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MINUTES OF A CABINET MEETING Council Chamber - Town Hall Wednesday, 13 February 2013 (7.30 - 9.55 pm)

Present:

Councillor Steven Kelly (Individuals) Deputy Leader (Chairman)

Councillor Michael Armstrong

Councillor Robert Benham

Councillor Andrew Curtin

Councillor Roger Ramsey

Councillor Paul Rochford

Councillor Geoffrey Starns

Councillor Lesley Kelly

Cabinet Member responsibility:

Transformation

Community Empowerment

Culture, Towns & Communities

Value

Children & Learning

Community Safety

Housing & Public Protection

Apologies were received for the absence of Councillors Michael White and Barry Tebbutt.

Councillors Keith Darvill, Michael Deon Burton, David Durant, Roger Evans, Gillian Ford, Linda Hawthorn, Paul McGeary, Pat Murray, Denis O'Flynn, Ron Ower and Linda Van Den Hende were present for the meeting.

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

The Chairman advised those present of the evacuation procedures in the event of an emergency.

Unless otherwise indicated, all decisions were agreed unanimously with no member voting against.

In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman chaired the meeting.

43 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 23 January 2013 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

44 **THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2013/14 - INCLUDING THE SETTING OF FEES & CHARGES**

Councillor Roger Ramsey, Cabinet Member for Value, introduced the report.

The report before Cabinet outlined the context within which the 2013/14 budget was due to be set and identified the Council's overall policy direction, statutory duties and financial strategy.

It was reported that the Council's budget needed to reflect the level of funding allocated to it by the Government. It was noted that since the 2010 General Election, the Government had made a series of announcements, with the most recent being the Autumn Budget Statement, which preceded the announcement of the provisional Local Government Settlement. This saw the introduction of fundamental and complex changes to the funding regime for local authorities, probably the biggest in 20 years. Whilst this reflected the localisation of responsibilities, it also brought increased financial risk, and this had to be reflected as part of a robust budget setting process.

In anticipation of the changes that these various announcements had brought about, and in response to the Emergency Budget announced in 2010, Cabinet had previously agreed a range of savings proposals in July 2010, and again in July 2011, designed to deliver savings approaching £36m. These proposals were in the process of being implemented, subject to consultation where appropriate.

It was noted that the provisional settlement had been announced on 19 December, the details of which had been included in the previous report to Cabinet in January. Interpretation of the impact of the settlement had been extremely difficult due to the continual flow of information from central government. More recently, there had been speculation that the final settlement would not be available until mid-February. Supplementary papers were issued which provided further detailed information on the final local government financial settlement and other levies. It was noted that the final settlement provided a 1.1% reduction in funding. The delay in the announcement had increased the level of uncertainty at a time when the pressure on public sector budgets continued to grow.

In the light of the ongoing financial climate, and with the prospects for "more of the same" for the foreseeable future, information on a small number of budget pressures and savings proposals was released for formal consultation in January and as part of this process, was submitted to the joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The results of this consultation were set out in the report. Subject to any further changes made by Cabinet arising from the consultation and scrutiny, the report set out the factors being recommended for inclusion within the 2013/14 budget.

It was noted that there was no proposed increase to the Havering element of the Council Tax, which would enable the Council to take advantage of the new Council Tax freeze grant on offer.

Final confirmation of the Greater London Authority (GLA) precept was not expected until the day on which the London Assembly was due to meet, which was two days prior to the Council budget setting meeting. It was reported that the Mayor had proposed a small reduction in the current precept, and this had been the subject of a similar consultation process. On the assumption that this was approved by the

London Assembly, there would be a small overall reduction in Council Tax. The band D figure would reduce to £1,498.18.

The report provided details of the various components of the budget with appendices also included.

Reasons for the Decision

The Council is required to set a budget for 2013/14 and, as part of that process, undertake relevant consultation in respect of the proposals included within the budget.

Alternative Options Considered

There were no alternative options in so far as setting a budget was concerned. However, there were options in respect of the various elements of the budget. These were considered in preparing the budget and covered such things as alternative savings proposals, the totality of budgetary pressures and different levels of Council Tax.

Members praised staff for their hard work in drafting the report in difficult circumstances given the inaccuracies in the final settlement delivered by central government.

