

## **Decisions of the Policy and Resources Committee**

20 February 2019

Members Present:-

Councillor Richard Cornelius (Chairman)  
Councillor Daniel Thomas (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Dean Cohen	Councillor Alison Moore
Councillor Anthony Finn	Councillor Sachin Rajput
Councillor David Longstaff	Councillor Barry Rawlings
Councillor Kath McGuirk	Councillor Peter Zinkin

Also in attendance

Councillor Geof Cooke      Councillor Alan Schneiderman

Apologies for Absence

Councillor Ross Houston      Councillor Arjun Mittra

### **1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting dated 11 December 2018 be agreed as a correct record.

### **2. ABSENCE OF MEMBERS**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Arjun Mittra, who was substituted for by Councillor Geof Cooke.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ross Houston, who was substituted for by Councillor Alan Schneiderman.

### **3. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND NON PECUNIARY INTERESTS (IF ANY)**

None.

### **4. REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER (IF ANY)**

None.

### **5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS (IF ANY)**

Details of the questions asked and the answers provided were published and circulated at the meeting. Verbal responses were given to supplementary questions at the meeting.

Mr. John Dix and Mrs. Barbara Jacobson addressed the Committee and made public comments. Members asked questions of Mr. Dix and Mrs. Jacobson.

**6. MEMBERS' ITEMS (IF ANY)**

None.

**THE CHAIRMAN ANNOUNCED AN ORDER TO THE AGENDA WITH THE ITEM 11 - COLINDALE UNDERGROUND STATION SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT (SPD) - BEING CONSIDERED NEXT.**

**7. COLINDALE UNDERGROUND STATION SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT (SPD)**

Councillor Gill Sergeant, a Colindale Ward Member, addressed the Committee. The Committee noted the comments made by Councillor Sergeant.

The Leader introduced the report, which set out the detailed design requirements and scale of development which will be supported for the new station and associated residential-led, mixed use development to enhance the public realm and start to knit together the Colindale communities.

A Member expressed concern about the provision for adequate busses in the area and asked the Deputy Chief Executive to ask Transport for London to meet with Ward Councillors. **(Action)**

Following the consideration of the report, the Committee unanimously RESOLVED to:

- 1. Note the consultation response to the draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and agrees the consequential proposed changes to the SPD outlined and explained in the Consultation Representation Report at Appendix B.**
- 2. Agree the adoption of the Colindale Underground Station SPD (Appendix A) and associated documentation (Appendices B, C, D and E), and delegates authority to the Deputy Chief Executive to make any necessary changes of a minor nature to the final wording of the SPD in consultation with the Leader before the final version of the SPD is published.**

**8. BREXIT PREPAREDNESS**

The Chairman introduced the report, which set out the Council's approach for identifying and mitigating potential risks and opportunities arising from Brexit

Councillor Barry Rawlings MOVED the following motion which was SECONDED by Councillor Alan Schneiderman:

“That the Committee agrees to schedule and hold regular meetings of the Local Strategic Partnership to respond to the developing Brexit situation and its impact on Barnet.”

Votes were recorded as follows:

For	5
Against	7
Abstentions	0

The motion was declared LOST.

The Chairman moved to the recommendation as set out in the report.

**It was unanimously RESOLVED:**

- 1. That the Committee considers the potential implications of the UK leaving the European Union for Barnet, and notes the action being taken to respond.**

**9. CORPORATE PLAN, MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2019/24 AND BUDGET FOR 2019/20**

The Chairman introduced the report, which set out the Council’s refreshed Corporate Plan, MTFs, savings plans and capital programme. In introducing the report, the Chairman noted:

- A Supplemental addition to Appendix P which had been published and provided to Members and Members of the public.
- Recommendation 7 of the report should read from 18/19 to 19/20.

