

MINUTES OF MEETING Cabinet HELD ON Tuesday, 9th February, 2021, 6.30pm

PRESENT:

Councillors: Joseph Ejiofor (Chair), Seema Chandwani, Charles Adje, Kaushika Amin (Deputy Chair), Mark Blake, Gideon Bull, Kirsten Hearn, Emine Ibrahim, Sarah James and Matt White

ALSO ATTENDING: Councillors: Brabazon, Connor, Berryman, Gordon, Palmer , Rossetti, and Tucker

425. FILMING AT MEETINGS

The Leader informed all present that the meeting was to be streamed live on the Council's website.

426. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

427. URGENT BUSINESS

None.

428. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

429. NOTICE OF INTENTION TO CONDUCT BUSINESS IN PRIVATE, ANY REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED AND THE RESPONSE TO ANY SUCH REPRESENTATIONS

None received.

430. MINUTES

RESOLVED

To approve the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 19 January 2021 be approved as a correct record.

431. MATTERS REFERRED TO CABINET BY THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Scrutiny recommendations on the budget would be dealt with at item 11.

432. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS/QUESTIONS

Deputation in relation to Item 9

Karen Matthews and Luke Jordan, Haringey Cycling Campaign and Clean Air Group, and Catherine Kenyon, Haringey Living Streets, addressed the Committee in relation to Item 9 – Draft Walking & Cycling Action Plan Consultation.

Ms Matthews stated that it was imperative that the Council took major steps to tackle the damaging and high levels of air pollution in the community. Ms Matthews found walking and cycling to be a more efficient mode of travel, however this was often a frightening experience caused by a high level of traffic, speeding and general lawlessness, especially in St Ann's Road and Green Lanes. Green Lanes was the hub of the community but was taken up by around 80% parked cars and general traffic. It was felt that there was a need for fewer cars on roads and a change of mind set on the walking and cycling infrastructure, based on international best practice.

Ms Matthews referred to the smoking ban, which was introduced in 2007, which had proved to be successful and stated that there was a need for similar drastic measures to be taken to address the issues raised. There were a number of benefits to be gained, including helping to reduce the impact on the NHS and creating a better community for everyone.

Mr Jordan stated that cycling was an essential part of his life cycling and his primary form of transport. However, given his level of experience of cycling he still felt unsafe on the roads and it was often a leap of faith too far for many. He felt that all children should be able to cycle to school safely. He had numerous friends with asthma, a condition which was made worse by illegal levels of air pollution. Moving between neighbouring boroughs, he suggested that their infrastructure felt better managed and safer. Mr Jordan stressed the importance of promoting people's health over the convenience of drivers and asked Members to take responsibility and promote the health of our youth as a priority.

Ms Kenyon gave a statement from Haringey Living Streets, in support of the Walking & Cycling Action Plan. Ms Kenyon stated that the purpose of the action plan went beyond walking and cycling and was about the future of Haringey, the recovery from the pandemic, the health and wellbeing of residents and an urgent response to the climate emergency. It was important to look at what legacy Members wanted to leave the children of Haringey and that it was not beyond the realms of possibility that every child could have a safe walking/cycling route to school.

It was noted that there had been a 20% increase in car journeys within the borough and there was a need for everyone to play a part in delivering the action plan, in order to deliver real change in the borough and bring the community together. Ms Kenyon stated that she would also like to see air quality monitoring undertaken across the

borough, with this data shared, as well as looking at how to use the budget effectively. She thanked everyone that had been involved in the plan.

The Leader thanked the deputations for attending and presenting their views. The Cabinet Member for Local Investment and Economic Growth stated that it was good to see younger people engage with the Council and that he had recently taken up cycling. The Cabinet Member referred to local businesses and was keen to look at the way they could play a part in promoting this action plan and communicate that it helped Haringey as a whole and would not be a threat to their livelihood. In response, Ms Kenyon stated that evidence showed an increase in walking/cycling in an area encouraged people to shop locally and it was important that residents had safe access to local high streets to help support these local businesses. She added that it was important to look at the allocation of street space, to ensure that people could enjoy these spaces and how they could be improved.

The Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Equalities and Leisure thanked the deputations for their contributions and stressed the importance of having community support in this matter and ensuring that their voice was heard.

Ms Kenyon thanked the Cabinet Members for their input and was keen to work with the various community groups and Members to bring this action plan forward.

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Corporate Services thanked everyone for their contribution. The Cabinet Member welcomed the support from the various community groups and agreed with everything that had been said. One of the main concerns of cyclists was driver behaviour and it was important that changes were made to address this issue. The main objectives of the action plan were to make neighbourhoods safer, less polluted, and to create a cleaner and more pleasant environment for everyone, as well as helping high streets to recover from the pandemic and creating more inviting places for residents. It was recognised that a number of neighbouring boroughs were ahead of the Council on this matter and the Cabinet Member stated that the Council was making great strides to catch up. Once approved, the action plan would go out for consultation and there was a need to take action urgently. The Cabinet Member added that the Council was already starting to take action, with the engagement process already started with TfL.

433. DRAFT WALKING & CYCLING ACTION PLAN CONSULTATION

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Corporate Services introduced the report which sought approval for the draft Walking and Cycling Action Plan (WCAP). It was explained that the WCAP was a commitment set out in the 2018 Transport Strategy and it aimed to establish a reputation for Haringey as a walking and cycling borough, to ensure that more journeys were taken on foot and by bicycle, and to increase active travel to improve the wellbeing of residents, reduce obesity, and improve air quality.

It was noted that the WCAP had five central aspirations: to increase active travel, policies on walking, policies on cycling, delivering low traffic neighbourhoods, and reallocating road space to enable sustainable growth and to make walking and cycling

safer. The Cabinet Member for Planning and Corporate Services explained that the WCAP set out a hierarchy of modes with pavement users at the top, followed by cyclists, public transport, electric vehicles, and motor vehicles. Once the WCAP was in place, it would be possible to reallocate road space to higher priority groups. It was noted that there was a delivery plan attached to the WCAP which set out proposals for a number of cycle routes, Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs), and walking and cycling projects.

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Corporate Services outlined that the WCAP aimed to reduce the number of journeys made by car to address the climate and inactivity crises, to prevent deaths on the road, and to assist green recovery from Covid-19 and benefit high streets and the local economy. It was noted that, by enabling people to walk and cycle more easily, neighbourhoods would be safer, there would be less pollution, and the area would be a better place to live and work. It was also considered that the impact of pollution and safety disproportionately affected lower income residents and the WCAP aimed to reduce these impacts.

The Leader commented that he was very supportive of the fact that the WCAP had deliverables and practical steps. Cllr Chandwani added that the plan acknowledged some elements that were unique to Haringey and celebrated the borough.

Following questions from Cllr Bull, Cllr Palmer, Cllr Brabazon, and Cllr Rossetti, the following information was provided:

- It was acknowledged that there were differences between motorcycle, scooter, and car use in terms of road safety and carbon emissions. The Cabinet Member for Planning and Corporate Services noted that he would consider this point and that the hierarchy for modes of transport may be amended to reflect this.
- In relation to funding and delivery, it was confirmed that the WCAP did not exclusively rely on external funding. It was explained that £5.1 million of capital funding had been allocated in the capital programme, £2 million of funding had been secured from Transport for London (TfL), and £1.9 million was expected from Local Implementation Plan (LIP) funding.
- It was noted that the delivery of the WCAP, including LTNs, would be decided based on the 10 criteria for prioritisation which were set out in the WCAP delivery plan. It was noted that the exact dates had not been confirmed yet but were under discussion.
- It was noted that the Liveable Seven Sisters project, which also aimed to improve pedestrian and cycling accessibility, was not specifically mentioned in the WCAP. It was explained that the WCAP set out key principles which could influence many ongoing and future projects and it did not intend to list all relevant projects. It was added that the WCAP was in draft form and would be open for consultation so it would be possible to add detail where required.
- It was commented that the valuable learning from the Crouch End Liveable Neighbourhood project was the importance of engaging effectively with everyone in the area, including businesses, and it was commented that there would be joint working with the Cabinet Member Local Investment and Economic Growth. It was noted that, for the first three proposed LTNs, there would be open engagement and letters would be sent to everyone in the area.