The Cabinet Member emphasised the challenging financial circumstances that the Council found itself in, particularly as further savings were required in the next financial year and beyond.

Cabinet, in view of the need to balance the Council's policies, statutory requirements, government initiatives, inspection regimes and Council Tax levels:

1. Noted the advice of the Chief Finance Officer as set out in Appendix H when recommending the Council budget.
2. Noted the comments received during the consultation exercise, which are set out in the report from the joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which is attached as Appendix J to this report, when recommending the total Council budget.
3. Approved the Council's General Fund draft budget for 2013/14 as set out in Appendix E of the report, formulated on the basis of:
 - an ELWA levy based on the anticipated budget and levy increase
 - the budget items shown at Appendix F of the report
 - the other assumptions set out in this report.
4. Approved the delegated schools' draft budget as set out in Appendix E.
5. Delegated to the Leader and the Cabinet Member for Value authority to approve spending plans for new sources of grant funding or for confirmed amounts where estimates have previously been used, as set out in paragraph 3.3.5 of the report, for both revenue and capital grant funding.

6. Delegated to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Value, authority to take action to reduce Council spend resulting from the further transition of schools to academy status, as set out in paragraph 3.4.22 of the report.
7. Delegate to the Chief Executive and Group Directors to make any necessary changes to service and the associated budgets relating to any subsequent specific grant funding announcements, where delays may otherwise adversely impact on service delivery and/or budgetary control, subject to consultation as appropriate.
8. Approved, with effect from 1 April 2013, that the financial assets and liabilities of the commercial properties currently held in the Housing Revenue Account be appropriated to the General Fund, the final list of properties appropriated to be agreed by the Group Director Finance & Commerce.
9. Approved the schedule of Fees and Charges set out in Appendix L, with any recommended changes in year being implemented under Cabinet Member delegation.
10. Approved the Capital Programme for 2013/14 as set out in Annexes 2, 3 and 4 of Appendix I of the report.
11. Delegated to the Chief Executive and Group Directors to implement the 2013/14 capital and revenue proposals once approved by Council unless further reports or Cabinet Member authorities were required as detailed.
12. Agreed that if there were any changes to the GLA precept and/or levies, that the Group Director Finance & Commerce (in the absence of the Chief Executive) be authorised to amend the recommended resolutions accordingly and report these to Council on 27 February 2013.
13. Agreed that information be made available to members of the public, staff, trade unions, etc. explaining the decisions made by Cabinet, and the final decision on the Council Tax setting.
14. Delegated to the Cabinet Member Value and the relevant service area Cabinet Members authority to commence tender processes and accept tenders where these relate to Capital schemes within the Capital Programme.
15. Delegated to the Chief Executive authority to consider the comments of the trade unions and to reflect any changes and/or comments in the recommendations to Council.

Cabinet:

16. Recommends to Council, subject to recommendation 3 above, the General Fund budget, and the Council Tax for Band D properties, and for other Bands of properties, all as set out in Appendix E, as

revised and circulated for the Greater London Authority (GLA) Council Tax.

17. Recommends to Council the delegated schools' budget, also as set out in Appendix E.
18. Recommends to Council that a resolution be passed based on the proposals as set out in this report in order to set the Council Tax – the final text/figures to be advised to Council once the final GLA position is known.
19. Recommends to Council to pass a resolution as set out in section 8.4 of this report to enable Council Tax discounts to be given at the existing level
20. Recommends to Council the Capital Programme for 2013/14 as set out in Annexes 2, 3 and 4 of Appendix I.
21. Recommends to Council to agree that the Capital Programme be expanded for schemes during the year which are funded via grant funding under the authority of the Leader and the Cabinet Member Value.

Cabinet Noted:

22. The monitoring arrangements for 2013/14.
23. The prospects for 2014/15 and beyond, which indicate a very challenging financial environment still lies ahead, with the continuation of the Government's austerity programme, and that the need for continued financial prudence is especially important.
24. The likely date for the announcement of the final settlement and the potential need for a further report, should the figures be materially different.
25. That supplementary information would be provided to Cabinet where information was awaited, such as from external bodies such as the GLA and the other levying bodies, as well as the final settlement itself.
26. That any further reductions in grant funding introduced by the Government subsequent to the setting of the budget would be reported back to Cabinet, together with any consequent recommendations on maintaining financial stability.
27. That a further report would be brought to Cabinet setting out proposals to reduce spend associated with Early Intervention activities, in line with the reduced funding provided by Government.
28. That a report would be brought to Cabinet in March setting out the Council's proposed policy for dealing with business rates relief.
29. The effect of Council Procedure Rules with regard to the moving of any amendment to the Council Tax Setting report.

