

**MINUTES OF THE CABINET
MONDAY, 26 JANUARY 2009**

Councillors *Kober (Chair), *Reith (Vice-Chair), *Adje, *Amin, *Basu, *Bevan, *Canver, *Cooke, *Haley and *B. Harris

*Present

Also Present: Councillors Engert, Gorrie and Newton.

| MINUTE NO. | SUBJECT/DECISION | ACTION BY |
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| CAB116. | APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1) Apologies for lateness were submitted on behalf of Councillors Canver and Cooke. | |
| CAB117. | DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Agenda Item 3) Councillors Amin, Harris and Kober in respect of Item 15 - Neighbourhood Plan For The NDC Area. | HLDMS |
| CAB118. | MINUTES (Agenda Item 4) RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 16 December 2008 be confirmed and signed. | HLDMS |
| CAB119. | DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS/QUESTIONS (Agenda Item 5) We received a deputation from representatives of the Save St. Ann's Hospital Campaign Group. The spokesperson, Mario Petrou, addressed our meeting to express concern about the proposed removal of the existing boundary wall of the hospital lying as it did within the St. Ann's conservation area. Disquiet was also voiced about the extent and nature of consultation carried out to date in relation to the development of the Neighbourhood Plan and about the mix of health services, family housing and public open space to be achieved. In this latter respect the deputation felt that the Plan was too focussed on housing provision and that the Council should press the Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust and the Haringey Teaching Primary Care Trust to make known the type and extent of the changes proposed to the health services on the hospital site so as to facilitate the consultation and decision making processes. The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Partnerships responded and referred to an earlier meeting with the Campaign Group and pointed out that the NDC Board was comprised of representatives of a number of partners all of whom had been involved in the development of the Neighbourhood Plan which was intended as an aspirational document. With regard to consultation, she referred to a number of well attended meetings which had been held and she stressed that this was an on- | |

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| | <p>going process and that it would be open to local residents and groups to submit their concerns and options which would be considered as part of the production by the Council of a development brief for the site. The Council did not yet have details of the Mental Health Trust's proposed changes at St. Ann's and would wish to link these to any proposals coming forward for other health related uses in the vicinity. Once available these too would be subject to further consultation.</p> <p>In response to questions by Members the deputation indicated that they remained concerned in particular in relation to the balance between housing and health facilities on the site and that they would be seeking a meeting with the Leader of the Council to discuss this matter further and to ask the Council to press the Mental Health Trust and the Primary Care Trust to bring forward their proposals for health facilities.</p> <p>Our Chair then thanked the deputation for their attendance and indicated that she would respond to any request they made to her office for a meeting. She also invited them to remain during our consideration of agenda item 15 - Neighbourhood Plan for the NDC Area (See Minute CAB 128 below).</p> | |
| <p>CAB120.</p> | <p>THE COUNCIL'S PERFORMANCE - PERIOD 8 APRIL - NOVEMBER 2008 (Joint Report of the Chief Executive and the Chief Financial Officer – Agenda Item 7):</p> <p>We noted that with regard to the average re-let times a comprehensive action plan designed to streamline processes and improve the performance of the building maintenance, lettings and tenancy management teams was being implemented. To improve voids performance in sheltered housing there were plans to bring together, in one team, all of the staff who were involved in the letting of sheltered housing, including those responsible for assessing applicants' support needs and eligibility for sheltered housing.</p> <p>We also noted the virement of £0.1 million which had been made for Wolves Lane Nursery from non-service revenue under spend.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">That the report and the progress against Council priorities be noted an approval be granted to the virements as set out in Appendix 2 to the interleaved report.</p> | <p>CFO</p> |
| <p>CAB121.</p> | <p>FINANCIAL PLANNING 2009/10 – 2011/12 (Joint Report of the Chief Financial Officer and the Director of Resources – Agenda Item 8):</p> <p>Our Chair agreed to admit the report as urgent business. The report was late because of the need to complete necessary consultations. The report was too urgent to await the next meeting because approval of the recommendations contained in the report was necessary to refer the budget package to the Council meeting on 9 February 2009 for</p> | |

