



MINUTES OF A CABINET MEETING
Council Chamber - Town Hall
Wednesday, 25 July 2018
(7.00 - 8.35 pm)

Present:

Councillor Damian White (Leader of the Council), Chairman

Councillor Robert Benham

Councillor Osman Dervish

Councillor Joshua Chapman

Councillor Jason Frost

Councillor Roger Ramsey

Councillor Viddy Persaud

Cabinet Member responsibility:

Cabinet Member for Education,
Children & Families

Cabinet Member for Environment

Cabinet Member for Housing

Cabinet Member for Health & Adult
Care Services

Cabinet Member for Finance &
Property

Cabinet Member for Public
Protection and Safety

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

6. Funding Applications to Veolia Havering Riverside Maintenance Trust.
Councillor Robert Benham, Non Pecuniary.

Councillor Robert Benham declared a non-pecuniary interest as a Trustee of The Veolia Havering Riverside Maintenance Trust (VHRMT) and absented himself from the meeting for the duration of the discussion and decision making process.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th June, 2018 were agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

4 **CONTRACT AWARD FOR THE PROVISION OF THE INTEGRATED SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICE**

Councillor Jason Frost, the Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Care Services, presented the report to Cabinet, detailing the proposed contract for the provision of an Integrated Sexual Health Service (ISHS) in Havering, Barking & Dagenham and Redbridge (BHR).

The Council has a statutory duty to ensure all residents have open access to services of screening and treatment of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) and contraception.

Currently, Barking Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust (BHRUT) are commissioned to provide an Integrated Sexual Health Service (ISHS). That contract is due to expire on 30th September 2018.

London Borough Havering (LBH) in partnership with the London Boroughs of Barking and Dagenham (LBBD) and Redbridge (LBR) has undertaken a three- borough procurement of the ISHS with LBBD leading the procurement exercise on behalf of the other two boroughs.

It is proposed that the decision to award the contract be delegated to the Interim Director of Public Health in consultation with the Director of Legal and Governance and Director of Finance.

Councillor Frost outlined the history to the matter as set out within the report.

Members indicated that it would be helpful to have details relating to the number of people using the service and the outcomes of it. It was further suggested that an All Member Briefing be organised in the future to provide further detailed information.

The ISHS is a user driven service and the Council will only pay for the services used. The ISHS brings together all sexual and reproductive services including Genitourinary Medicine (GUM) and HIV. It was noted that HIV services and treatment are procured separately and paid for by NHS England.

Cabinet:

- **Delegated** the power to the Director of Public Health acting in consultation with the Director of Legal and Governance and the Director of Finance to make the decision to award a contract for the provision of the Barking & Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge (BHR) Integrated Sexual Health Service (ISHS) to Barking Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust (BHRUT) for a period of 5 years from 1st October 2018 to 30th September 2023 with the

option to extend for a further three-year period on an annual basis at the sole discretion of the Councils.

5 FUNDING APPLICATIONS TO VEOLIA HAVERING RIVERSIDE MAINTENANCE TRUST

Councillor Osman Dervish, Cabinet Member for the Environment, presented the report to Cabinet.

This detailed an update on the position in relation to the Veolia Havering Riverside Maintenance Trust (VHRMT). This was set up by Veolia in response to the lease granted on the Veolia Landfill Site in Havering, which required long term funding to be made available to secure the aftercare of the site, once the area had been restored post-landfill. The total amount of funding available is approximately £5 million.

Due to legislative changes agreed by the Department for Communities and Local Government and ENTRUST, and the decision to abolish the Landfill Communities Fund by 2020, the way that this funding is distributed and used has been amended.

A previous Cabinet Report submitted for consideration on 10th May, 2017, recommended that the Council approve submissions for funding to Veolia, and delegate authority to the Chief Executive to sign off these submissions. It also recommended that options for ensuring future funding for the maintenance and management of the site were explored, with the preferred option identified and put in place. These recommendations were agreed at that Cabinet meeting.

Subsequently, use of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) as the mechanism for ensuring future funding was agreed, and work began on putting this together.

A number of eligible capital projects were submitted for funding in 2017/18, with a total value of approximately £750,000 awarded.

In 2018, the Council were notified that Veolia no longer required the future funding element to be put in place, meaning that setting up the CIO is no longer necessary. The funding was also opened up more widely, to all eligible organisations in Havering.

To reflect this change, this further report has been produced recommending that the Council continue to submit applications for capital project funding to Veolia in 2018/19 and 2019/20, and also removing the requirement for a future funding mechanism to be put in place.

Further detail in relation to the applications for funding will be supplied to Members. It is important that other eligible community groups in Havering are made aware of the possibility of making applications for funding and

work will take place to ensure this is sign posted and communicated as clearly as possible with prominent publicity.