30. That consultation with the Trades Unions would continue in respect of any proposals within the Budget that have an impact on staff.
31. The virement and contingency rules set out in Appendix G.
32. That it had previously agreed that any future underspends from the Corporate Contingency Fund, from the Transformation budget, and from any service revenue underspends, were allocated to the Strategic Reserve.
33. The indicative Capital Programme for 2014/15 as set out in the report and Appendix I.
34. That the Treasury Management Strategy was being presented to Cabinet concurrently with this report as a separate agenda item.
35. That **Midnight on Monday 18 February 2013** is the deadline for amendments to the Council Tax Setting and Budget Report.

45 **HRA BUDGET FOR 2013/14 AND HRA CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2013/14 - 2014/15**

Councillor Lesley Kelly, Cabinet Member for Housing & Public Protection, introduced the report

The report before Cabinet detailed a budget for the Council's Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and HRA Capital Programme. It was explained that from 2012 the position of the HRA had changed as a result of the introduction of Self Financing HRAs. An update to the HRA Business Plan was provided as an appendix to the report.

It was noted that the HRA remains a ring-fenced account that is used to manage the Council's own housing stock. The proposed budget would enable the Council to manage the stock to a reasonable standard and to deliver the next phase of the Council's Decent Homes Programme. The report sets out the income resources the Council has available to spend on housing; it also set out the current HRA financial position and proposed spending plans for 2013/14.

In addition, the report detailed the proposed rents, service charges and other charges for Council tenants for the year 2013/14.

Reasons for the Decision

The Council is required to set the housing rent, service charges and a budget in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

Other Options Considered

There were no alternative options in so far as setting a budget was concerned. However, there were options in respect of the various elements of the budget. These were considered in preparing the budget and cover such matters as the rent and service charge increase, budget growth and capital programme proposals.

A view was expressed that the above-inflation increases in rents and service charges would have a detrimental effect on the living standards of the poorer sections of society. Members were reminded that the rents in Havering were the lowest across Greater London and that any increase in rents and service charges would be reinvested into the Decent Homes fund.

Cabinet:

1. Agreed the Housing Revenue Account Budget as detailed in Appendix 1.
2. Agreed that the average rent for Council properties owned by the London Borough of Havering be increased by £4.55, from £81.21 to £85.76 (5.60%) with effect from 1 April 2013, in line with the Government's policy to restructure rents. This means in effect that rents would increase as set out in the table below:

	Rent 2012/13 – 52 weeks	Rent 2013/14 – 52 weeks	Increase (£)	% increase
Bedsit	£62.96	£66.55	£3.59	5.70%
1 Bed	£67.49	£71.91	£4.42	6.55%
2 Bed	£80.11	£84.58	£4.47	5.58%
3 Bed	£97.29	£102.16	£4.87	5.01%
4 Bed	£110.90	£116.17	£5.27	4.75%
5 Bed	£122.20	£127.68	£5.48	4.48%
Average Rent	£81.21	£85.76	£4.55	5.60%

3. Agreed that the rent free weeks for 2013/14 be w/c 26 August 2013, the two weeks commencing 23 December 2013, and the week commencing 31 March 2014.
4. Agreed that tenants' service charges and heating and hot water charges for 2012/13 be increased or decreased as follows:

Service Charges reviewed and recommended	2012/13 Weekly Charge – 52 weeks	2013/14 Weekly Charge – 52 weeks	Increase (decrease)	% increase (decrease)
Caretaking	£3.41	£3.33	(£0.08)	(2.3%)
Internal Block Cleaning	£0.71	£1.02	£0.31	43.7%
Bulk Refuse Collection	£0.49	£0.45	(£0.04)	(8.1%)
CCTV - Mobile Service	£0.55	£0.55	£0.00	0%
CCTV - Static Service	£1.30	£1.38	£0.08	6.2%
Neighbourhood Wardens	£0.85	£0.83	(£0.02)	(2.4%)
Door Entry	£1.38	£1.38	£0.00	0%
Ground	£2.57	£2.39	(£0.18)	(7.0%)

