

Chair:
Councillor Clare Kober

Deputy Chair:
Councillor Lorna Reith

INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report covers matters considered by the Cabinet at our meeting on 16 June 2009. For ease of reference the Report is divided into the Cabinet portfolios.
- 1.2 We trust that this Report will be helpful to Members in their representative role and facilitate a fruitful dialogue between the Cabinet and all groups of Councillors. These reports are a welcome opportunity for the Cabinet on a regular basis to present the priorities and achievements of the Cabinet to Council colleagues for consideration and comment. The Cabinet values and encourages the input of fellow members.

ITEMS OF REPORT

Children and Young People/Leisure Culture & Lifelong Learning

2. PLAY BUILDER PROJECT

- 2.1 The Council will be aware that the Haringey Play Strategy was endorsed in December 2006 and linked to the Children and Young People's Plan, the Open Space Strategy, and the recently announced NI 199 that measured satisfaction with play provision. The Play Strategy aimed to meet the play and learning needs of children and young people and its approval signified the start of a four year planning process and local partnership that would ensure that the future child population would be adequately served with good quality, accessible play provision.
- 2.2 We considered a report which advised us that Play Builder was a Department of Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) funded project for three years from 2008 – 2011. The intention was to develop high quality and safe public play spaces for children and parents. Developments were expected to be completed or substantially advanced in the replacement of old equipment for new or the building of a completely new play area. This initiative would build upon investment made by the Council and external funders in recent years across a range of parks and open spaces.
- 2.3 We noted that the following criteria applied to all Play builder project sites –
 - Funding must be used to develop new or existing public play area
 - space within Haringey;
 - Play spaces must be open, free and accessible;
 - There must be local need and strong support for the play space from the local community;
 - Must be able to demonstrate how children, young people, parents and the local community will be engaged in the design and construction of facilities;
 - The play space needs to be innovative and exciting with both stimulating and natural play equipment and landscaping to ensure the site will provide physically active play opportunities which are attractive to children, including 8 – 13 year olds;

- Need to demonstrate how play spaces will be maintained once the funding has been used.
- 2.4 As part of the project development process, a ward based needs assessment exercise had been undertaken using a number of relevant criteria in order to help determine relative need for new or enhanced provision in different parts of the Borough. However for a number of reasons, this was to be regarded as indicative rather than providing concrete evidence of need.
- Analysis at ward level may not be indicative of circumstances at more localised levels
 - Conversely some sites have a catchment that draws users from a number of wards
- 2.5 We report that we approved the following eleven Year 1 sites for Play builder investment in 2009/10 -
- Hartington Park N17 - Tottenham Hale
 - Tewkesbery Road N15 – St Ann’s
 - Paignton Park N15 – Seven Sisters
 - Tower Gardens N17 - White Hart Lane
 - Bruce Castle Park N17 – White Hart Lane
 - West Green Open Space N15 - St Ann’s
 - Appleby Close (Homes for Haringey site) N15 – St Ann’s
 - Railway Fields N4 - Haringay
 - Campsbourne Estate (Homes for Haringey site) N8 - Hornsey
 - Lordship Recreation Ground N17 – West Green
 - Muswell Hill Playing Fields N10 – Muswell Hill
- 2.6 We also approved the development of an open bidding process, using agreed criteria for prioritising sites, for the year 2 programme and a waiver of Contract Standing Order 11.03 together with the delegation of authority for the awarding of contracts over £250,000 to the Director of Adults, Culture and Community Services in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Leisure, Culture and Lifelong Learning and for Children and Young People. We further agreed not to recharge leaseholders for a contribution towards the capital costs of the improvement works on housing estates.

Adult, Social Care and Wellbeing

3. HARINGEY ADULT CARERS STRATEGY 2009/14

- 3.1 The Haringey Adult Carers Strategy was launched in 2005 and we considered a report which proposed a revised and updated the Carers Strategy for 2009-2014. Like its predecessor, it was the product of extensive consultation with carers themselves and with HSP officers, internal and external partners and stakeholders.
- 3.2 The new Strategy held to the vision of the strategy it was updating, viz: *Carers in Haringey are empowered to care and live a better life*. A new national Carers Strategy was published in June 2008 and this had strongly influenced the development of our Haringey Strategy. Titled *‘Carers at the heart of 21st-century families and communities A*

caring system on your side A life of your own', the national Strategy had set out the four outcomes for adult carers to be achieved by 2018 -

- carers will be respected as expert care partners and will have access to the integrated and personalised services they need to support them in their caring role;
- carers will be able to have a life of their own alongside their caring role;
- carers will be supported so that they are not forced into financial hardship by their caring role; and
- carers will be supported to stay mentally and physically well and treated with dignity

- 3.3 The new Haringey Adult Carers Strategy 2009-2014 was aligned with the outcomes of the national strategy which provided the organising framework for the delivery plan. It was a multi-agency, partnership strategy and took a holistic view of the needs of unpaid carers and their well-being. Carers' needs cut across the conventional boundaries of client groups and service areas. Carers were everybody's business and consequently the delivery plan to implement the Strategy was complex and far-reaching.
- 3.4 Key initiatives to achieve the outcomes of the strategy would need to be included in all business plans covering the period 2009 -2012, the first phase of action planning. Progress with the Strategy would be monitored through the Carers Partnership Board, a sub-group of the Well-being Partnership Board. New initiatives which required resources could not commence without prior identification of funding, either from existing resources or alternative funding streams.
- 3.5 We report that we approved the revised Haringey Adult Carers Strategy 2009-2014 and its accompanying delivery plan to enable carers to achieve a balance between their caring responsibilities and a life outside caring.