- Concerns about traffic displacement in relation to LTNs were noted and a specific example of a previous LTN in Haringay ward was given. The Cabinet Member for Planning and Corporate Services noted these concerns and commented that, in relation to the specific issues mentioned, work was underway to engage with local residents and ward Councillors and to improve the situation. In relation to LTNs in general, it was acknowledged that there was initial displacement, and it was aimed to anticipate any issues through studies and engagement with local people and ward Councillors. It was considered that making it easier to walk and cycle would enable and encourage more people to use these modes of transport and that, overall, the total amount of traffic in the borough would reduce.

[Cllr Hearn did not vote on this item due to a temporary connection issue.]

RESOLVED

To approve the draft Walking and Cycling Action Plan (WCAP), and the WCAP Delivery Plan for public consultation in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2.

Reasons for decision

The WCAP is needed to deliver the Council's adopted Transport Strategy and to enable more trips in Haringey to be made by walking and cycling. The WCAP ensures clarity around the Council's active travel priorities for managing our transport network and to support the delivery of the Borough Plan priorities for growth and regeneration, as well as improving health and environmental quality. The WCAP will further support the work Haringey has done to adapt and improve its transport system to respond to Covid-19. The WCAP will also help support the emerging New Local Plan to help shape new developments.

The absence of the WCAP runs the risk of decisions about investment in walking and cycling being made in an uncoordinated manner. The WCAP is particularly important to target resources effectively in light of TfL's currently very limited funds as a consequence of Covid-19.

Alternative options considered.

The Council could rely on the Mayor of London's Transport Strategy and the Haringey Transport Strategy for setting priorities and decision making. However, while Haringey shares many of the same transport challenges as the rest of London, and its sub-region, the high-level MTS fails to recognise variations in approach based upon local context, and therein, the weight to be afforded to the realisation of specific objectives and priorities. The Haringey Transport Strategy was adopted with the commitment to produce the WCAP in recognition of its high-level aspirations.

434. RENAMING OF ALBERT ROAD RECREATION GROUND

The Leader of the Council introduced the report which sought approval to change the name of the Albert Road Recreation Ground (ARRG) to O.R. Tambo Recreation Ground. The decision reflected the long and historical relationship that Oliver Tambo

had with the area, and one that was reflective of the borough's values, culture and diversity. The Leader added that place names, street names and statues did matter, and as a society those who were chosen to be commemorated and celebrated reflected the value placed on those people and the communities they represent. It served to reinforce the belief that their life achievements could be a role model for others. The Leader stated that whilst changing the name of a park or street would not eradicate social injustice on its own, it was a tangible step which would ultimately lead to wider change.

Cabinet Members commended the recommendation in the report and echoed the Leader's comments.

In response to questions from Councillor Palmer, the Leader advised that:

- The additional data referred to but not included in the report could be circulated.
- A formal process would be set up for further consultations on place and street renaming.

RESOLVED

1. To note that a six-week public consultation was carried out between 9 October and 23 November 2020, on the proposal to change the name of the ARRG to O.R. Tambo Recreational Ground, and to consider the responses received and set out in paragraphs 6.14 and 6.15 of this report.
2. To agree to rename the park known as the "Albert Road Recreation Ground" (and shown edged red on the plan attached at Appendix 1) to "O.R. Tambo Recreation Ground", re-enforcing the borough's strong beliefs of diversity as set out in the Borough Plan, and in recognition of O.R. Tambo's historical achievements in fighting apartheid; and
3. To agree to update the deed of dedication to "Queen Elizabeth II Field O.R. Tambo Recreation Ground".

Reasons for decision

On 9 June 2020, the Mayor of London announced a Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm to review and improve the diversity across London's public realm to ensure the capital's landmarks suitably reflect London's achievements and diversity.

As a response to the Black Lives Matter movement and protests, on 12 June 2020, the Leader of Haringey Council announced a Review of Monuments, Building, Place and Street Names in Haringey.

For a number of years, it has been suggested that the ARRG located in Albert Road, N22 is renamed to reflect the proud and long-standing history that the ARRG has with O.R. Tambo, in turn reflecting the values that make Haringey the vibrant, inclusive and multi-cultural borough it is.

Although this decision sits out of the wider Review of Monuments, Building, Place and Street Names in Haringey, renaming is being considered under the same ethos for change. It is also felt that now is the right time to harness that engagement and willingness to increase the borough's diversity and will contribute to a number of strategic outcomes detailed in the Borough Plan's Equality Principles, People Plan, Outcome 5 , 8 and 11 (as detailed further within this report).

Alternative options considered.

Do nothing and leave the name as is. This option is dismissed as it fails to recognise and increase the diversity of place names within the borough, and thereby fails to reflect and celebrate the borough's diverse communities and history.

435. 2021/22 BUDGET AND 2021-2026 MTFs REPORT

The Leader invited the second deputation from Paul Burnham, representing Haringey Defend Council Housing, to put forward his representations, in relation to the Budget report.

Mr Burnham began his representations by commending the Council for the role they played with tenant campaigners, in influencing a change of policy, by the Mayor London, to now use funding from government on all social rents. This was included in the next iteration of the affordable housing programme in London.

Mr Burnham called for a Council programme of converting affordable rent back to real Council rents and commented that this policy change did not feature in the current budget. He referred to the Budget report which advised that affordable rent tenants will have a social rent cap. However, this was still £50 a week above the current Council rent rates for a 2-bedroom property. Mr Burnham raised concern about the implications in the Budget report that the rule on the social rent cap was being applied to new homes being in the borough. He referred to government mandatory policy on social rent setting and having to use the rent formula. He further contested this formula as studies showed that, even after taking into account the higher house prices in the borough and having social rent outcomes, this would not provide the affordability needed for tenants. This could cause future issues for the Council with tenants who may not want their homes demolished to face higher rents in their new properties.

Mr Burnham continued to speak on:

- The service charges for tenants which were being taken forward without any consultation.
- Issues with the converted properties related to cleaning charges. Homes for Haringey having to refund a lot of the charges up to March of this year. The charges were 60% higher than they should be and there was a request that they be corrected.
- The need for financial reports, presented by Homes for Haringey, to show itemised service charge expenditure which they did not at present.

- Homes for Haringey to open their accounts and empower tenants and leaseholders to input on rent setting and service charges.

Mr Burnham concluded by requesting a meeting with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Estate Renewal to discuss these two key issues raised in the deputation on social rent setting and tenants and leaseholder cleaning charges.

The Leader invited the Cabinet Member for Housing and Estate Renewal to respond to the deputation and the following information was provided.

- Haringey rents were set in line with government guidance as prescribed by rent standards. The government allowed English local authorities to increase their rents by CPI + 1%. For 2021/22, rents would therefore increase by no more than 1.5%, with the average rent increase for 2021/2022 being £1.57 per week. These were for rents which are currently below formula rent.
- Formula rent was not just based on property value but also on number of bedrooms and average earnings in the local area. Haringey rents were in line with these.
- Haringey provides information to tenants and leaseholders regarding their service charges, also how it compares with prior years and how these are calculated. These were highlighted in the service charge leaflets and the FAQs that accompany the rent letters.
- There was no 60% increase in the converted properties cleaning service charge for 2020/21. The converted properties' cleaning service charge for tenants actually reduced by 8.3% in 2020/21.

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Estate Renewal welcomed a meeting with Paul Burnham and his colleague from Haringey Defend Council Housing.

The Leader invited the Cabinet Member for Finance and Strategic Regeneration to introduce the budget for 2021 -22 and MTFS for 2021 to 2026.

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Strategic Regeneration introduced the report which sought approval to the proposals concerning the 2021/22 Budget and five-year Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). The budget aimed to provide a clear financial plan during this unprecedented period for local authority budgeting, in a global pandemic at a time of hardship, and financial uncertainty. The impact of the pandemic was considered with the gross financial impact of the pandemic at around £40million compared to the planned budget.

The Cabinet Member outlined that this was a progressive budget a continued to draw attention to the relevant parts of the financial strategy concerning:

- Investment in the revenue budget.
- Capital investments - in particular: The Wood Green Hub , Youth services, school building improvement works, roads, pavements, environment, expansion of empty homes strategy, and the Pendarren youth facility.