Maintenance				
Sheltered Cleaning	£2.67	£2.93	£0.26	9.7%
TV access	£1.25	£1.32	£0.07	5.6%
Heating	£10.85	£9.52	(£1.33)	(12.3%)
Hot Water	£8.22	£6.02	(£2.20)	(24.3%)

5. Agreed that the service charge for homeless households accommodated in the Council's hostels be increased by 3.1% to £24.15 a week.
6. Agreed that charges for high and medium demand garages be increased by 2.6% and that rents for low demand garages be frozen.
7. Agreed that support charges for mobile support for older people be increased by 3.1% as follows:

Service	Weekly support charge in 2012/13 – 52 weeks	Weekly support charge in 2013/14 – 52 weeks
Support – low level	£5.12	£5.28
Support – medium level	£10.24	£10.56
Support – high level	£12.81	£13.21
Community support (previously called 'Itinerant round')	£1.10	£1.13

8. Agreed that the Careline support charge be increased by 3.1% as follows:

Service	Weekly support charge in 2012/13 – 52 weeks	Weekly support charge in 2013/14 – 52 weeks
Careline – sheltered tenants	£4.10	£4.23
Careline – community users	£4.37	£4.51

9. Agreed that Telecare support charges be increased by 3.1% as set out below:

Service	Weekly support charge in 2012/13 – 52 weeks	Weekly support charge in 2013/14 – 52 weeks
Telecare – base unit plus two sensors	£6.37	£6.57
Additional Telecare sensor	£1.06	£1.09

10. Agreed to maintain the transitional arrangements to correct the undercharging, by £4.18 increase plus inflation a week, of tenants in the former Hornchurch mobile support pilot scheme, whereby the full charge will be gradually increased over the five year period 2012/13 to 2016/17 inclusive for the 13 tenants paying for this service; for 2013/14 this amounts to an increase to the weekly charge (52 weeks) of £0.87.
11. Agreed the detailed expenditure items in the 2013/14 and 2014/15 HRA Capital Programmes, based on total resources of £35.7m and £43.781m respectively, as presented in Appendix 2 & 3 and agreed to refer the Programmes to Council for final approval for expenditure.
12. Approved the development of an affordable housing scheme consisting of nine bungalows for older people at the Garrick House sheltered scheme in Hornchurch, (the funding for which was included in detail in the exempt Appendix 5), consisting of capital grant from the GLA under the Mayor of London's Care and Support Specialised Housing Fund, subject to the successful outcome of a bid made in January 2013. Also included were right-to-buy receipts allocated to new building housing under the agreement signed with the Department for Communities and Local Government in 2012, and s106 commuted sums to meet the remainder, the exact amount being dependent on the level of GLA grant allocated.

46 **TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT, MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION POLICY STATEMENT AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2013/14**

Councillor Roger Ramsey, the Cabinet Member for Value, introduced the report

Each year the Council receives and approves, as a minimum, three main reports which incorporate a variety of policies, estimates and actuals. It was noted that such reports were scrutinised by the Audit Committee before presented to Cabinet for recommendation to Council.

The subject of the report before Cabinet members was the 'Prudential and Treasury Indicators and Treasury Strategy'. The report covered the following areas:

- the capital plans (including prudential indicators);
- a Minimum Revenue Provision Policy (how residual capital expenditure was charged to revenue over time);
- the Treasury Management Strategy (how the investments and borrowings were organised) including treasury indicators; and
- an investment strategy (the parameters on how investments were managed).

The Treasury Management Strategy Statement, which incorporates the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement and the Annual Investment Strategy, were attached as an appendix to the report.

Reasons for the decision:

The statutory Codes set out that the Council ought to approve a Treasury Management Strategy Statement, the MRP Strategy and the Annual Investment Strategy for 2013/14.

Other options considered:

There were no good reasons to depart from the provisions of the relevant Codes.

Cabinet agreed the Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) which incorporated the MRP Strategy and the Annual Investment Strategy 2013/14, and recommends to Council that the TMSS be approved.

47 REVIEW OF CHILDREN'S CENTRES

Councillor Paul Rochford, Cabinet Member for Children & Learning, introduced the report

The report before Cabinet presented the findings from the recent consultation on a review of Children Centres, which proposed the merger of Children Centre activities around 6 hub sites that took place between 15 October 2012 and 4 January 2013.