Following a request from a Member Officers undertook to check if the budget as set out in the report meant that Councillor’s surgeries will no longer be funded. **(Action: Section 151 Officer**

Commenting on the budget and reserves, the Section 151 Officer advised that his role required him to make a judgement on the ongoing position on the level of reserves. He noted that although challenging, he felt that the current position was acceptable at this point in time but must be monitored on an ongoing basis

Following discussion, the Committee agreed to note the following:

- To note that in relation to STR035 in the Corporate Risk Register on “Failure of third party pension administrator meeting standards” that LB Barnet has been called in by The Pensions Regulator following successive failures by Capita CSG to manage the Council’s Pension Fund properly.
- To request the Chief Executive to undertake that the administration of the Pension Fund be reviewed the and the phasing be bought forward. **(Action: Chief Executive)**

Following discussion, Officers undertook to include the following detail in the Environment Committee report in March 2019:

- Noting the Government’s Consultation on Consistency in Household and Business Recycling Collections in England suggesting all households should have weekly separate food waste collections.
- A London Borough of Barnet response to the Government consultation on separate weekly food waste collections. **(Action: Strategic Director for Environment)**

The Chairman moved to recommendations as set out in report. Votes were recorded as follows:

For	7
Against	5
Abstentions	0

RESOLVED that Committee:

1. **Recommend to Council approval of the Corporate Plan 2019-2024, as attached at Appendix A;**
2. **Approve the Policy and Resources Committee Delivery Plan for 2019/20 attached at Appendix P;**
3. **Consider the issues that have emerged from the consultation when making their decisions. The committee make the decisions below also being mindful of the equalities impact assessments including the cumulative equalities impact assessments;**
4. **Recommend to Council for approval the MTFS attached as Appendix B and the detailed revenue budgets in Appendices D1 and D2. The MTFS sets out all of the budget changes over the period 2019-24, including assumptions around inflation, changes to levies, pressures, savings and grant funding. It is the model around which the council’s financial strategy is based;**
5. **Recommend to Council that the budget for 2019/20 is prepared on the basis of an increase of 2.99% general Council Tax in 2019/20;**
6. **Recommend to Council the resolutions relating to Council Tax contained within Appendix C – Council Tax Resolutions;**
7. **Recommend to Council, on the advice of the Chief Finance Officer, that it determines that the council’s basic amount of Council Tax for 2019/20 as set out in Council Tax resolution (Appendix C) 2(iv) is not excessive in accordance with the principles approved under section 52ZB and 52ZC of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, set out in the Referendums relating to Council Tax increases (Principles)(England) Report 2019/20**

- 8. Recommend to Council that in accordance with Section 38(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 the Chief Executive be instructed to place a notice in the local press of the amounts set under recommendation 5 above within a period of 21 days following the Council's decision;**
- 9. Approve the proposed changes to the premium charged against Council Tax on long-term empty properties as set out in paragraphs 1.5.29-1.5.32;**
- 10. Recommend to Council for approval the capital programme as set out in Appendix F1 and F2, and that the Chief Officers be authorised to take all necessary actions for implementation;**
- 11. Approves the changes to the existing Capital Programme in relation to slippage and deletions as set out in paragraph 1.5.98 and Appendix E;**
- 12. Approves the changes to the existing Capital Programme in relation to additions as set out in paragraphs 1.5.99 to 1.5.113;**
- 13. Recommend to Council that the Chief Finance Officer be authorised to adjust capital project budgets and financing in 2019/20 throughout the capital programme after the 2018/19 accounts are closed and the amount of slippage and budget carry forward required are known;**
- 14. Recommend to Council the approval of the Capital Strategy as set out in Appendix K;**
- 15. Recommend to Council the approval of the Treasury Management Strategy for 2019/20 as set out in Appendix L;**
- 16. Recommend to Council the approval of the following in relation to the Housing Revenue Account:**
  - a) The proposed rent decrease by 1% for council dwellings as set out in paragraph 1.7.3 to take effect from 1 April 2019;**
  - b) The proposed increase to service charges for council dwellings as set out in paragraph 1.7.7 to take effect from 1 April 2019; and,**
  - c) The proposed rent increase of 3.1% for council garages as set out in paragraph 1.7.7 to take effect from 1 April 2019.**
- 17. Recommend to Council the approval of the draft Schools Budget of £335.395m for 2019-20 as per paragraph 1.5.56;**
- 18. Approve draft Post 16 Funding of £5.417m;**
- 19. Recommend to Council that any changes to the Schools Budget reasonably required as a result of the final 2019/20 DSG and Post-16 settlement are delegated for decisions to the Strategic Director – Children & Young People in consultation with the Director of Finance;**
- 20. Note the Adults, Children's and Environment fees and charges that were approved at their relevant Theme Committee as detailed in Appendix H;**

