006 – 31 DECEMBER 2006 (Report of the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport and Cabinet Member for Resources – Agenda Item 13)

For the reasons set out in the Cabinet Members' report, the Committee

RESOLVED –

1. That the fees and charges detailed in Appendix A of the report be approved to take effect from 1 January 2006.
2. That, for the borough's car parks that have an all-day tariff, a decrease in the all-day charge from £4.00 to £3.00 be approved.
3. That the Planning schedule of fees and charges detailed in Appendix D of this report be approved to take effect from 1 January 2006.

14. FEES & CHARGES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES 1 JANUARY 2006 – 31 DECEMBER 2006 (Report of the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport and Cabinet Member for Resources – Agenda Item 14)

For the reasons set out in the Cabinet Members' report, the Committee

RESOLVED – That the fees and charges detailed in the enclosure with the report be approved to take effect from 1 January 2006.

15. HIGHWAYS WORKS PROCUREMENT STRATEGY (Report of the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport and Cabinet Member for Resources – Agenda Item 15)

For the reasons set out in the Cabinet Members' report, the Committee

RESOLVED –

1. That the Highways Works Procurement Strategy as detailed within the report be approved.
2. That the Head of Highways and Design be instructed to take the necessary action to achieve this outcome as identified within the Highways Works Procurement Strategy including the reduction in the size of the Highways Maintenance Direct Service Organisation (DSO).
3. That the Head of Highways and Design test the market by entering into negotiations for the transfer of the sign-making activity from the in-house service as identified within this report, on the most favourable terms to the Council, and take action in consultation with the Cabinet Member for the Environment and Transport to achieve this outcome.

16. MANAGEMENT OF THE ALL WEATHER PITCH AT GRAHAME PARK (Report of the Cabinet Member for Culture, Community Engagement and HR and Cabinet Member for Resources – Agenda Item 16)

For the reasons set out in the Cabinet Members' report, the Committee

RESOLVED –

1. That an agreement is reached for the Council to continue to manage the 3rd Generation all weather football pitch at Grahame Park for the period January 2006 – March 2007 inclusive during evenings, weekends and holiday periods.

2. That the Council agrees to the Leisure Service Manager exploring other alternative arrangements for its future management.

17. URGENT ITEM – THE BULL THEATRE, 68 HIGH STREET, BARNET, EN5 5SJ (Report of the Cabinet Member for Resources– Agenda Item 13)

Because the existing marketing campaign has been stopped as a result of an administrative error and authority must be received to re-commence the disposal process so as to minimise the impact of the need to re-market upon expected timescales for delivery of a capital receipt, the Chairman agreed pursuant to section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972 that this item be considered as a matter of urgency

The Committee noted receipt of the following petitions:

Petition bearing 1634 signatures – Supporting the campaign to keep The Bull building at 63 High Street, Barnet for community, arts, theatre and music events

Petition bearing 259 signatures with 253 of the signatures from children – Urging the Council to ensure that The Bull building continues its use as a specialist school for educating children and young people in performing arts.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mrs Pam Edwards, Secretary, Barnet Borough Arts Council, who is also the lead petitioner for the above petitions, addressed the Committee.

The Committee amended recommendation 3 as set out below:

For the reasons set out in the Cabinet Members' report, the Committee

RESOLVED –

1. That the current marketing campaign be terminated as a result of an administrative error.
2. That prior to re-marketing, a full planning brief be supplied by the Head of Planning, clarifying the use class categorisation of the site and investigating the statutory requirement to consult with the Theatre's Trust for any change of use, and that the Property Services & Valuation Department be instructed to conduct a full strategic review of the property interests held in the vicinity of the Bull Theatre.
3. That subject to investigating the viability of leasing options and community use/community groups being encouraged to bid, the appropriate Chief Officer be invited to re-market the disposal of the Bull Theatre, in whole or in part, on either a freehold or leasehold basis by way of informal tender in accordance with the Constitution, inviting interested parties to submit scheme proposals and financial offers with the results being reported to a future meeting of this committee for further consideration.

18. MOTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC: -

RESOLVED - That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act indicated:

Agenda Item	Subject	Exemption Category
19.	Exempt information relating to agenda item 6 in public session: South Friern Library and adjoining premises	9
20.	Exempt information relating to agenda item 7 in public session: The former Watling Boys Club, Dryfield Road, Burnt Oak, HA8	9
21.	Exempt information relating to agenda item 8 in public session: Vacant site, junction of Avion Crescent and Grahame Park Way, Colindale, NW9	9
22.	Exempt information relating to agenda item 9 in public session: Disposal of Deansbrook Day Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware	7 & 9
23.	Exempt information relating to agenda item 10 in public session: Spencer House, 156/162 Station Road, Hendon, NW4 3TG	9
24.	Exempt information relating to agenda item 17 in public session: Urgent Item – The Bull Theatre, 68 High Street, Barnet, EN5 5SJ	9

19. SOUTH FRIERN LIBRARY AND ADJOINING PREMISES

Details of the Committee's decision on this matter are set out in the separate exempt section of these decisions.

20. THE FORMER WATLING BOYS CLUB, DRYFIELD ROAD, BURNT OAK, HA8

Details of the Committee's decision on this matter are set out in the separate exempt section of these decisions.

21. VACANT SITE, JUNCTION OF AVION CRESCENT AND GRAHAME PARK WAY, COLINDALE, NW9

Details of the Committee's decision on this matter are set out in the separate exempt section of these decisions.

22. DISPOSAL OF DEANSBROOK DAY CENTRE, DEANSBROOK ROAD, EDGWARE

The Committee received an addendum report setting out the recommendations which had been made after the tender closing date of 26 October 2005.

Details of the Committee's decision on this matter are set out in the separate exempt section of these decisions.

23. SPENCER HOUSE, 156/162 STATION ROAD, HENDON, NW4 3TG

RESOLVED – That the exempt information be noted.

24. THE BULL THEATRE, 68 HIGH STREET, BARNET, EN5 5SJ

RESOLVED – That the exempt information be noted.

The meeting finished at 9.02pm