The Council has an option to take a pie-crust lease in relation to the site in 2031, where the responsibility for the maintenance of the site will remain the responsibility of the owners. An endowment is in place to limit these running costs.

Cabinet:

- **Agreed** that the Council prepare and submit funding applications to the Veolia Havering Riverside Maintenance Trust (the "Trust") that meet the objectives of the Trust and the Council.
- **Delegated** authority to the Director of Neighbourhoods, after consultation with the Leader, to identify projects which meet the required objectives and authorise submission of applications.

6 COMMISSIONING PLAN FOR EDUCATION PROVISION 2019-2023

Councillor Robert Benham, Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Families presented the report to Cabinet, detailing the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision (CPEP). This is a four year rolling plan which is updated annually. The CPEP sets out how Havering Council seeks to ensure that there is sufficient capacity to meet demand for early years, primary, secondary, post 16 and special school places across the Borough.

The draft Plan is available for consideration at Appendix 1 of the report and contains information on:

- The current pattern of early years, primary, secondary, post 16 and special school provision across the Borough;
- Forecast of future demand;
- Plans to meet the needs for additional places in areas for growth and regeneration; and
- Policy for school organisation and expansion

Additionally, it is intended that the CPEP will:

- Help the education community to understand the longer term school population trends;
- Inform parents and the wider community of the changes planned and seek their views and preferences; and
- Outline to potential sponsors the need for school places.

Subject to approval by Cabinet, the draft CPEP will be circulated for consultation to schools, parents, residents, the Dioceses and all other education stakeholders. The consultation period will run for eight weeks commencing mid-September, 2018.

Following this consultation the CPEP will be revised accordingly and, subject to the approval of the Cabinet Lead Member, will be in place for the next four years.

There will be close consideration of recruitment to staff school expansions and a strategy to retain staff in schools, which is a challenge across the whole of East London at present. The Havering Academy of Leadership will be working closely with schools in this regard.

In terms of finance, there are a number of provisions which will be looked at. The Council are currently bidding for the next wave of free school provision which will have funding from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). In 2019/2020, there is a projected allocation of close to £20 million and this will be used to fund the plan.

There will be a further report to Cabinet in January, 2019 which will detail the schemes required. Close working with regeneration colleagues will take place to ensure appropriate provision is made in line with growth schemes in the Borough.

Updates will be going to the Children's Overview and Scrutiny Sub Committee.

Birth rate figures will be closely checked and monitored in order to shape the most accurate forecasts for expansion and demand to sustain communities moving forward.

Cabinet:

1. **Approved** the draft Commissioning Plan for Education Provision (CPEP) in Havering 2019-2023;
2. **Approved** the circulation of the draft CPEP for consultation to all stake holders in early years and school place planning;
3. **Delegated** the determination of the final CPEP, to the Cabinet Member for Children & Learning in consultation with the Director of Children's services;
4. **Approved** for the LA to work with Havering sponsors to submit an application in Wave 13 for a new 3 FE mainstream primary free school in Romford.
5. **Approved** for the LA to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) for a new special free school and an AP free school
6. **Noted** that a further report will be going to Cabinet, setting out the details of each expansion scheme, the consultation process and indicative costs and funding for each scheme.

7 THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SEMI-INDEPENDENT PROVISION AND RESIDENTIAL UNITS IN BOROUGH

Councillor Robert Benham presented the report to Cabinet seeking approval to obtain capital funding to redevelop two council-owned properties in the Borough and commence a tender process for care provision for children and young people in those buildings.

Drivers for the work include:

- The Secretary of States Sufficiency Guidance, placing a statutory duty on local authorities to provide sufficient accommodation for looked after children (LAC)
- A recommendation of the 2016 OFSTED inspection report for the Borough to take steps to improve local provision and place more children and young people in care within the Borough. The OFSTED report of 2018 stated that “The Sufficiency Strategy is robust and there is a good awareness of any gaps in provision”, which supports this approach.
- The need to develop cost effective capacity in provision in the light of increasing demand in Havering.
- Improving outcomes for young people through local provision which in turn will lead to: more stable relationships with families and professionals; reduced risk of young people going missing from placements and exploitation; more oversight and quality control; and better coordinated care pathways.

The Capital required for the renovation works for both properties is estimated at £350,000. The two proposed care facilities will be based at Widecombe Close, in the Heaton ward which would provide a six bedded home and Park End Road, in the Romford Town ward which provide another 6 bed facility.

Savings from the placement budgets, delivered as a result of having more control over property costs and the market are estimated at £144,000 in 2019/20 and will contribute to the Children’s MTFS annual savings target of £250,000.