21. **Note the summary equality impact assessment (EIA) and cumulative assessment set out in section 5.6. Appendix J provides the cumulative impact and individual Delivery Unit assessments;**
22. **Recommend to Council approval of the reserves and balances policy as set out in Appendix M and indicative amounts as set out in paragraph 1.5.73 and the Director of Finance's assessment of adequacy of General Fund Balances in section 1.5.81. The Committee recommend to Council that the Director of Finance is authorised to adjust balances in 2019/20 after 2018/19 accounts are closed and the amount of balances carry forward required are known;**
23. **Approve the underlying Financial strategy of the Council as set out in the paragraph 1.5.1;**
24. **Approves the bad debt write offs as set out in section 1.10;**
25. **Approve the budget movements as set out in paragraphs 1.5.14 and 1.9.5 to 1.9.8, and;**
26. **Notes the corporate risk register and recommend it to Council as set out in Appendix O.**

#### **10. Q3 2018/19 STRATEGIC PERFORMANCE REPORT**

The Committee considered the report, which provided a strategic overview of performance for Quarter 3 and risk information related to the corporate priorities in the Corporate Plan 2018/19 Addendum.

Following the consideration of the report, the Committee unanimously **REOLVED**:

1. **To note the Period 9 (Q3 2018/19) revenue and capital forecasts.**
2. **To note the savings delivered in Period 9 (Q3 2018/19).**
3. **To scrutinise the performance and risk information related to the corporate priorities in the Corporate Plan 2018/19 Addendum, including the strategic and high level service/joint risks that form the corporate risk register at Appendix A.**

#### **11. TRANSFER PROPERTIES ACQUIRED BY THE COUNCIL TO TBG OPEN DOOR HOMES LIMITED**

The Chairman introduced the report and noted that there was also a separate, exempt paper.

Following the consideration of the report, the Committee unanimously **RESOLVED** to:

1. **Approve the financial arrangements relating to the transfer of the ownership of 174 properties, listed in in appendix 1 and appendix 2 (as detailed in the accompanying exempt report) from the council to TBG Open Door Homes Limited or the completion of acquisition of the properties by TBG Open Door Homes Ltd, in each case subject to obtaining any consents required from third**

parties. The properties may be transferred at different times. Authority is delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Section 151 Officer, to negotiate, settle and complete the documents to deal with the transfer (or sub-sale) of the properties and the financial arrangements, which will include land transfers, charges to secure the payments due to the council, a nomination agreement and a facility agreement governing the loan to TBG Open Door Limited, and such documentation as appropriate to cover the loan at recommendation 3.

2. Approve the transfer of the ownership of the properties listed in appendix 1 and appendix 2 (in the accompanying exempt report) from the council to TBG Open Door Homes Limited
3. Agree that the unspent balance of the council's current £40 million investment programme for acquiring properties for use as affordable temporary accommodation, should be made available to Open Door Homes in the form of a loan to complete the programme. This includes properties listed in appendix 2 (in the accompanying exempt report) which are currently in the process of being acquired by the council.
4. Note the risk in relation to the value of Minimum Revenue Provision required to be set aside by the council as set out in paragraph 4.5.3

## 12. THE BARNET GROUP (TBG) FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

The Chairman introduced The Barnet Group (TBG) Five-Year Strategic Plan, which set out The Barnet Group's vision and high-level ambitions for the period 2019-2024. The Chairman noted that a supplementary paper had been published and provided to Members and Members of the public.

Following the consideration of the report, the Committee unanimously RESOLVED:

**To approve the Strategic Plan attached as Appendix A.**

## 13. BRENT CROSS CRICKLEWOOD FUNDING AND DELIVERY STRATEGY REPORT

The Chairman introduced the report, which set out the Funding and Delivery Strategy for Brent Cross Cricklewood.

The Deputy Chief Executive, Cath Shaw noted that a Member of the public enquired about making a public comment on this. Ms. Shaw undertook to contact them and brief them outside of the meeting.