Housing

4. HOMES FOR HARINGEY BUSINESS PLAN

- 4.1 The Council will be aware that under the terms of the Management agreement, Homes for Haringey was required to set out how the organisation would deliver the key strategic objectives of the Council as contained in the Council's Corporate Plan while explaining how the business was organised both in terms of human and financial resources. The Plan should also address cost cutting themes relating to customer access and how this could be improved by tailoring and delivering services to groups of residents with similar needs, reviewing service standards and publishing the standards for all areas of the business.
- 4.2 We considered a report which advised us that the Council's Strategic and Community Housing Service had considered the details as presented in the Business Plan and were satisfied that the revised Plan met the needs of Homes for Haringey as a planning tool as well as complying with the monitoring requirements of the Council. We noted that the Council's Strategic and Community Housing Service believed the Plan supported the

strategic objectives of both the Council Plan and the Haringey Housing Strategy and also took account of the requirements of the wider national, regional and sub-regional policy context.

4.3 However, during the course of our deliberations we were advised that the following changes to the Business Plan were recommended:

- in relation to the 85% target figure set for visiting all new Homes for Haringey tenants within 6 weeks of commencement of tenancy this figure should be 100% target
- the Performance target for Ex BV 66b - % of tenants with more than 7 weeks rent arrears – the target for 2009/10 should now be 10% and not 11% as stated in the Plan given that the previous year's target was 12% and officers achieved 12.2%
- the 'New' Indicator figure in respect of invoices paid within 10 working days should be removed

4.4 We noted and welcomed the proposed changes to the report, and in clarifying issues in respect of the matter of the removal of the 'New' Indicator figure for invoices paid within 10 working days we were advised that the rationale for this was the need to ensure that work was inspected prior to payment being made, and that it was not intended to cause difficulties for local or smaller suppliers but rather to ensure clear and necessary checks on works claimed. We also asked that where visits were made to new tenants, tenant support officers ensure that they took information in relation a whole range of Council support services to ensure that new tenants were aware of Council provided services, which would promote Council joined up working.

5. APPROVAL FOR COMPULSORY PURCHASE ACTION – EMPTY PROPERTIES

5.1 The Council will be aware of the very robust empty property process developed in partnership with the North London Sub-Region, a partnership of 6 local authorities which provided advice and funding to enable Haringey to establish a working group and effective process.

5.2 We considered a report which advised us that a street survey of vacant properties had been carried out which had identified 1450 empty properties in Haringey. The survey had provided the information that was being used as a basis for future activity in respect of vacant properties. The addition of a 'vacant property' module on the Private Sector Team's computer system would help to provide a complete picture and track the properties over time.

5.3 We noted that all of the properties had been inspected and notices served in order to prevent the need to pay Basic Loss Payments (equivalent to 7% of the market value) on top of the market value that would need to be paid if possession is gained through CPO action. All of the property owners had received a number of letters explaining what needed to be done and what was on offer, together with details of the CPO and/or enforced sale action that would be taken if the owners did not take the appropriate action to restore the property to good repair and occupation.

5.4 The nine vacant properties listed in the report had been subject to the standard letters, grant offers, inspections, service of notices and enforced sale:

- (1) Ground Floor Flat, 15 Terront Road N15
- (2) 26 Gedeney Road N17
- (3) 39 Broad Lane N15
- (4) 160 Seaford Road N15
- (5) 95 Birkbeck Road N17
- (6) 1 Strode Road N17
- (7) 174 Sirdar Road N22
- (8) 81 Grove Park Road N15
- (9) 16 Woodside Road N22

5.5 We also noted that some of these properties had already been the subject of works in default (undertaken to deal with urgent issues) and that for others a considerable amount of Council Tax was owed. All properties that had an outstanding debt would first go through the enforced sale route, as cost neutral. Our authorisation was requested for CPO action as well against the possibility that the owner might pay the debt and still not restore the property to repair and use. Cases would only be submitted to the Secretary of State when all other options had been exhausted and funding was identified and available to complete the purchase and sale.

5.6 Following our approval to the proposed Compulsory Purchase Action, the properties would not be sent immediately to the Secretary of State. Instead, officers would first notify the owners of the Cabinet's decision, to help to focus the owners' attention on restoring and occupying the property. We report that we approved for submission to the Secretary of State the properties listed above for a confirmed Order under compulsory purchase powers.