It was noted that alternative operators (such as Schools and Libraries) would run and maintain the other smaller and less-used sites, which would be decommissioned as Children Centres, but continue to provide early years services such as pre-school provision.

Overall, the consultation responses received were supportive of the proposals which Cabinet was asked to approve.

Reasons for the decision

Alongside the background evidence base, feedback from the consultation suggests support for the merger of Centres as indicated. Consultation feedback as detailed in stakeholder consultation minutes attached also indicated that Chippenham Road should remain open as a Children's Centre.

The implementation of the proposal would continue the delivery of service provision to a high standard without affecting current staffing levels and allow for closer co-location of staff to deliver targeted and preventative services for families.

Children's Centres would still offer free services to all, although resources will be mainly focused on more targeted and specialist work with families. Wherever possible, the voluntary sector and parent volunteers will continue to be encouraged to deliver these services, supported with training where necessary or families signposted to other opportunities in the area.

The proposals would ensure:

- Havering continued to meet its statutory duty to have sufficient centres to meet local need

- (demand at the larger Hub Centres is far higher as detailed in the evidence section, and positive informal feedback has been received from Department for Education on initial proposals).
- That the impact on local communities would be minimal, due to the provision of alternative early years services from former sites. Increased outreach provision will also ensure that services are accessible and all communities can be served.
- Provision of local childcare, particularly given significant recent increases in the early years population in Havering are likely to increase placement demand. The proposals will also help the Council implement its Childcare Sufficiency Audit Objectives and provide additional free places for two year olds from vulnerable families.

Table 2 Proposed Timeline

Date	Activity
Friday 15 th February, or as soon as possible if the report is called in	<p>Cabinet considers and approves proposals..</p> <p>Proposals are sent formally to Department for Education for sign off.</p> <p>Building condition surveys completed and all other technical queries asked by schools are answered.</p> <p>Following any Cabinet approval, consultation feedback, alongside final proposals are distributed at Children Centres and on-line.</p>
Friday 1 st March	<p>Legal agreements with schools/libraries are finalised and transfer preparations commence.</p> <p>Any amendments are made based on Department for Education's formal response to site-specific proposals.</p>
Tuesday 2 nd April	Centres are deregistered and formerly transfer to new operators.
Summer term / holiday	Schools begin commence early years activities from sites, modify buildings as needed, and develop a variety pre-school offers to open from September 2013.

Other options considered

Alternative options considered included:

1. Keep all centres open - this is not a long-term option. It would mean staff resources remain over-stretched across multiple sites and are unable to deliver a new targeted and early help service. In addition, this option would not allow the Service to make financial savings.
2. Keep Hildene Children's Centre rather Chippenham Road open. This would be unattractive because

- Consultation findings and background evidence reveal the Chippenham Centre is well use, popular and should remain open.
- It is in a central and densely populated area.
- Due to the high rent costs, alternative early years provision (such as pre-school provision) is not financial. Without alternative early years provision from the site, DfE would be entitled to claw back Sure Start capital grant.
- In comparison, Hilldene Primary School is interested in using Hilldene Children's Centre for pre-school provision and family activities.

A number of questions were fielded concerning the impact of the proposals on existing provision and what the proposed provision would have on existing and future service users, particularly alongside the provision of early intervention.

Cabinet:

1. Noted the comments received and the overall findings from the consultation on the review of Children's Centres.
2. Approved the decommissioning of the following Children's Centres and the services currently provided within them to be transferred to the remaining hub sites by 2 April 2013, subject to receiving final approval from the Department for Education:
 - Airfield
 - Harold Court
 - Hilldene
 - Pyrgo
 - South Hornchurch
 - Thistledene
 - Upminster
3. Approved the continued provision of services from the following larger hub centres:
 - Collier Row
 - Chippenham Road
 - Elm Park
 - Ingrebourne
 - St Kildas
 - Rainham Village

48 FUTURE OF YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICES IN HAVERING

Councillor Paul Rochford, Cabinet Member for Children & Learning, introduced the report

The report informed Cabinet of interim arrangements which had been put in place with London Borough of Barking and Dagenham (LBBD) to manage Havering Youth Offending Service (YOS), whilst more detailed discussions had taken place to establish an integrated service model across both Havering and Barking and Dagenham.