The Chairman advised that intended to move an amendment to Recommendation 3 of the report and noted that should this be agreed, it would be done by way of Delegated Powers Report for all Members of the Committee to be able to consider it. A Member asked that the draft DPR also be circulated to Members of ARG. This was agreed. **(Action)**

The Chairman MOVED the following amendment to Recommendation 3

Recommendation 3: **Delegate to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee, approval of the Revised Funding Agreement agreed with HM Government. Should the Revised Funding**

**Agreement expose the council to material additional risks, to return the matter to Committee, having regard to:**

- i. the revised financial tests set by this Committee on 11 December for the council to assure itself that the prudential code can be satisfied so that the council can make the required capital commitment to deliver the Thameslink Station (as set out in paragraphs 1.19 of this report); and**
- ii. The details to be published in the addendum report.**

The above was unanimously AGREED and became the substantive motion.

The Chairman MOVED the following amendments to recommendations 4 and 5 which were unanimously agreed, and became the substantive motion.

- 4. Subject to the approval of the RFA in accordance with Recommendation 3, authorise the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee to finalise terms and enter into the RFA with HMG and to commission Schedule 2 (Rail Systems and Sidings) works as set out in the Implementation Contract with Network Rail dated 21 December 2018.
- 5. Subject to the approval of the RFA in accordance with Recommendation 3, approve the consequential changes to the capital budget to proceed with the BXT and delivery of core critical infrastructure to support the Brent Cross Cricklewood (BXC) revised delivery strategy as detailed in paragraphs 5.2.7 of this report.

The Chairman moved to the vote on the amended Recommendations 3, 4, and 5 and the other recommendations as set out in the report.

**RESOLVED that Committee:**

**1. Note that Full Council on 18 December 2018:**

**A: Confirmed the council's continuing commitment to the delivery of BXT and other elements of the critical infrastructure given the strategic importance of the regeneration scheme and the recognising the scale of the investment proposed in delivery of the new Thameslink station at Brent Cross West (BXT).**

**B: delegated to this Committee the decision to commission the Schedule 1B (rail systems and sidings) works provided: (a) a Revised Funding Agreement (RFA) has been agreed with HM Government (HMG); and (b) that the RFA does not expose the council to unacceptable risk.**

**2. Note that the Deputy Chief Executive is authorised entering into the Implementation Agreement with Network Rail and to commission the Schedule 1 (site setup) works set out in that agreement on 21 December 2018 in accordance with the approved recommendations by this Committee on 11 December and Full Council on 18 December and also that that the council commence an OJEU procurement for the station platforms and station access / pedestrian bridge elements of the programme.**

**3. Delegate to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee, approval of the Revised Funding Agreement agreed with HM Government. Should the Revised Funding Agreement expose the council to material additional risks, to return the matter to Committee having regard to:**

- i. the revised financial tests set by this Committee on 11 December for the council to assure itself that the prudential code can be satisfied so that the council can make the required capital commitment to deliver the Thameslink Station (as set out in paragraphs 1.20 of this report).**

**4. Subject to approval of the RFA in accordance with Recommendation 3, authorise the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee to finalise terms and enter into the RFA with HMG and to commission Schedule 2 (Rail Systems and Sidings) works as set out in the Implementation Contract with Network Rail dated 21 December 2018.**

**5. Subject to approval of the RFA in accordance with Recommendation 3, approve the consequential changes to the capital budget to proceed with the BXT and delivery of core critical infrastructure to support the Brent Cross Cricklewood (BXC) revised delivery strategy as detailed in paragraphs 5.2.7 of this report.**

**14. COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee considered the Forward Work Programme, as set out in the report.

**RESOLVED that the Committee note the Forward Work Programme.**

**15. ANY ITEM(S) THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT**

There were none.

**16. MOTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**17. TRANSFER PROPERTIES ACQUIRED BY THE COUNCIL TO TBG OPEN DOOR HOMES LIMITED [EXEMPT]**

**RESOLVED that the Committee note the information set out in the exempt report.**

**18. ANY OTHER EXEMPT ITEM(S) THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT**

**RESOVLED that the Committee note the exempt information.**

The meeting finished at 9.20 pm