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| | <p>discussion.</p> <p>We noted that consultation on budget options had included a presentation of the Council's strategic plans at an event for local businesses as well as separate focussed consultation sessions with residents. Recycling options had been raised at these meetings and we noted further that other pilot re-cycling schemes were being investigated.</p> <p>We also noted that the Government's rent restructuring formula changes had resulted in a recommended average rent increase for Haringey of 6.13% equating to an average of £4.78 per week. With regard to concerns about the increase in heating charges for sheltered housing tenants, this would be the first time for two years that these had been increased. A letter was to be sent to all sheltered housing tenants and scheme managers concerning eligibility for extra financial help with heating costs including winter fuel payments, Christmas bonus payment and increased cold weather payments.</p> <p>Clarification having been sought with regard to paragraph 8.16, we were informed that the table of Area Based Grant – Proposed Theme Board Allocations did not contain provision for Supporting People because this would not be part of the Area Based Grant until 2010. With regard to the sixth bullet point in paragraph 9.3, for the first time a contingency sum, £1.1 million in each of the next two financial years, would be included because of the downturn in economic conditions, the previously agreed general contingency of £1.5 million having not been specifically targeted for that purpose. Clarification was also sought of why no reference was made in paragraph 17.4 (Treasury Management Strategy) to the impact of the collapse of the Icelandic Banks particularly in the light of City Minister Paul Myers letter to the Local Government Association of 17 December about the capitalisation of losses. We noted that it was understood that in view of the process that those banks were now going through the Government intended to allow capitalisation to be deferred until 2010/11 to enable Councils to estimate their losses and to plan for them.</p> <p>In response to a question from Councillor Gorrie concerning the budget position in respect of the pension fund, the Chief Financial Officer indicated that he would supply a written response about a reported £178 million deficit.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That approval be granted to the changes and variations set out at paragraph 9.3 of the interleaved report and Appendix B thereto. 2. That the outcome of the consultation processes set out at section 11 of the interleaved report be noted. 3. That approval be granted to the new investment proposals set out in Appendix D. | <p>CFO</p> <p>CFO</p> <p>CFO</p> |
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| | <p>4. That approval be granted to the revised and new savings proposals set out in Appendix E.</p> <p>5. That approval be granted to the proposals for the children's services (Dedicated Schools Budget (DSG) set out in Appendix F.</p> <p>6. That approval be granted to the proposals for the HRA budget set out in Appendix G.</p> <p>7. That approval be granted to the housing rent increases at an average of £4.78 per week (6.1%).</p> <p>8. That approval be granted to the housing tenant service charge increase at an average of £1.94 per week.</p> <p>9. That approval be granted to the proposals for the capital programme and funding set out in Appendices H and J and the capital resource allocation policy at Appendix I.</p> <p>10. That approval be granted to the treasury management strategy and policy and prudential limits set out in Appendix K.</p> <p>11. That approval be granted to the proposed general fund budget requirement of £408.834 million, subject to the decisions of precepting and levying authorities, and the consequences for Council Tax levels</p> <p>12. That approval be granted to the way forward in respect of additional resources required for investment in children's services as set out in paragraphs 12.2 and 12.3 of the interleaved report.</p> <p>13. That it be noted that this budget report would be routed to the Council meeting on 9 February 2009 for discussion with the final decision on the budget and the Council Tax for 2009/10 to be considered at the Council meeting on 23 February 2009.</p> | <p>CFO</p> <p>CFO</p> <p>CFO</p> <p>CFO</p> <p>CFO</p> <p>CFO</p> <p>CFO</p> <p>CFO</p> <p>CFO</p> <p>CFO</p> |
| <p>CAB122.</p> | <p>COMMERCIAL PORTFOLIO REVIEW (Report of the Director of Corporate Resources – Agenda Item 9):</p> <p>Concern was expressed that the review had concluded both that the financial performance of the portfolio was above the industry benchmark but that the current management of the portfolio needed improvement and a more pro-active approach was required. We asked that Councillor Gorrie be provided with the basis of the capital valuations used during the course of the portfolio assessment.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>1. That the conclusions of the detailed review of the Council's commercial property portfolio as set out below be noted -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 93% of the properties in the portfolio meet the Council's | <p>DCR</p> |

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| | <p>strategic objectives and can be continued to be managed on the current basis, 7% of the properties require further assessment as they may require additional investment to improve condition or performance or may be suitable for future disposal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the financial performance of the portfolio is above the industry benchmark. • the current management of the portfolio needs improvement and a more pro-active approach is required. <p>2. That the options appraisal set out in the report for the future ownership, investment and management of the commercial portfolio be noted and, in view of the portfolio assessment from the property review and recent developments in the management of the portfolio the following be confirmed –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The continued retention of the Commercial portfolio focussed on meeting service, regeneration and financial objectives subject to the development of a prioritised asset management plan. • The continued in-house management of the commercial portfolio to focus on strategy, delivery and improved outcomes through a review of capacity and capability of the team and external consultants. <p>3. That it be noted that further research and work be carried out to consider the opportunities that might accrue from a wider multi agency approach to property use and development as set out by the Central Government for example through the Homes and Communities Agency and the single conversation initiative.</p> | DCR |
| <p>CAB123.</p> | <p>ASB STRATEGY 2008/11 (Report of the Assistant Chief Executive for Policy, Performance, Partnerships and Communications – Agenda Item 10):</p> <p>It having been confirmed that the proposal to use budgets from Neighbourhood Management to match fund investment would not constrain on-going project work and that the adoption of the Strategy would not prevent other agencies within the Council exercising powers at a local level it was</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That approval be granted to the current ASB Strategy (2009-2011) as set out as an Appendix to the interleaved report. 2. That it be noted that this was an update of the previous (2003) version and detailed the Council's approach and areas for focus and that actions to achieve delivery would be detailed in | ACE-PPPC |