It was reported that the interim arrangements included the secondment of one LBBD YOS Manager to Havering for 60% of his time and additional support from other LBBD YOS

Management staff. During the intervening period continued work would be undertaken to explore options for a fully integrated service.

Reasons for the decision:

The Council is committed to building a community where people are safe and feel safe. Good quality youth offending services reduce offending and reoffending amongst 10-18 year olds. Barking and Dagenham YOS had a very good thematic inspection in 2011/12 and the integration will allow opportunities for building on good practice and resilience in the Youth Offending Services in both boroughs.

Other options considered:

There were two main options considered, namely:

- Option 1 – To maintain standalone YOS for Havering.
- Option 2 – To collaborate with a neighbouring authority with a view to realising benefits for both authorities.

Option 2 is the recommended option for the reasons as outlined in the report.

Questions were raised concerning the level of consultation with partner organisations concerning the proposals. It was accepted that there would be a geographical spread resulting from the service revisions, however this would not result in a loss of service.

It was noted that the report was for noting, with the final decision delegated to the Cabinet Member for Children & Learning. The Crime and Disorder and Children & Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committees would be presented with reports detailing the performance of the proposed collaboration with LBBD.

Cabinet:

1. Noted and agreed the direction of travel to merge Youth Offending Services with London Borough of Barking and Dagenham over time.
2. Noted the current accommodation issues for the location of the YOS once the lease expires on Portman House.
3. Delegated authority to the Cabinet Member for Children & Learning to take any decisions required to complete a merger of Youth Offending Services with London Borough of Barking and Dagenham.

49 SECTION 75 AGREEMENT WITH NORTH EAST LONDON FOUNDATION TRUST

Councillor Steven Kelly, Cabinet Member for Individuals, introduced the report

This report before Cabinet considered the current partnership working with North East London Foundation Trust (NELFT) providing integrated health and social care services for people with mental health needs in Havering.

The report identified the opportunity for further co-operation with NELFT and recommended that the Council enter into an Overarching Section 75 Partnership Agreement with the Trust encompassing mental health and other community-based health and social care functions for a period of 3 years from 1 April 2013.

The Cabinet Member recognised that the Council's relevant Overview & Scrutiny Committees were the appropriate place for the performance of the contract to be monitored.

Reasons for the decision:

The Council and North East London Foundation Trust were partners in a successful Section 75 Agreement for the provision of an integrated community mental health service in Havering. The Council had seconded its mental health social care staff to the Trust. Following a review of the agreement both partners considered that the mental health partnership should continue and that as there may be a range of other health and social care services which would benefit from such a partnership approach there should be an Overarching Agreement that gives the partners flexibility to agree that other services can be incorporated at a future date.

Other options considered:

The Council considered these other options:

- Ending the current Section 75 Mental Health Agreement and secondment arrangements and delivering mental health social care services in-house. This option would not provide the required integrated health and social care services.
- Ending the current Section 75 Mental Health Agreement with North East London Foundation Trust and negotiating a new Agreement with another specialist mental health organisation. This option would entail considerable expenditure in procuring an alternative provider; the market in specialist mental health provision is not well developed and as the PCT and CCG who are the commissioners of the health mental health services are not intending to open the service to competition the Council would be unable to proceed on a unilateral basis.
- Renewing and revising the current Section 75 Mental Health Agreement with North East London Foundation Trust and developing separate Section 75 Agreements for each new service partnership. In view of the common intention of both parties to develop more partnership working across a wider range of health and social care services it would be more complicated and expensive in terms of developmental costs to produce a range of Agreements.

A suggestion was made that there be an annual debate in the Council on the issue of public health. The Cabinet Member for Individuals supported the suggestion and commented that the Annual Public Health Report was a matter which should be debated in public.

Cabinet authorised the Group Director, Social Care & Learning to conclude negotiations with North East London Foundation Trust to enter into an Overarching Agreement under Section 75 of the National Health Service Act 2006 with effect from 1 April 2013.

50 **PROPOSED GRANT FUNDING BIDS TO HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAMME AND TO GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY 'BIG GREEN' FUND**

Councillor Robert Benham, Cabinet Member for Community Empowerment, introduced the report

The report described the developing partnership work between the Council, the Thames Chase Trust, the Forestry Commission and others aimed at securing funding for substantial environmental regeneration programmes in Havering's countryside and green spaces.