It is proposed that the final decision regarding the second unit will be delegated to the Director of Children’s Services, Tim Aldridge. The cohort of Children in care has reduced from 17 to 8 and therefore the viability of a residential children’s home is less clear. There is a demand for semi-independent units. It was noted that a children’s home would need to be OFSTED compliant and that it is easier to find providers for semi-independent provision.

There are clear advantages of having Havering LAC within the Borough to help build the necessary level of support where there would be a greater

degree of control and an enhanced quality of care. Local provision would also ensure a speedy response if issues did arise.

Cabinet:

Reviewed and **approved** the commencement of tendering processes for:

- 1) The works to refurbish two council properties;
- 2) The funding to carry out the works, which is estimated to be £350k
- 3) A care provider to deliver and manage a semi-independent 6 bedded unit in the borough.
- 4) A care provider to deliver and manage a residential or semi-independent 6 bedded unit in the borough.
- 5) The delegated authority for the Director of Children's Services to make the decision in relation to decide on whether the provision will be semi-independent or residential.

8 UPDATE OF THE COUNCIL'S MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY (MTFS) AND BUDGET FOR 2019/20

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Damian White, presented the report to Cabinet.

It was noted at the outset that an application had been made to the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Board to exempt the MTFS and Budget Update report from the requisition procedure in accordance with the rules of the Constitution, Paragraph 18, of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules.

This application was granted and therefore this decision is exempt from the Call-in process as set out in the supplementary Agenda.

The report detailed the current position on the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy which outlines the pressures and funding changes the Council is expecting over the next four years. In addition, the report explains the complex range of factors affecting local authority forecast funding streams and expenditure and the Council's position in relation to these matters.

These factors are all detailed at length in the report and there had been a recent All Member Briefing for Councillors.

Central Government Funding to Havering has reduced by over £29m since 2014/15 with a further reduction to come for 2019/20. There continues to be significant uncertainty for the future.

The Fair Funding Review Consultation is now complete and implementation is due in April 2020.

The review is about a fairer distribution system and every Authority will get a new baseline calculated after revised needs formulae have been agreed.

20/21 will be a transition year and the effect of any significant distribution changes will be damped by this.

The Council currently receives a number of unringfenced grants from Central Government. Better Care Fund (BCF) / Improved Better Care Fund (iBCF) and the New Homes Bonus are examples of these. For the majority, there are no guarantees for their future and services will experience significant pressures.

Havering has entered into the London Business Rates Pool Pilot which is voluntary but includes all London authorities.

All member councils will receive some share of any net benefits arising from the pilot pool. This recognises that growing London's economy is a collective endeavour in which all boroughs make some contribution to the success of the whole.

The Secretary of State has recently announced that the Green Paper on Adult Social Care will be published in the autumn to align with the NHS Plan. The funding for Adult Social Care will be determined as part of the 2019 Spending Review.

In 5 years since 2014/15 the Council has achieved over £77m in savings and increased income. The Budget Report to Council in February, 2018 balanced the budget and identified a remaining gap to be closed of £30.025 million over the next four years. Since that meeting there has been a lot of work to update and refresh the MTFs these changes and the proposals to close the gap are addressed and set out in detail in the report appendices.

The work falls into two themes:

- The first theme includes a range of service reductions and income generation proposals which have been identified for consideration. These are set out in Appendix A of this report. The proposals are service changes that can be implemented swiftly to meet the significant financial challenges that the Council faces in 2019/20 and 2020/21.
- The second theme takes a more transformational approach and includes programmes and projects that will modernise and improve services while delivering key efficiencies to help balance the budget. The proposals are set out in summary in Appendix Bi 'Transformation – Doing things differently' and in the form of individual concept cases in Appendix Bii. The nature of these programmes and projects means they will take longer to develop and implement. They are typically cross-departmental and require collaboration and cultural change across the Council, making them riskier to implement. They require corporate overview and programme management, and will only begin to provide a low level of savings in 2019/20.

Consultation on proposals is planned to take place during August and September to enable the findings to inform the November Budget report.

Jane West, s151 Officer, indicated to Members that she would be able to address any concerns separately if needed.

The consultation process will commence and it is hoped that members of the public will engage with the Council and pick up within the consultation process, areas that are of particular interest to them. There is a desire to make this as clear as possible so the wording of the consultation will be looked at again to ensure matters are clear and easy to understand and respond to.

There will be a series of public events in an attempt to maximise responses from the public.

Cabinet:

1. **Noted** the financial context.
2. **Agreed** the proposed consultation process and associated timetable as set out in section 7.
3. **Considered** the proposal to revise the Council Tax Support Scheme and agree that the statutory consultation be undertaken on the basis set out in Section 5, Section 7, Appendix D and Appendix E.
4. **Gave approval** to commence consultation on the proposal to increase the Council Tax empty homes premium to 100% for properties that have been empty for more than two years.

Chairman