- General Fund revenue assumptions.
- The use of reserves which was use of £1.7m as a one-off reserve. The Council were previously examining, at the consultation stage, to use £5.4m but as a result of the SR20 and number of improved grants, this had been reduced.
- Housing Revenue account , Business strategy, Dedicated Schools Budget,

The Cabinet Member concluded by referring to the public consultation completed and the consideration by Scrutiny of the budget .

Cllr Connor, Chair of Overview and Scrutiny, presented the Overview and Scrutiny recommendations produced by the main committee , scrutiny panels, with input from the public and support by officers. She referred to the doubling of capital spend from £1 billion over the last 50 years to £2billion in the next 5 years. This called for increased oversight of the budget and need for scrutiny to consider greater detail of this spend with a new approach to capital budget scrutiny . It was proposed that, going forward, there was more detail provided to each scrutiny panel, with projects grouped together, according to the panel's responsibilities. This information could follow the quarterly budget monitoring reports considered by the panels and was requested to be supported by officers.

The Vice Chair of Overview and Scrutiny continued to highlight some of the key recommendations arising from the Scrutiny Panels:

- The Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel produced some clear recommendations around considering the impact on small businesses when introducing Sunday parking charges and these seemed to have been not addressed in the response to this recommendation. It was requested that these issues are considered when the report on Parking Charges is compiled for key decision at Cabinet.
- The answers to questions by the Housing and Regeneration Panel raised further questions and there was request for the Panel to be provided with Officer support, prior to consideration of the quarterly budget reports, to enable them to examine the future capital borrowing in much greater depth.
- The Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel recommendations were based on the pressures the service would face as a result of Covid. The answer to these recommendations were noted and it was expected that further scrutiny into these important areas would continue as the deficit of high needs block, need for social workers, access to free school meals, and addressing online school learning will continue to be of concern.
- With regards to the savings proposed to Learning Disabilities services, and mental health services, it was questioned whether these were sensible, especially during this time of increased service pressure due to the pandemic. A request was made for these decisions to be reconsidered.
- Within the 'Your Council' budget recommendations, there was a request to reconsider the loss of up to 7 jobs in the Libraries savings proposals.

In concluding her presentation, the Vice Chair of Overview and Scrutiny, reiterated the specific requests and recommendations for the further information required and new format for next year's revenue and capital budget scrutiny. It was felt that as the

Council's capital borrowing doubled , this could put significant pressure on the revenue budget and the need for scrutinising these proposals would be even more important.

Cllr Adje responded briefly to the issues raised by Cllr Connor, thanking the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Scrutiny Panels for their work in scrutinising the budget. He emphasised that the same level of financial information, as previously provided, was maintained in this year's process. He commented on the need to take into account the current new way of virtual working in presenting budget information. In the past there would have been physical papers to examine and more face-to-face meetings and the new experience may have contributed to this view of the need for increased information. It was important to note that the same information that had been provided to Cabinet, had also been provided to Scrutiny Members. In addition, the Cabinet Member himself , the Director of Finance and senior finance colleagues had attended the budget meetings and answered questions. However, going forward, the Council could look to improve upon the Scrutiny budget process, which was hopefully not in pandemic situation.

The Cabinet Member noted that all Councillors were elected to look after the interests of residents and he would consider some of the points made by Cllr Connor, in terms of the responses to the Scrutiny recommendations, and where the Council were able to deal with them, they would.

There was a need to consider that the Council were operating in very difficult financial environment where the government were not providing the Council with the adequate funding for reimbursement of required spending in the pandemic.

In responding to the issues raised on the scrutiny recommendations on Sunday parking charges, the Cabinet Member for Transformation, Public Realm and investment, advised that the template provided for response only enabled a short answer. Cllr Chandwani commented that parking was covered by the Road Traffic Act and there was a requirement to complete a statutory consultation. However, the Council were ensuring that they were working closely with the business support team with the implementation to ensure that there was not a contradiction of the efforts to support the economic challenges being faced. The Cabinet Member thanked the panel for raising this issue and it was an issue that the service was conscious of and was happy to provide a fuller response.

In response to a question from the Cabinet Member for Communities, concerning the current situation with the Covid funding gap, the Council continued to receive grants from the government, though not fully funding the impact on the as a result of COVID-19 spend. There was other external grant funding received that the Council had distributed, and this was ringfenced for a particular area i.e., funding for care homes, business grants schemes so there was not currently a 100% refund of Council spend.

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Estate Renewal commented that the increased spend on the HRA was to allow for the delivery of a significant Council house building scheme and provision of decent homes programme to counter the lack of investment in previous years which the Council had a duty to deliver and would mean increased spending. The concerns about the increased borrowing and spend were

acknowledged and appreciated but there was a responsibility to residents on housing waiting lists to deliver Council housing and there was a duty to existing tenants to meet decent homes targets.

There were questions from Councillors: Brabazon, Gordon, Berryman, Tucker and Palmer with the following information provided:

- The agreement of the High Road West scheme in 2017, included reimbursement to the Council for land assembly costs from the developer. It was further noted that it was usual for land purchase and land assembly to take time to complete.
- The Director for Finance agreed to send a note to Cllr Brabazon responding to the queries raised about the difference in the capital figures provided in the Cabinet report to those provided at scrutiny meetings. This was likely to be related to the context within which the figures were provided to each meeting.
- In response to a supplementary question on the costs for assembling the land in HRW scheme increasing, and the query of whether this was viable for the third parties to continue in this scheme, it was not felt appropriate for Cabinet Members and Officers to speculate on this issue at a Cabinet meeting as these were considerations for the third parties.
- The High Road West scheme covered a number of sites, and the Cabinet Member could not comment on what the potential negotiations would be at the various stages of the scheme. The sum that was included in the budget and in the capital, lines was for land assembly and officers would deal with this at the appropriate time.
- With regards to the CO2 emissions from any demolition of blocks for new homes in HRW scheme, the Council had a CO2 strategy, and this issue would be discussed with Councils departments. Their advice would be taken into account when this phase of building the replacement blocks was reached.
- The Council budget included anticipation of a pay rise for staff and this was included prior to the government announcement of a pay freeze for public sector staff. There were ongoing negotiations with the trade unions and if there was a pay freeze, this would have a positive financial impact on the budget.
- The report contained a section on the forecast for the CTRS [Council Tax Reduction Scheme] and documented the experience of claims over the COVID-19 period. It was noted that the number of pensioners claiming CTRS had decreased, but the number of working age people claiming CTRS had increased substantially. The budget was factoring in a substantial increase in claims for CTRS in the next year and collection forecasts had been adjusted in view of such payments . With regards to affordability the government was putting in place additional grants to help local authorities fund this and this was expected to cover the increase in claimants for CTRS in the next year.
- In response to the acknowledgement of the need to council homes, the Cabinet Member for Finance and Strategic Regeneration reiterated the need for Council investment in social housing and progressive budget for the benefit of residents.
- With regards to a decision around the Library service concerning the reduction of staff and delaying the budget decision on this until a strategy was in place , there was investment in libraries and the Council were considering different ways of working in terms of simplification. With regards to specialist Library

staff, they could be redeployed and retrained. The point of having a libraries strategy was acknowledged and the Council would ensure a holistic approach is taken on this . There was a pause on the Wood Green Library projects as well as other projects in the Wood Green area due to Covid and new ways of working.

- The Civic Centre refurbishment were the main works taking place in Wood Green, there was no choice but to spend money on this grade two listed building. Therefore, instead of spending money and stand still , it was felt prudent to invest and bring it into good use. This would support the strategy of locality working and bring in the community to use the building. The reprofiling of the budget, which was a method used by local authorities, allowed this type of investment and spend. This was within local government finance regulations and met with CIPFA requirements. There was also audit of the Council finances by the external auditors and assurance process. There was a need to consider investments in schools, housing and Council buildings to safeguard future use and availability and capital spend enabled this.

