

Decisions of the Policy and Resources Committee

17 February 2015

Members Present:-

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

Councillor Dean Cohen	Councillor David Longstaff
Councillor Tom Davey	Councillor Alison Moore
Councillor Paul Edwards	Councillor Alon Or-Bach
Councillor Anthony Finn	Councillor Sachin Rajput
Councillor Ross Houston	Councillor Barry Rawlings

Also in attendance

Apologies for Absence

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2015 be approved as a correct record.

2. ABSENCE OF MEMBERS

None.

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

Councillor Ross Houston declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 7 Business Planning 2015-16 – 2019-20, as he is a Council appointed members of the Barnet Group Board.

Councillor Alison Moore declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 7 Business Planning 2015-16 – 2019-20 as she is the Chair of the Advisory Board of a Children's Centre.

All members declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 7 Business Planning 2015-16 – 2019-20 as they are school governors.

4. REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER (IF ANY)

None.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS (IF ANY)

None.

6. MEMBERS' ITEMS (IF ANY)

None.

7. BUSINESS PLANNING 2015/16 - 2019/20

The Committee considered the report.

The Committee requested that the full results of the consultation be made available to members at the earliest opportunity, and in good time ahead of the Council meeting on 3 March.

The recommendations in the report were put to the vote, and the votes were recorded as follows:

Agreed	7
Opposed	0
Abstentions	5

RESOLVED: That the Committee

<p>1. Consider the issues that have emerged so far from the consultation outcomes when making their decisions. Consultation closed on 11 February. Due to the timings of compiling this report, the consultation report appended at Appendix B is presented as an interim report. A final consultation report will be reported to Full Council on 3 March, to inform final decisions on the council's budget;</p>
<p>2. Recommend to Council for approval the MTFs attached at Appendix C and the Detailed Revenue Budgets at Appendix D1 and D2. The MTFs sets out all of the budget changes over the period from 2015/16 to 2019/20, 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. It should be noted that the budget has been prepared on the basis of a Council Tax freeze in 2015/16. Overall the 2015/16 budget requirement totals £250,888,653.</p>
<p>3. Note that the Chief Finance Officer under his delegated powers in accordance with para 4.3.2 of the Financial Regulations has calculated the amount of 132,151 (band D equivalents) as the Council Tax base for the year 2015/16 [item T in the formula in Section 31B (3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")];</p>
<p>4. Note that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 15/16 (excluding precepts) is £145,639,653.</p>
<p>5. Recommend to Council for approval the following amounts be now calculated for the year 2015/16 in accordance with Sections 31(A) and (B), 34, 35 and 36 of the Act:</p> <p>a) £889,167,167 being the aggregate of the amounts which the council estimates for the items set out in the Section 31A(2) (a) to (f) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by precepting authorities.</p>

- b) £743,527,514 being the aggregate of the amounts which the council estimated for the items set out in Section 31A(3) (a) to (d) of the Act.
- c) £145,639,653 being the amount by which the aggregate at 5 (a) above exceeds the aggregate at 5(b) above, calculated by the council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year (Item R in the formula section 31A(4) of the Act).
- d) £1,102.07 being the amount at 5(c) above (item R), all divided by Item T (Item 4 above), calculated by the council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (excluding precepts).
- e) The Chief Finance Officer recommends that the council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2015/16 is not excessive in accordance with the principles approved under section 52ZB and 52ZC of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, and the Referendums Relating to Council Tax Increases (Principles) Report (England) 2015/2016. £1,102.07 being the amount at 4 above divided by the amount at 3 above, calculated by the council, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year 2015/16;

London Borough of Barnet Valuations Bands (£)

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
734.71	857.16	979.62	<u>1,102.07</u>	1,346.97	1,591.88	1,836.78	2,204.14

Being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 6(d) above by the number which, in proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands

6. Note that for the year 2015/16 the Greater London Authority has provisionally indicated that the following amounts in precepts will be issued to the council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of the dwellings shown below:

Greater London Authority Valuations Bands (£)

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
196.67	229.44	262.22	<u>295.00</u>	360.56	426.11	491.67	590.00

7. That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 6(d) and 7 above, the council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2015/16 for each of the categories dwellings shown below:

Council Tax for Area (£)

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
931.38	1,086.60	1,241.84	<u>1,397.07</u>	1,707.53	2,017.99	2,328.45	2,794.14

8. Recommend to Council that in accordance with Section 38(2) of the Act the Chief Executive be instructed to place a notice in the local press of the amounts set under recommendation 8 above within a period of 21 days following the Council's decision.