It was noted that Green infrastructure had an increasingly important role to play as the Council faced the challenges of sustaining economic growth and the expected changes to London's demography and climate. It could help absorb flood water, cool the urban environment and clean the air. It could also be used for local food production, to promote sport and leisure and ensure space for London's fauna and flora; as a network it could provide links and connections between places, encouraging walking and cycling, highlighting landscape and heritage and supporting the local economy, in particular the visitor economy.

The report sought approval to make grant funding bids to the GLA Big Green Fund, an All London Green Grid initiative, and to the Heritage Lottery Fund Landscape Partnerships programme and for the Council, on behalf of the partnership, to act as the accountable body for the grants were the bids to be successful.

Reasons for the decision:

The GLA Big Green Fund and HLF Landscape Partnerships were important grant opportunities from which Havering and its partners could benefit.

In order to maximise the benefits of these opportunities to Havering a decision by Cabinet is required to authorise the submission of funding bids in excess of £500k. The Constitution sets out that pursuant to the delegated authority for general functions in Part 3 Section 2.1 in the following paragraphs to Cabinet:-

(g) To allocate and control financial and land and property resources, to determine priorities in the use of these resources, and take any other action necessary to achieve those objectives; and

(r) To be responsible for all executive matters even if not expressly set out in Part 3 of this constitution.

Pursuant to Corporate Functions under Part 3 Section 2.2:-

(a) To take decisions on all matters relating to the Council's finances including but not exclusively:

(i) budgetary control

Other options considered:

Submitting bids above £500k requires Cabinet approval, without which there are no other options for approval.

Cabinet:

1. Agreed the development and submission of grant funding applications to the GLA Big Green Fund and to the Heritage Lottery Fund Landscape Partnerships funding programme.
2. Agreed that the Council be identified as the accountable body for these grant funding applications.

51 FUTURE STRATEGY IN RESPECT OF THE SITE OF THE OLD WINDMILL HALL AND ADJOINING LAND

Councillor Roger Ramsey, Cabinet Member for Value, introduced the report

On 26 October 2011, Cabinet approved a report on the future provision of community halls within the borough. The report approved the demolition of the Old Windmill Hall and called for a further report on the option of disposing of the site and the adjoining land. The report considered the option of disposal and reviewed other possible uses for the site.

Subject to the disposal option being adopted, the report also set out some practical issues arising from the proposed sale of the land and identifies the relevant decisions and processes required to deal with such issues.

Reasons for the decision:

The majority of the site was no longer in use for operational purposes and the adjacent car park was now longer required to meet the parking needs of users of the Old Windmill Hall. It was considered important that Council assets were used as efficiently as possible and to maximise their contribution to services whether this be directly or by the creation of a capital receipt.

In the circumstances, it was necessary for the future use of the site to be considered and for a strategy to be identified.

Other options considered:

The other options considered for the future use of this site were set out above in the main body of the report.

A view was expressed that the disposal of the site was disappointing given its prominent location in the heart of Upminster, and the value of the site given the character of its surroundings.

Cabinet:

1. Confirmed that the Old Windmill Hall site and adjacent car park (as shown edged red on the attached plan) be declared surplus and authorised the disposal of the freehold interest in the site.

2. Authorised the commencement of the statutory process to appropriate from open space and then dispose of the land coloured blue on plan sps1294/1 Rev A.
3. Authorised the appropriation of the land shown coloured green on plan sps1294/1 Rev A from the curtilage of the Old Windmill Hall to open space use subject to the removal from open space use of the land shown coloured blue.
4. Authorised the appropriation of the disposal site (edged red on plan sps1294/1 Rev A) for planning purposes.
5. Authorised the Property Strategy Manager, in consultation with the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal & Democratic Services) to undertake all appropriation processes and for the Cabinet Member for Value to consider any objections received and whether to confirm the appropriations.
6. Authorised the Property Strategy Manager, in consultation with the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal & Democratic Services) to deal with all matters arising from this decision and to complete the disposal. This includes completion of the statutory process for the appropriation of open space and the appropriation for planning purposes in the event of there being no representations on these issues.

Chairman

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