RESOLVED

1. To consider the outcome of the budget consultation as set out in Appendix 8, to be included in the report to Council. Having taken this into account this report does not propose any amendment to the Budget for 2021/22 nor to the MTFS 2021/26.
2. To approve the responses made to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommendations following their consideration of the draft budget proposals as set out in Appendix 9. Having taken this into account this report does not propose any amendment to the Budget for 2021/22 nor to the MTFS 2021/26.
3. To propose approval to the Council of the 2021/22 Budget and MTFS 2021/26 Budget Reduction Proposals as set out in Appendix 2.
4. To propose approval to the Council of the 2021/22 General Fund Revenue Budget as set out in Appendix 1, including specifically a General Fund budget requirement of £249.077m, but subject to final decisions of the levying and precepting bodies and the final local government finance Settlement.
5. To propose approval to the Council of the General Fund Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2021-2026 as set out in Appendix 1.
6. To propose approval to the Council that the overall Haringey element of Council Tax to be set by London Borough of Haringey for 2021/22 will be £1,441.04 per Band D property, which represents a 1.99% increase on the 2020/21 Haringey element and with an additional 3% for the Adult Social Care Precept amount.
7. To note the Council Tax Base of the London Borough of Haringey, as agreed by the Section 151 Officer under delegated authority (Article 4.01(b), Part 2, of the Constitution), as 76,544 for the financial year 2021/22.

8. To propose approval to the Council of the 2021/22 Housing Revenue Account budget as set out in Table 9.4.
9. To propose approval to the Council of the Housing Revenue Account Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2021-2026 as set out in Table 9.4.
10. To approve the changes to the rent levels for residents in temporary accommodation, Council tenants in General Needs, Sheltered/Supported, and Affordable homes reflecting the recent rent guideline requiring Councils in England to increase rent by no more than the Consumer Price Index (CPI) at September of the previous year plus 1%. This will increase the average weekly rents as set out in Tables 9.1 and 9.2.
11. To agree the changes to service charges to tenants as set out in Table 9.3.
12. To approve that the 18 currently Affordable properties, shown in Table 9.2, be changed to Social Rents from 5 April 2021.
13. To propose approval to the Council of the 2021/22 – 2025/26 General Fund capital programme detailed in Appendix 4.
14. To propose approval to the Council of the 2021/22 – 2025/26 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital programme detailed in Table 9.5.
15. To propose approval to the Council of the Capital Strategy detailed in Section 8 of this report.
16. To propose approval to Council of the strategy on the use of flexible capital receipts to facilitate the delivery of efficiency savings including capitalisation of redundancy costs (Appendix 6).
17. To propose to the Council the Dedicated Schools Budget (DSB) allocations for 2021/22 of £278.755m as set out in Appendix 7.
18. To note the funding to be distributed to primary and secondary schools for 2021/22 based on the figures advised to Schools Forum and submitted to the Education Funding Agency in January 2021 set out in Section 10.
19. To note the budgets (including the use of brought forward DSG) for the Schools Block, Central Services Block, High Needs Block and Early Years Block as per Appendix 7.
20. To delegate to the Director of Children Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Families, the power to amend the Delegated Schools Budget to take account of any changes to Haringey's total schools funding allocation by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

21. To delegate to the Section 151 officer, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance, the power to make further changes to the 2021/22 budget proposals to Full Council up to a maximum limit of £1.0m.

Reasons for decision

The Council has a statutory requirement to set a balanced budget for 2021/22 and this report forms a key part of the budget setting process by setting out the forecast funding and expenditure for that year. Additionally, in order to ensure the Council's finances for the medium term are maintained on a sound basis, this report also sets out the funding and expenditure assumptions for the following four years in the form of a Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

Alternative options considered.

The Cabinet must consider how to deliver a balanced 2021/22 Budget and sustainable MTFS over the five-year period 2021/26, to be reviewed and ultimately adopted at the meeting of Full Council on 1st March 2021.

Clearly there are options available to achieve a balanced budget and the Cabinet has developed the proposals contained in this report after determining levels of both income and service provision. These take account of the Council's priorities, the extent of the estimated funding shortfall, estimated impact of Covid-19, Brexit and the Council's overall financial position.

These proposals reflect feedback received as part of the consultation both externally and through the Overview & Scrutiny process and the outcome of the Equalities impact assessments.

436. LOCAL WELFARE ASSISTANCE FUND

The Cabinet Member for Transformation and Public Realm Investment introduced the report which sought approval for the introduction of a Local Welfare Assistance Scheme. The scheme would be included as part of a suite of support available in the borough focusing on residents who face short-term financial hardship.

The Leader commented that the implementation of the Scheme would be an achievement that the Council could be proud of.

In response to questions from Councillor Palmer, the Cabinet Member advised that:

- It was important that approval be given to the Director of Customers, Transformation and Resources in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transformation and Public Realm Investment to make minor amendments to the scheme as it would allow for the Council to be agile in its' response to demand. All decisions within the scheme would be subject to financial checks.
- Work was being carried out to identify buffer points to allow for an equal spread of funding across the year. This was not the first discretionary fund that had

been implemented by the Council, and experience could be drawn from the implementation of these.

RESOLVED

1. To agree the approach to introducing a Local Welfare Assistance Scheme set out in this report, which will be known as the Haringey Support Fund.
2. To agree the principles and proposed scope of the scheme as set out in paragraphs 6.4 to 6.7.
3. To agree that approval of the final operational detail of the scheme and final public policy document – which will follow the approach agreed in recommendation 3.1 b) – should be delegated to the Director of Customers, Transformation and Resources in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transformation and Public Realm Investment.
4. To note that the Council will monitor the design and impact of the scheme and regularly review our approach, including through a review at the end of the first year of funding. Minor amendments to the detail of the scheme, where required, should be delegated to the Director of Customers, Transformation and Resources in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transformation and Public Realm Investment.

Reasons for decision

Ongoing structural inequalities in the borough have been amplified by the impact of Covid-19. In this precarious environment, the economic realities mean that many residents are more vulnerable than previously to acute financial shocks and are at risk of falling into crisis. Although the Council does not hold all the levers to tackle these challenges, and providing social security remains the responsibility of Central Government, it is more important than ever that we find new ways to support our residents.

Although the challenge in Haringey is ongoing, this year, in particular, many residents are likely to face increased pressures due to ongoing high levels of unemployment coupled with the gradual winding down of Central Government support schemes, such as the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) and the temporary Universal Credit (UC) uplift. Whilst it is not the role of local government to replace these schemes, introducing a local welfare assistance scheme will support our wider efforts to help residents in urgent financial need.

As we respond to these challenges, the primary function of the Haringey Support Fund will be to provide an additional safety net for residents who are facing temporary financial crisis – sitting within and complementing our other support to residents on a low income. An important secondary objective will be to connect residents to support which can help them to find sustainable ways to navigate financial adversity.

This work also supports our overall approach to reducing community inequality, including as set out in our Borough Plan principles and our 'Recovery and Renewal' report, which sets out our ambition to support residents in new ways.

Due to the timeframe required to launch this scheme, the full operational detail is being worked up by officers, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transformation and Public Realm Investment and with partners in the Voluntary and Community Sector. The Director of Customers, Transformation and Resources will approve the operational detail of the scheme, including the final public policy document – both of which will be based off the principles agreed in this report – in consultation with the Cabinet Member.

As this is a new scheme, which will be launched in the complex environment created by Covid-19, monitoring, and evaluating the impact of our work will be particularly important. It is therefore requested that minor amendments to the scheme, where required, should be delegated to the of Customers, Transformation and Resources in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transformation and Public Realm Investment.

Alternative options considered.

Divert local welfare assistance funds to alternative support programmes.

There is no statutory requirement to provide hardship support in this format. The money set aside in the Council budget could therefore be diverted to other schemes supporting residents on low incomes – such as Council Tax Reduction (CTR). However, the Council believes that in the present economic climate this new scheme will diversify and complement the support we already provide, adding a new flexible support option for residents, and widening our reach. This fits within the strategic goal to support residents in new ways.

Do Nothing

The Council would not take steps to establish a Local Welfare Assistance Scheme to support residents facing financial hardship. There is no statutory requirement to provide this service. Doing nothing would undermine the ability of the Council to deliver its strategies to tackle community inequality. Without an equivalent intervention, we anticipate it would also lead to an increase in residents falling into financial crisis, escalating debt, and destitution.

437. DEBT STRATEGY

The Cabinet Member for Transformation and Public Realm investment introduced the report which set out the Haringey Strategy for tackling debt, the purpose of which was to set out the levers the Council use, working with partners, to help residents avoid and mitigate problematic debt.