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| | the 2009/10 action plan. | |
| CAB124. | <p>CHILDREN'S CENTRES PHASE 3 (Report of the Director of the Children and Young People's Service – Agenda Item 11):</p> <p>Concern was expressed about the low level of usage made by Haringey residents of the Coppett's Wood Children's Centre in Barnet and given the acknowledged pocket of need within the Ward confirmation was sought of the Council's early intervention there. In this respect we noted that the proposals included amongst other things development of a hub for the delivery of children's centre services at Coldfall Primary School operating in a cluster with Barnet's Coppetts Wood Centre and the Methodist Church (North Bank). Efforts would continue to work with Barnet Council to increase usage by Haringey families of their Centre and the results would be included in the further report to be submitted in October together with their impact for the proposed hub at Coldfall School.</p> <p>While the proposals for a link site at Muswell Hill Community Centre were welcomed as public transport links to the existing Stonecroft Centre in Priory Road were not easy for parents with young children, pedestrian access to the Muswell Hill Community Centre needed to be improved as it currently brought users into potentially dangerous conflict with vehicular traffic using Summerland car park or Hillfield Park. The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People indicated that if Councillor Engert would supply her and the Cabinet Member for Environment and Conservation with further details they would have the matter investigated.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That approval be granted to the proposals as set out in Section 14 of the interleaved report in order to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide new children's centre satellite facilities at Downhills School for West Green and Bruce Grove Wards; at Chettle Court to serve the north of Stroud Green Ward at Tower gardens to serve White Hart Lane Ward and within Muswell Hill Ward. • Seek to work in partnership for the provision of services for Fortis Green Ward with Barnet Council and for Crouch End and Stroud Green Wards with Islington Council. 2. That a further report be submitted in October 2009 setting out a detailed strategy for children's centres as well as with proposals for capital and revenue expenditure for 2010/11. | <p>DCYPS</p> <p>DCYPS</p> |
| CAB125. | <p>CABINET RESPONSE TO THE SCRUTINY REVIEW OF CHILDREN'S CENTRES (Report of the Director of the Children and Young People's Service – Agenda Item 12):</p> | |

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| | <p>In response to a question, we noted that a report on the Childcare Sufficiency Audit would be submitted in June and that an answer was still awaited from the Primary Care Trust with regard to the progress of their recruitment drive to recruit Health Visitors.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Scrutiny Review of the Children’s Centres be noted and welcomed. 2. That approval be granted to the response and the proposed action plan as set out in the interleaved report and the Appendix thereto. | DCYPS |
| <p>CAB126.</p> | <p>ANNUAL REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE (Report of the Director of Adult, Culture and Community Services – Agenda Item 13):</p> <p>In response to a question, we noted that with regard to improving the in house residential homes, the rating of Red House had changed from ‘adequate’ to ‘good’ while an action plan was in place to improve Whitehall Street before re-inspection.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That the content and outcome of the Commission of Social Care Inspection’s (CSCI) annual Review of Social Care for 2007/08 be noted and approval be granted to the proposed action to respond to the identified areas for redevelopment.</p> | DACCS |
| <p>CAB127.</p> | <p>DRAFT HOUSING STRATEGY FOR CONSULTATION (Report of the Director of Urban Environment – Agenda Item 14):</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the content of the draft housing strategy be noted. 2. That approval be granted for the strategy to be taken out to wider consultation with a view to the outcome of that consultation being reported to our meeting in March 2009 with a final strategy being brought for approval in April 2009. | DUE |
| <p>CAB128.</p> | <p>NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN FOR THE NDC AREA (Report of the Director of Urban Environment – Agenda Item 15):</p> <p>Councillors Amin, Bob Harris and Kober all declared personal interests in this item by virtue of being members of the NDC Partnership Board.</p> <p>In response to a question, the Council’s Monitoring Officer advised that it was not necessary for Ward Councillors to declare a specific interest in this item provided that they did not receive a benefit from it disproportionate to others.</p> | |

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| | <p>Following the earlier discussion arising from the deputation, it was reiterated that the draft Neighbourhood Plan now submitted was an aspirational document which had been the subject of extensive consultation with local residents. The Plan was a flexible and its purpose was to provide a common point of reference for all stakeholders, through which to discuss the future of the area. It was emphasised that none of the proposals could proceed without more detailed consultation, investigation, and development.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That approval be granted to the Neighbourhood Plan for the NDC area (2010-2025) as set out in the interleaved report and the Appendix thereto as a framework to guide socio-economic and physical development in the Seven Sisters area.</p> | DUE |
| CAB129. | <p>MINUTES OF OTHER BODIES (Agenda Item 16):</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That the minutes of the following meetings be noted and any necessary action approved -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Voluntary Sector Committee – 2 December 2008 b) Cabinet Member Signing – 16 December 2008 c) Procurement Committee – 18 December 2008 | |
| CAB130. | <p>DELEGATED DECISIONS AND SIGNIFICANT ACTIONS (Report of the Chief Executive – Agenda Item 17):</p> <p>The Appendix to the interleaved report was the subject of a motion to exclude the press and public from the meeting as it contained exempt information relating to the business or financial affairs of any particular person.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That the report be noted and any necessary action approved.</p> | |

CLARE KOBER
Chair