9. Recommend to Council for approval the capital programme as set out in Appendix E and addition in para 2.6.3, and that the Chief Officers be authorised to take all necessary actions for implementation. That Committee recommend to Council

that the Chief Finance Officer be authorised to adjust capital project budgets in 2015/16 throughout the capital programme after the 2014/15 accounts are closed and the amounts of slippage and budget carry forward required are known.
10. Recommend to Council that the Chief Finance Officer be authorised to adjust capital project budgets in 2015/16 throughout the capital programme after the 2014/15 accounts are closed and the amounts of slippage and budget carry forward required are known.
11. Recommend to Council for approval the Treasury Management Strategy for 2015/16 as set out in Appendix F.
12. Approve the following <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The proposed rent increase of CPI plus 1% for council dwellings as set out in paragraph 2.8.6 to take effect from 1 April 2015; b) The proposed increase to service charges for council dwelling as set out in paragraph 2.8.7 to take effect from 1 April 2015; c) The proposed rent increase of 2% for council garages as set out in paragraph 2.8.10 to take effect from 1 April 2015,
13. Approve the Housing Revenue Account estimates for 2015/16 as set out in Appendix G.
14. Note the Equality Impact Assessment and cumulative assessment included in Appendix H. A summary is set out in section 9 of this report. The appendix provides the cumulative impact and individual Delivery Unit assessments where significant changes to service delivery are proposed.
15. Recommend to Council to approve the Reserves and Balances Policy as set out in Appendix I and the Chief Finance Officer's assessment of adequacy of reserves in section 2.10. This states that the minimum level of General Fund balances should be £15m after taking account of all matters set out in the Chief Finance Officer's report on reserves and balances.
16. Recommend to Council to note the Corporate Risk Register as set out in Appendix J.
17. Recommend to Council from reserves and budgetary movement as set out in paragraph 2.2.1, 2.2.2 and saving amendments in paragraph 2.2.4.
18. Recommend to Council to approve the write offs in Appendix A.
19. Note the Submission of the Authority Proforma Tool

8. BARNET'S LOCAL PLAN - DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The Committee considered the report.

The recommendations in the report were put to the vote, and the votes were recorded as follows:

Agreed	7
Opposed	0
Abstentions	5

RESOLVED - That the Committee:

1. Approves the draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) (attached at Appendix A) for consultation for a period of 6 weeks.
2. Notes that following the consultation appropriate changes are made to the SCI and the revised SCI is reported back to Committee for approval and adoption.

9. SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY REVIEW REVISED OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE

The Committee considered the report.

RESOLVED – That the Committee

That the Policy and Resources Committee

3. Approves that the Danegrove Playing Field, Victoria Recreation Ground and Copthall sites are taken through to the next stage of the project for further public consultation and consideration by planning (section 4 Feasibility Study).
4. Approves capital funding of £23.2m, including associated professional fees, for the re-provision of Church Farm and Copthall leisure centres. (section 4 Feasibility Study and Affordability Analysis).
5. Approves the use of £3.4m from CIL through the Infrastructure Reserve funding to contribute to the £23.2m capital costs required to fund the re-provision of Church Farm and Copthall leisure centres.
6. Approves the use of capital receipts from the existing Church Farm site to contribute to the £23.2m capital costs required to fund the re-provision of Church Farm and Copthall Leisure Centres.
7. Approves the commencement of the procurement work-streams featuring a competitive procedure with negotiation (a new procurement procedure) for the leisure centre management contract and utilising existing government construction frameworks for the design and build contract of Church Farm and Copthall leisure centres (section 9 procurement strategy).
8. Delegates authority to the Commercial and Customer Services Director to enter into dialogue with the council to look at the possibility of using Schedule 40 of the Capita / Barnet partnering agreement to commission CSG to provide managing agent services, both for the existing leisure management contract and the new arrangement once it is procured (section 9 Procurement Strategy).
9. Approves a maximum budget of £440k for the delivery of the pre-implementation phases of the project (Section 10.2.1)

10. DEVELOPING A NEW VISION FOR COPTHALL

The Committee considered the report.