The Cabinet Member spoke about the stark inequalities in the borough with increased hardship and families struggling on low incomes with universal credit and low paid jobs. There were added new pressures to be faced with the furlough scheme coming

to an end, unemployment, unsustainable housing coupled with a general uncertain economic situation.

The Cabinet Member spoke about the detrimental circumstances of debt and the far-reaching consequences it had with overwhelming negative impact on life chances and mental health. She spoke about the importance of preventing the spiralling of debt for individuals and families by creating and providing supportive economic and social conditions in the borough.

The Cabinet Member expressed that individuals and families in debt should be viewed as a potential safeguarding issue to prevent, rather than a collection of costs to pursue. Council services needed to understand if individuals and families had enough food to eat before paying the debt owed.

The proposed strategy was transformative and proactive providing support to residents in new ways, in light of the impact of Covid and worsening economic situation. The strategy would further enable the Council to work smartly on prevention of debt through co-ordinating services and projects.

In response to questions from Cllr Palmer, the following was noted:

- With regards to forecasting loss of debt recovery, it was predominantly in the Council's interest to help people not get to a position where they are able to pay their bills and not encounter a spiralling debt situation. From considering other borough's similar work on this, the Council would be offsetting the debt recovery loss with an income rise. It was further noted that there was an estimated £16billion of unclaimed welfare support in the country. Newcastle City Council had taken forward a similar strategy with a focus on benefit maximisation , helping increase the income into the Council by £13m.
- Noted the general significant difficulties in understanding the benefit system and the ingenuity, patience and navigation skills required to understand entitlements to benefits and to make claims. Part of the Council's 'Here to Help' scheme would help residents understand what they are entitled to and how to access this.
- The partners were not listed as the strategy was changing and setting the agenda for whole borough. This covered all partners in the borough, including organisations, individuals, schools, faith congregations and the voluntary sector and was enabling them to identify that a person or family had debt issues and the potential for this situation to escalate. They had a responsibility to signpost to organisations such as the Citizen's Advice Bureau, relevant Council staff , and the benefit maximisation scheme.

RESOLVED

To agree the approach to preventing and mitigating debt amongst Haringey residents set out in the Haringey Strategy for Tackling Debt at Appendix 1.

Reasons for decision

The Borough Plan 2019-23 sets out a vision for a Haringey where strong families, strong networks and strong communities nurture all residents to live well and achieve their potential. There are a range of levers that the Council will employ to do this. Taking action to enable people to address problematic debt is one of these.

This commitment has taken on even greater importance since the emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic. We have already seen a sharp rise in claims for universal credit, an increase in unemployment, and more requests for assistance with emergency food and fuel. It is vital that our residents have positive tools and support to help them avoid entrenched debt.

There are residents in Haringey who are finding themselves in debt due to poverty, external economic factors beyond their control and the rise in the basic cost-of-living outstripping their income levels. The Haringey Strategy for Tackling Debt intends to clearly define and identify these residents and sets out a strategy on how we can use the levers available to us to tackle the debt they face.

Alternative options considered.

Do Nothing

The Council would not take steps to implement a Tackling Debt Strategy. This would curtail the possibility of achieving our objective of reducing debt amongst Haringey residents. This may also have a negative consequence on the public purse, with high levels of debt likely to lead to lower Council revenues and higher use of public services.

Take an alternative approach.

Adopt a debt strategy based on different principles and ways of working. The issues outlined in this paper might be addressed through a strategy and policy based on different principles and ways of working, but the proposed approach set out in this paper is based on evidence of what works and good practice from elsewhere.

438. DEBT REDUCTION POLICY

The Cabinet Member for Transformation and Public Realm Investment introduced the report which set out the Council's Ethical Debt Reduction Policy. The policy set out the Council's approach to debt owed to the Council in preparation for the introduction of the Debt Respite Scheme legislation due to come in to force in May 2021. The policy would ensure that the Council would be able to offer residents direct support and guidance in an ethical, appropriate, and compassionate way.

The Cabinet Member advised that she had met with the Director for Customers, Transformation and Resources to begin the process of recruitment to the additional posts required.

RESOLVED

To approve the Ethical Debt Reduction Policy, at Appendix 1, which sets out the approach to debt owed to the Council.

Reasons for decision

Problematic debt profoundly impacts on both the day-to-day lives and long-term life chances of residents struggling with it. It was a significant issue before Covid-19, but the impact of the pandemic has been to push many more of our residents into unmanageable and problem debt.

The case is clear that Haringey residents are facing increasing challenges to meet household financial pressures, and that more needs to be done to help local people to meet these challenges.

The Council has a legal and fiduciary duty to collect debt and raise funds for vital public services, while supporting residents and encouraging an open dialogue about debt and financial resilience. The Council wants all practice around debt collection to be ethical, meaning we will act appropriately, proportionally and with compassion.

This policy sets out the principles that will underpin the Council's ethical approach to reducing the debt it is owed. It should be read in conjunction with the wider Haringey Tackling Debt Strategy, which sets out the Council's proposed system wide approach to reducing debt and promoting financial security in the borough.

Alternative options considered.

Do Nothing

The Council would not take steps to implement an Ethical Debt Reduction Policy. This would curtail the possibility of achieving our objective of reducing debt amongst Haringey residents. This may also have a negative consequence on the public purse, with high levels of debt likely to lead to lower Council revenues and higher use of public services. It would mean that the Council would not implement Fairness Commission recommendation referenced at para 4.

Adopt an ethical debt reduction policy based on different principles and ways of working.

The issues outlined in this paper might be addressed through a policy based on different principles and ways of working, but the proposed approach set out in this paper is based on evidence of what works and good practice from elsewhere.

Clerks note: The Cabinet Member for Local Investment and Economic Growth left the meeting at 20:50.

439. ADMISSION TO SCHOOLS - DETERMINED ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2022/23

The Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Families introduced the report which set out the statutory requirements to determine the proposed admission arrangements for the school year 2022/23. These arrangements were in respect of the borough's community and voluntary controlled (VC) schools.

Cabinet was asked to agree to their publication on or before 15 March 2021 on the Council's website with such details to include advice on the right of objection to the Schools Adjudicator.

This year there was no change proposed to our admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled (VC) apart from a slight alteration to the In-year fair access protocol as set out in the report.

In response to a question from Cllr Brabazon, it was noted that, in the Covid period, lots of families had moved out of the borough. It was estimated that, in London, the equivalent of two medium sized London boroughs of residents had left and this would have an impact, not just on school admissions, but on other services used by children and families. There was a year to work out the impact and continue to assess the changing situation and how to adapt and change Council plans for school admissions in the coming year.

RESOLVED

1. To approve the Council's admission arrangements for the academic year 2022/23 as set out in Appendices 1 – 4.
2. To agree the in-year fair access protocol (IYFAP) as set out in Appendix 5 to come into force from 1 March 2021.
3. To agree that the determined arrangements for all maintained primary and secondary schools in the borough are published on the Council's website by 15 March 2021 with an explanation of the right of any person or body, under the School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) Regulations 2012, to object to the Schools Adjudicator in specified circumstances¹.

Reasons for decision

The School Admissions Code 2014 requires all admission authorities to determine admission arrangements every year, even if they have not changed from previous years. Regulation 17 of the School Admissions Regulations 2012 also requires admission authorities to determine admission arrangements by 28 February in the determination year.

In addition, the Regulations require the admission authority (in this case the local authority) to publish on its website by 15 March in the determining year the determined arrangements of all maintained primary and secondary school and academies in the borough, advising the right to object to the Schools Adjudicator, where it is considered that the arrangement do not comply with the mandatory provisions of the School Admissions Code 2014.

The Council consults on its admission arrangements annually irrespective of whether or not there is a proposed change to the arrangements. This is to ensure transparency and openness on the contents of the admission arrangements and to allow all stakeholders to make representations which can then be considered as part of the determination of the arrangements.

Alternative options considered.

This year we did not propose a change to the oversubscription criteria for community and VC schools. While there are other ways admission arrangements can influence the allocation of school places set out in the Schools Admissions Code 2014 (e.g., designated catchment areas, identified feeder schools or giving priority in our oversubscription criteria to children eligible for the early years premium/ pupil premium), no alternative option is being considered at the time of writing this report.

440. ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Strategic Regeneration introduced the report which sought approval for the adoption of the Council's 2021 update of the Asset Management Plan (AMP) for 2020-25. The AMP was an important tool in achieving the Council's Borough Plan ambitions. It formed part of the capital strategy and was the context for capital investment decisions, setting out major initiatives and priorities for capital investment, as well as investment required for compliance and carbon management planning. The plan also included the Acquisitions and Disposals Policy.

In response to questions from Councillors Palmer and Gordon, the Cabinet Member advised that:

- Due to the Covid pandemic, evaluations had been carried out in relation to the civic presence in the borough and the decision had been made that refurbishment of the Civic Centre site would provide better value for money than to develop on the Wood Green library site. The refurbished Civic Centre would be a valuable asset to the Council.
- No decision had been made on the redevelopment of the Civic Centre car park.
- The AMP set out the Acquisition and Disposals Policy and the process which would be followed. There were no targets in terms of how many assets would be acquired or disposed of.
- Details of the number of tenancies taken up in Shaftesbury House would be provided in writing to Councillor Gordon.

RESOLVED

To approve the updated Asset Management Plan 2020-2025 ("AMP") as included at Appendix 1 including the updated Acquisitions and Disposals Policy and the updated Commercial Property Portfolio Strategy.

Reasons for decision

The Council's Asset Management Plan (AMP) sits alongside the Capital Strategy and is a key document in supporting the Council's decision making about investment in its land and property assets to deliver Council priorities and services.

CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountability) guidance advises Councils to agree an Asset Management Plan as part of their budget strategy from 2020/21. CIPFA's guidance on asset management includes ensuring that Councils regularly review their need for property either operationally or strategically.

The Council's Asset Management Plan 2020-25 was agreed in February 2020. At the time Cabinet was advised that it would be updated after one year as there would be significant progress and change over the course of the year to require an update. It is important that the plan is updated regularly to ensure it is useful in supporting capital investment decisions which will deliver the Council's Borough Plan and MTFS priorities.

Alternative Options

The Council's Asset Management Plan lasts for five years and can be refreshed periodically. If this does not happen, the plan will not reflect the most recent changes and the plan will not be as helpful in developing the Council's budget strategy.

441. NEIGHBOURHOOD MOVES SCHEME

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Estate Renewal introduced the report which set out the Neighbourhood Moves Scheme. This had been consulted on and was put forward for approval. This scheme would provide existing Council tenants priority for new homes that are built in their neighbourhood, in particular those who were living in homes which are too big or too small. The design of the scheme also meant that those on the waiting list would also benefit from new homes with each local tenant moving and releasing an existing home which would be let to those on the waiting list.

The Cabinet Member outlined that this meant building new Council homes, benefiting two households for each new home, and adding to the Council's overall housing stock for future generations.

The Cabinet Member was pleased to report that there was very strong support for the scheme, with 73% of respondents strongly supporting the policy and a further 23% in favour with some small amendments.

The Cabinet Member reiterated that the Council were committed to building a new generation of Council homes, and this programme is well underway, with sites for potential new Council housing identified across the whole borough. The Council wanted to use this opportunity to strengthen local communities, and to ensure that households who are not adequately housed could live in homes which met their needs.

In response to a question from Cllr Tucker, the Cabinet Member confirmed that existing tenants keep their secure tenancies and remain on Council target rents.

RESOLVED

1. To note the Equalities Impact Assessment at Appendix 1.
2. To note the consultation results attached in a full report at Appendix 2.
3. To approve the alterations to the Housing Allocations Policy attached at Appendix 3 and the Neighbourhood Moves Scheme attached at Appendix 4 which will be attached to the Housing Allocations Policy.

Reasons for decision

The proposed changes are informed by the results of a consultation with those who would be affected by the proposals. The Neighbourhood Moves Scheme seeks to address over-crowding by releasing larger family homes which are under-occupied and by allowing over-crowded households to move locally. It will also ensure that local secure Council tenants who have been affected by building works are given the opportunity to benefit from new homes built near them, and support community cohesion.

Alternative options considered.

Not to make any changes to the draft Neighbourhood Moves Scheme following the consultation: this option was rejected since consultees had strong views on some aspects of the draft Neighbourhood Moves Scheme which were able to be incorporated into the final Neighbourhood Moves Scheme.

To make other changes to the draft Neighbourhood Moves Scheme following the consultation: other changes could have been made; a full discussion of the changes proposed and those considered but not adopted can be found in this report and in Appendix 2.

To not adopt the Neighbourhood Moves Scheme: this was rejected since the consultation showed strong support for the Neighbourhood Moves Scheme and the implementation of the Scheme will help the Council make best use of its housing stock and promote community cohesion.

442. CONTRACT VARIATION WITH CENTRAL NORTH WEST LONDON NHS FOUNDATION TRUST (CNWL) FOR THE CONTRACT FOR LOATS 1A - GENITO-URINARY MEDICINE (GUM) SERVICES

The Cabinet Member for Adults and Health introduced the report which sought approval for a number of changes required within the North Central London (NCL) sexual health contract awarded to Central North West London NHS Foundation Trust and wider London partners, as part of ongoing service development, response to the impact of COVID on service provision and other service changes including responsibilities to deliver PrEP for the prevention of HIV.

In response to questions from Councillor Palmer, Dr Will Maimaris advised that the uptake of PrEP had not been as high as expected, however work was being undertaken to ensure that availability of PrEP would be communicated to those in the borough who required it.

RESOLVED

To approve the contract variation to the Central and North West NHS Trust contract for lots 1a - Genito-Urinary Medicine (GUM) services to enable the following contract variations to be implemented;

1. Introduction of new activity baseline for Rest of London (RoL) for 2020/21
2. As set out in paragraphs 6.5.1 and 6.5.2, to agree the annual lump sum payment of £218,402 to Haringey council for routine PrEP commissioning.
3. A change to service level at the Barnet clinic and some one-off investment spend to support patient access.
4. Implementation of new and changed tariffs for sexual and reproductive services delivered across London.
5. One off investment in 2019/20 to CNWL by London Boroughs of Camden and Islington for localised sexual & reproductive health initiatives.

Reasons for decision

The contract variation required in this report is specific to Lot 1a and forms the wider variation to the service contract which covers the need to revise CNWL baseline activities for RoL, implement new and changed tariffs, align the contract to financial years which was discussed and agreed by NCL commissioners and CNWL and make provision for the funding of PreP service via local authorities.

The NCL Integrated Sexual Health (NCLISH) services are provided by Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust (CNWL).

The Haringey lot 1a - Genito-Urinary Medicine (GUM) contract for clinic based services commenced on 3 July 2017, in partnership with Barnet, Camden & Islington for a period of five (5) years (with an option to extend for a further 3 years on contract extensions of one (1) year each). For Haringey, the initial 5-year contract term is estimated to cost £7,963,771 million. Adding the option to extend the contract for 3 further periods of one year each at an estimated cost of £1,608,073 million for each of these years brings the maximum total estimated cost of the contract to £12,787,991 million.

Pre Exposure Prophylaxis (PreP) funding allocation has been approved and was transferred to Local Authorities October 2020. For Haringey, the annual value will be £218,402.

Alternative options considered

This is a mandated open access service. Service transformation has already realised significant savings and transferred the previous sexual health services into an integrated system across the NCL sector. This is an activity and tariff based contract, and therefore charges are ultimately based on levels of activity. Due to the complex nature of the cross charging arrangements, this service is part of the London Sexual Health Programme (LSHP).

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the LSHP strategic board sets out that partners agree to a number of areas of working together “collaboratively regarding the Integrated Sexual Health Tariff (ISHT). As part of the LSHP, it is required that services use a standardised contract format agreed by all Boroughs as part of the governance of the transformation. This ensures that all the clinics are governed under a similar set of terms and conditions, as a result, any changes made to the contract need to be made in agreement with colleagues across London, in accordance to the contract clause.

443. AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF BUNDLED HOURS HOME SUPPORT AND REABLEMENT SERVICE

The Cabinet Member for Adults and Health introduced the report which set out the outcome of a mini-competition tender process conducted via the Council’s Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) for Home Support and Reablement Services and sought approval to award a ‘Call-Off’ contract (referred to as a Service Agreement) to the successful Providers in accordance with the Contract Standing Order 9.07.1(d).

