

MINUTES OF MEETING Urgent Decisions HELD ON Wednesday, 3rd March, 2021, 2.00 pm

PRESENT:

Councillors: Joseph Ejiofor

ALSO ATTENDING: Richard Grice, Director for Customers, Transformation and Resources; Jean Taylor, Head of Policy and Strategy; and Felicity Foley, Committees Manager

67. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

68. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

69. HARSHIP FUND ALLOCATION

The Leader considered the report which sought approval to allocate remaining monies from Haringey's allocation of the Government's Hardship Fund as announced in the Budget on 11 March 2020. The proposed approach for the allocation of the remaining funds was set out in paragraph 5.4 and Appendix 1 of the report.

The Leader RESOLVED to:

- i. Approve the funding allocation as set out in paragraph 5.4 and Appendix 1;
- ii. Delegate authority to the Director for Customers, Transformation and Resources, in consultation with the Leader of the Council to re-distribute funding between the headings set out in appendix 1 and the schedule in Appendix 2 according to emerging need; and
- iii. Agree that this policy is subject to the availability of government funding and will terminate on 31st March 2021 unless terminated earlier or extended beyond this date by Cabinet / Cabinet Member decision.

Reasons for decision

The Government has provided a Hardship Fund to local authorities and produced guidance that enables councils to use any surplus from the required £150 CTRS payments to provide additional support outside the council tax system through Local Welfare or similar schemes.

The sum still to be allocated is £1.66m and so allocation requires Cabinet approval.

The Hardship Fund is available until 31st March 2021. Therefore, there is a need for an urgent decision to be taken on the recommendation in order to ensure that payments are made to support vulnerable people in the period to then.

Alternative options considered

The alternative option considered was not to develop an approach to distributing the remaining Hardship Fund, which would result in c.£1.66m of hardship grant not being made available to Haringey residents in need of support.

CHAIR: Councillor Joseph Ejiofor

Signed by Chair

Date