It was requested that officers explore Councillors being included as representatives on the Partnership Board.

RESOLVED –

10. That the Committee comments on the work being undertaken to support the development of a new Copthall Partnership.
11. That the Committee agree the amounts set out in section 1.16 of this report as being reasonable to cover traffic management costs to be paid by Saracens
12. That the Committee notes the profit mechanism as set out in section 1.17 of this report and agrees that the sum calculated will be re-invested in the Saracens campus to fund activities for public benefit

11. AUTHORISATION TO PROCURE OFF SITE DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICES

The Committee considered the report.

RESOLVED – That the Committee

Authorise the commencement of a procurement process to:

- a) **Prioritise the investigation and potential use of the ESPO framework over the CCS framework in order to allow further competition and secure additional Value for Money (VFM)**
- b) **Investigate sourcing of the services via the CSG contract to Capita Document and Information Services (CDIS) and benchmarking costs against ESPO and deliver greater costs savings.**

12. BARNET'S MEMBERSHIP OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

The Committee considered the report.

The recommendations in the report were put to the vote, and the votes were recorded as follows:

Agreed	7
Opposed	5
Abstentions	0

RESOLVED –

1. That the Policy and Resources Committee agrees that the council issues notice to leave the LGA by 31 March 2015, meaning a formal withdrawal date of 31 March 2016. Issuing notice provides the council with flexibility to make savings by not renewing its LGA membership in 2016/17 should it need to. The council could remain a member of the LGA at the end of the 12 months if it decided to, and continued to pay the annual membership fee.
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2. That, during the 12 month notice period, officers explore areas where the council could drive more benefits from its membership, such as involvement in LGA Peer Challenges. This more active engagement should also help assess the benefits of future membership.

13. REFERRAL FROM HENDON AREA COMMITTEE - MILL HILL FREE PARKING

The Committee considered the report.

Councillor Alison Moore, seconded by Councillor Ross Houston, moved that recommendation 3 in the report be amended as follows:

That the Committee approve funding for the application detailed in Appendix 1, subject to the Conditions of Grant (Appendix 2) and with reference to the Area Committee Budgets Guidance (Appendix 3).

The votes were recorded as follows:

Agreed	5
Opposed	7
Abstentions	0

The motion was lost.

Councillor Richard Cornelius moved the following motion:

That Policy and Resources Committee refer this proposal to the Environment Committee for consideration. Policy and Resources Committee requests that the Environment Committee bases its decision on evidence in terms of the usage of this car park; ensures that any proposal is consistent with the Council's wider Parking Policy; and is funded on a sustainable basis in the future.

Councillor Thomas seconded the motion, and moved an amendment to the motion to add:

Policy and Resources Committee note that the Environment Committee may wish to consider whether a pilot scheme may be appropriate.

The votes were recorded as follows:

Agreed	7
Opposed	0
Abstentions	5

RESOLVED – That

Policy and Resources Committee refer this proposal to the Environment Committee for consideration. Policy and Resources Committee requests that the Environment Committee bases its decision on evidence in terms of the usage of this car park; ensures that any proposal is consistent with the Council's wider Parking Policy; and is funded on a sustainable basis in the future. Policy and

Resources Committee note that the Environment Committee may wish to consider whether a pilot scheme may be appropriate.

14. GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS - BARNET/ HARROW INTER-AUTHORITY AGREEMENT

The Committee considered the report.

RESOLVED –

13. That the changes to the Inter-Authority Agreement described in the report be approved and the Chief Executive be authorised to complete the side agreement accordingly

14. That the potential involvement of the London Borough of Hounslow in the shared legal service be noted and welcomed.

15. That the Committee be given the opportunity to note and comment on the completed side agreement

15. COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered the Forward Work Programme and noted the following amendments to be made:

- The Business Planning update item for March will be to approve the Corporate Plan
- The Committee meeting date for 5 May should be rearranged to an alternative date

16. ANY OTHER ITEM(S) THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

There were none.

The meeting finished at 8.35 pm