Service Agreements were proposed to be awarded for a period of 29 months commencing from 12th April 2021 to 31st August 2023 with an option to extend for further period of up to two (2) years. The estimated cost of the service for 29 months was set out in the report.

The Cabinet Member emphasised that this proposed decision was an important step in a process to transform home support in Haringey, recognising the critical role it played in enabling people to live in their homes for as long and as well as possible.

The Cabinet Member outlined that by offering London Living Wage to all front-line care workers, the Council were honouring their commitment to the Ethical Care Charter and recognising the importance of care workers – their status and their value – in the delivery of home support. The Council were continuing to recognise that for the majority of people the experience of home support is their experience of social care – representing a real opportunity to make the necessary changes when people are at their frailest and vulnerable.

In response to questions from Councillor Palmer, the following was noted:

Locality working was at the heart of this strategy and issues around travelling around visits would be reduced and provide a better working experience. The Cabinet Member agreed with Councillor Palmer on the provision of sick pay to carers, but this was reliant on national government funding. There had been campaign for sick pay for care workers and increasing levels of sick pay for people on low incomes. These issues had been raised with ministers in writing by the Council.

The Council were seeking to improve the quality of care offered and not reduce the hours provided of personal care. The nature of care has been transformed over the last year and the contracts recognised this as there were lots of ways of delivering care and improving quality of care.

The co- design group process had started with the RSA and LGA working with the Council to consider innovative ways of designing services which involved a range of stakeholders including: frontline care workers, council staff and local residents. This led to the proposals for 'working together differently' and there then continued to have stakeholder meetings to ensure there was the right offer linked to localities. There were regular reports to the ASC design group with work continuing with users on improving locality working, ensuring the residents had access to the same regular carer who lived locally and ensuring links to existing services in localities.

[At 9.40pm the Leader moved to invoke Committee Standing Order 63 which was the suspension of Committee Standing Orders. This was to allow suspension of standing order 18 and the meeting to progress after 10pm.]

This motion was agreed by Cabinet and the meeting continued after 10.pm.

Further to considering exempt information at item 26,

RESOLVED

1. To approve the award of Service Agreements for bundled hours of Home Support and Reablement services to the successful Providers (identified in the exempt appendix of this report) for a period of 29 months commencing from 12th April 2021 to 31st August 2023 with an option to extend for further period of up to two (2) years. The estimated cost of the service for 29 months would be £17,793,060 and for duration of 53 months (if extended) would be £34,261,190 inclusive of LLW for financial 21/22 but exclusive of annual inflationary increase for subsequent years.
2. That if a successful Provider is awarded a Service Agreement for a Bundle and rejects the award, then the next ranking Provider for that Bundle will be offered the Service Agreement (if required);
3. To vary the contract price annually in line with LLW (as published by the Living Wage Foundation periodically) inflationary increase from 1st April for each and every subsequent year for the term of Service Agreements; and
4. To waive Contract Standing Order (CSO) 9.08.8 (requirement to execute the contract under seal as a deed where value of the contract is above £250,000) as permitted under CSO 10.01.1(a) as the Service Agreements are electronic on DPS.

Reasons for decision

All home support and reablement Service Providers currently enrolled on the DPS were invited to tender for the bundled hours home support and reablement service. The providers' submitted offers were evaluated using a 40% quality and 60% price weighting, on this basis, the recommended Service Providers' bids were deemed to be the most economically advantageous, representing the best value option to deliver the required service. The split of quality and price was selected on the grounds that price variations have to some extent been covered by the requirement to pay London Living Wage.

Commissioning a locality-based home support and reablement service will bring several benefits: Service providers will be able to develop a good knowledge of the area they work in and the community resources available for service users to access, there will be dedicated service providers for each locality, removing the current hard-to-reach area problem and in turn this will mean Service providers will be based closer to the people they are serving, with a consequent reduction of travel time for care workers.

By working with a smaller number of providers across three Localities, the new model will provide several benefits: a unified approach between care providers, social workers, community nurses, therapists, and the voluntary and community sector, which aligns to Haringey's locality-based working with the NHS and particularly primary care. Working with fewer providers lends itself to more effective contract monitoring as it will require less Council resource to ensure efficacy in delivery outcomes, as well as allowing the Council to develop crucial partnerships with Providers to assure quality and continue to improve value.

It is anticipated that the new model will deliver improved outcomes, offer a more sustainable service, and create better conditions for the workforce. Features of the new model include:

- For each Locality, the Council will commit to commission a minimum number of guaranteed hours from the Service Providers each year. This will enable the Service Providers to organise and manage their resources;
- 70% of home care packages will be through a bundled hours' arrangement;
- 30% of home care packages would remain as spot purchases to enable opportunity for small/micro, including not-for-profit organisations and existing Small and Medium Sized Enterprises, to remain in or to enter the market as well as to provide market resilience;
- Providers will be required to pay all care workers LLW meeting the Council's commitment to LLW. Employee wage is connected to the service providers' capacity to recruit and retain care workers, and continued non-payment of LLW would impact negatively on the quality of service delivery, whilst payment will support better quality care;
- Providers will operate across a wide range of health and care needs for both Adult Social Care and NHS Continuing Health Care (CHC) packages;
- All providers will be required to have an Electronic Call Monitoring system in place so that we can effectively understand the costs of care provision whilst maintaining an outcomes-focused approach;
- The new model will see improved workforce recruitment and retention through improved contractual arrangements; and

- Career progression pathways through greater skills development, workforce planning and linking in with the pan-London 'Proud to Care' initiative. Appropriately skilled care workers will be an essential part of the new model of care and will ensure that they have career opportunities to develop skills that will offer a pathway into more advanced social care or health care provision.

Alternative options considered.

In house Provision - An option to proceed with an in-house home support service was considered but rejected based on the assessed additional financial impact, as well as the scale of the infrastructure required to implement an in-house model.

Implementing an in-house home support service at an additional (to the higher costs set out here) cost of £3.5m per annum would be challenging, particularly in the context of the significant level of savings already being implemented for the financial years 2019 – 2021 for Adult Social Care, totalling approximately £16m and the current financial pressures aggravated by Covid 19.

In-house services can give greater control over the care that is provided, delivering improvements and minimising risks by ensuring supply and balancing cost and quality requirements against the available budget although quality is not guaranteed through an in-house delivery model. Previously in-house services have, however, been shown to be significantly more costly than external provision, due either to lack of efficiency and/or to better staff terms and conditions. No London borough currently has an in-house model for home support.

Do nothing - An option to continue with the current model of home support was considered but rejected on the grounds that it does not meet the Council's commitment to delivering LLW, nor does it transform the service to deliver in an integrated way to meet user needs.

An option to deliver the existing model but at LLW rates was considered but rejected on the grounds that this would not deliver the improved outcomes for service users that a high quality, integrative model would achieve.

444. COMMERCIAL PROPERTY PORTFOLIO REVIEW - INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY STRATEGY AND PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF THIRD PARTY INTEREST

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Strategic Regeneration introduced the report which sought approval for the strategy for the commercial industrial portfolio, which aimed to ensure that the Council's industrial portfolio aligned with the Council's economic plans as set out in the Good Economy Recovery Plan and the Borough Plan. It also sought approval to take steps to buy-back 6 long leasehold interests and two Freehold interests in a total of 8 industrial properties. All potential acquisitions would be subject to third party agreements, the Council's Acquisitions and Disposals Policy, and to be in accordance with financial thresholds and further analysis.

In response to questions from Councillor Gordon, it was advised that:

- The cost per acquisition was provided in the open part of the report and the payback period was set out in the exempt report. As this was an umbrella report, further reports would be provided to Cabinet to seek approval for future acquisitions.

Following consideration of the exempt information at item 27, it was

RESOLVED

1. To approve the strategy for the commercial industrial portfolio as set out in the open and the exempt report which aims to ensure the Council's industrial portfolio is aligned with the Council's economic plans as set out in the Good Economy Recovery Plan and the Borough Plan.
2. To approve that steps are taken to seek to buy-back 6 long leasehold interests as set out in the exempt report and two Freehold interests in a total of 8 industrial properties forming part of the Council's commercial property portfolio, subject to agreement with the third party interests, and subject to the disposals and acquisitions policy criteria being met. All potential acquisitions to also meet the Council's acquisition criteria set out in 6.12 below, and to be in accordance with the financial thresholds and further analysis required as set out in the Exempt report.
3. To note that on provisionally agreeing terms to acquire each of the third party interests a full business case to be brought to Cabinet for approval to the acquisition within the agreed budgetary framework.

Reasons for decision

As part of the Council's Asset Management Plan the commercial portfolio is under review to ensure that it is performing well financially and to ensure that it is possible to maximise its impact on the socio-economic well-being of the Borough. The industrial portfolio includes some established industrial estates and properties. This review covers eight of the industrial properties where it may be possible to increase the Council's income and improve the Council's ability to use these properties to support future economic growth and achieve planning aims, in particular in the Tottenham area.

Haringey is an established location for small and medium scale manufacturing activities. There is a strong demand for industrial properties nationwide and this sector of the property market is set to continue to be buoyant. The industrial property market in Haringey reflects this strong performance. This supports business growth and employment in the Borough.

Occupation of the Council's industrial properties is mainly by independent businesses in relatively small spaces. This nature of occupation with relatively small unit sizes and high number of independent operators has been identified as a key advantage for the Haringey industrial property market. Another key advantage that makes Haringey a good location for industrial properties is the trunk road connections within the borough, which combines with its good public transport network.

The Council pays a significant amount of rent to its direct landlords as ground rent. The proposal to acquire the freehold interests in the industrial properties represents an opportunity for the Council to acquire full control of the properties and deploy the additional rental income into its Medium-Term Financial Strategy. Acquiring freehold interests and intermediate headleases would mean the Council would no longer pay ground rent.

Subject to further review, it may be possible for the Council to refurbish or significantly remodel and further develop some of the properties in future to increase the supply of industrial properties in the Borough and improve the quality of available stock. That level of investment may be difficult to make without holding the freehold interests.

Alternative options considered.

The alternative option to the proposed acquisition is for the Council to continue with the current position i.e., not purchasing the freehold and intermediate headlease interests. This option is the default position for the properties should it not be possible to acquire by agreement. It is not preferred, for the following reasons.

- The acquisitions would give the Council more control over these properties which will enable the Council to protect the employment and industrial uses as well as give the Council the ability to invest in future to increase the industrial and its quality within the borough.
- The proposed acquisitions meet the Council's acquisition criteria and is considered financially viable.
- The additional revenue income from ground rent savings has been included in the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- Lost opportunity for greater economic, planning and regeneration through future investment opportunities if the Council does not have full ownership of its portfolio.

However, the acquisition programme is subject to both negotiations and meeting the financial criteria and should this result in the inability of the Council to proceed with any individual acquisition, this option will need to be the default position and the Council would then need to work with the other interests to see whether the portfolio can be improved to support the Council's economic growth and regeneration strategies.

Further information on the options is set out in the exempt part of this report.

445. APPROVAL OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AT ANTILL ROAD CAR PARK - LAND BETWEEN 39-41 ANTILL ROAD N15

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Estate Renewal introduced the report which sought Cabinet's approval, considering consultation with local residents, to build a

new three-bedroom Council home for Council rent on Council land that is currently in use for car parking.

To achieve this, Cabinet were being asked to agree that the Council should appropriate the land, first for planning purposes and then on completion for housing purposes; and in light of a formal tender process to award a construction contract to a locally based firm, Cuttle Construction Limited.

Further to considering exempt information at item 28,

RESOLVED

1. To consider the responses to the consultation carried out on this proposed scheme in line with section 105 of the Housing Act 1985, as set out in paragraphs 6.5 to 6.8 of this report.
2. To approve the appointment of Cuttle Construction Limited to undertake the new build works to provide a total of one Council rented home at Antill Road for a total contract sum of £274,202 and to approve the client contingency sum set out in the exempt part of the report.
3. To approve the appropriation of the land at Antill Road (edged red in the plans attached at Appendix 1) from housing purposes to planning purposes under Section 122 of the Local Government Act 1972 as it is no longer required for the purpose which it is currently held, and for the purpose of carrying out development as set out in part 6 of this report.
4. To approve the use of the Council's powers under Section 203 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016 to override easements and other rights of neighbouring properties infringed upon by the Antill Road development, under planning permission Ref: HGY/2020/1480.
5. To delegate to the Director of Housing, Regeneration and Planning, after consultation with the Director of Finance and the Cabinet Member for Housing and Estate Renewal, authority to make payments of compensation as a result of any infringement arising from the development and the recommendation 3.1.3, within the existing scheme of delegation.
6. To approve the appropriation of the land at Antill Road (edged red in the plans attached at Appendix 1) from planning purposes back to housing purposes under Section 19 of the Housing Act 1985, after practical completion of the development.

Reasons for decisions

The land at Antill Road was approved by Cabinet in July 2019 to be included in the Council's housing delivery programme. The scheme has subsequently been granted planning consent and is ready to progress to construction. This report therefore marks the third, and final, Members' decision to develop on this site.

Cuttle Construction Limited has been identified by a formal tender process to undertake these works.

The appropriation of the site for planning purposes is required as it will allow the Council to use the powers contained in Section 203 to override easements and other rights of neighbouring properties and will prevent injunctions that could delay or prevent the Council's proposed development. Section 203 converts the right to seek an injunction into a right to compensation. The site will need to be appropriated back from planning purposes to housing purposes on completion of the development to enable the Council to use the land for housing and let one new Council home at Council rent.

The site proposal will improve security for new and existing residents and alleviate potential anti-social behaviour attracted to the site by an open unsecured car park.

Alternative options considered.

It would be possible not to develop this site for housing purposes. However, this option was rejected as it does not support the Council's commitment to deliver a new generation of Council homes.

This opportunity was procured via a competitive tender through the Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) JCT Design & Build 2016 amendments, the recommended route for a contract of this value. An alternative option would have been to do a direct appointment, but this option was rejected due to the estimated contract value of the scheme and to give opportunities for local small to medium size contractors to submit a tender.

The Council could continue with the scheme without appropriating the site for planning purposes, but this would risk the proposed development being delayed or stopped by potential third-party claims. By utilising the powers under Section 203 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016 (HPA 2016), those who benefit from third party rights will not be able to seek an injunction since those rights or easements that are overridden are converted into a claim for compensation only. The Council recognises the potential rights of third parties and will pay compensation where a legal basis for such payments is established. The housing delivery team actively engaged with local residents about the development of this site as they proceeded through the feasibility and design stages and any comments or objections raised were taken into consideration by Planning Committee in reaching its decision.

The Council could decide not to appropriate the land for housing purposes upon practical completion of the building works. This option was rejected because it could prevent the Council from being able to offer up these homes for occupation as social housing thereby not supporting the delivery of much needed affordable homes.

446. MINUTES OF OTHER BODIES

RESOLVED

To note the minutes of the Cabinet Signing held on the 15 January 2021.

447. SIGNIFICANT AND DELEGATED ACTIONS

Noted that Councillor Gordon would write to the Director for Housing , Planning and Regeneration to put forward queries on the delegated decisions in relation to the Tottenham area.

RESOLVED

To note the delegated decisions taken by Directors.

448. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

None

449. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED

That the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting as the items below, contain exempt information, as defined under paragraph 3 and 5, Part 1, schedule 12A of the Local Government Act:

Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings

450. AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF BUNDLED HOURS HOME SUPPORT AND REABLEMENT SERVICE

As set out at Minute 443.

451. COMMERCIAL PROPERTY PORTFOLIO REVIEW - INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY STRATEGY AND PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF THIRD PARTY INTEREST

As set out at minute 444.

452. APPROVAL OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AT ANTILL ROAD CAR PARK - LAND BETWEEN 39-41 ANTILL ROAD N15

As set out in the exempt minutes and minute 445.

453. EXEMPT MINUTES

RESOLVED

To approve the exempt minutes for the meeting held on the 19th of January 2021.

454. NEW ITEMS OF EXEMPT URGENT BUSINESS

None

CHAIR: Councillor Joseph Ejiofor

Signed by Chair

Date