Enforcement and Safer Communities

6. NEW CORONERS COURT ACCOMMODATION

6.1 We considered a report which advised us that a new Coroner's Court and accommodation was required to release the present site in Hornsey for redevelopment. We were informed that the building leased for this purpose in Barnet required conversion and repair to provide the new facilities and that the works were not in the Council's capital programme and our approval was required to place works in the programme where the cost exceeded £100,000. The report also sought our agreement to the subsequent approval of the costs for the works and the award of the contract to the Director of Urban Environment under delegated powers.

6.2 We report that we noted the proposals to relocate the Coroner to accommodation in Barnet and approved the inclusion of the associated costs to the capital programme.

Regeneration and Enterprise

7. MYDDLETON ROAD – PROPOSAL TO RE-PROFILE THE PARTNERSHIP SCHEMES IN CONSERVATION AREAS (PSiCA) SCHEME CAPITAL BUDGET

- 7.1 The Council will be aware that Myddleton Road is a designated shopping parade situated close to Bowes Park and Bounds Green station. It is also within a conservation area that contains a number of historic shop fronts and buildings of interest. In November 2008 the Council's Economic Regeneration department was successfully awarded grant funding under the Partnership Schemes in Conservation Areas (PSiCA) programme from English Heritage to deliver shop front improvements to a prescribed group of buildings along Myddleton Road, N22. The total allocated budget for the delivery of this programme was estimated to be £660,000.
- 7.2 A funding agreement between English Heritage and the Council was based on ratio of 1:1 which in total grants a £300,000 match to the Council's £300,000 investment. In addition to this, a private contribution from participating shop owners was also required in the form of a contractual obligation which would secure certain requirements from participants. It was estimated that private contributions for the scheme would be £60,000. Whilst grant funding had been approved in principle, actual grant allocations were assessed and awarded on an annual basis. Potentially, grant allocations could be reduced or withdrawn although this had never been the case on any previous schemes in Haringey.
- 7.3 We considered a report which advised us that the Myddleton Road strategy group, a stakeholder steering group which discussed neighbourhood issues and prioritised areas for local improvements, had proposed the use £100,000 of the £300,000 capital allocation for PSiCA to undertake other improvement projects on Myddleton Road. A final proposal was still being discussed and was subject to further consultation with local businesses and residents.
- 7.4 We noted that if the proposed improvement projects remained within the grant funding objectives of PSiCA it might be possible to re-negotiate the existing agreement and delivery plan with English Heritage without loss of match funding. Initial discussions with English Heritage indicated that this option could be approved subject to approval of a revised delivery plan. However, it should be noted that re-profiling the existing budget to divert £100,000 for other improvement projects might risk the match funding proportion from English Heritage and, would reduce the current delivery plan for improving 10 shop fronts to 6.
- 7.5 We report that we agreed the proposal of the Myddleton Road Strategy Group to permit the flexible spend of £100,000 of Haringey's PSiCA capital budget allocation on other appropriate improvement projects in Myddleton Road.

Resources

8. ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER

- 8.1 We received a presentation from the Audit Commission and considered a responding report on the Annual Audit and Inspection Letter. We noted that the Letter provided an overall summary of the Audit Commission's assessment of the Council and reflected the serious problems identified with the Children's Service in November 2008 which had given the Council an overall star rating of 1 with an assessment of the Council not improving adequately. Within the CPA scorecard it was recognised that other services were

performing well with 3 out of 4 for value for money, environmental services, adult social care, benefits and housing. While the Council was rated as performing strongly (4 out of 4) for libraries, leisure and recreation services.

- 8.2 We also noted that in addition to the overall position the letter covered four separate service inspection areas that were reported in the last year. The inspection of the Allocations and Lettings Service where the Council was judged as providing a 'poor', no-star service having promising prospects for improvement. There was considerable focus in the Council on addressing the concerns highlighted in this inspection.
- 8.3 The inspection of adult social care services were judged to be 'good' on delivering outcomes with 'promising' capacity to improve. This was a two star service while the assessment of the housing benefit service was that the Council had achieved a score of 3 (out of 4). Ofsted's annual performance assessment (APA) in December 2008 had assessed the services for children and young people as being 1 (out of 4) because scoring a 1 on safeguarding meant that the overall score was 1 irrespective of the rating in other performance areas.
- 8.4 We were informed that the APA had judged that in staying safe there had been a serious deterioration in performance and limited impact from services. The specially commissioned Joint Area Review (JAR) in November 2008 had judged safeguarding services including performance management in this area to be inadequate. The APA judged that in enjoying and achieving and economic wellbeing, services were making a greater difference. Impact was evident in terms of: improved outcomes in the Foundation Stage; attainment that was continuing to improve at all key stages; a higher proportion of young people gaining qualifications by age 19; and by there being better attendance in schools.
- 8.5 The Council was assessed as delivering value of money and had good financial standing. The Use of Resources score had improved from a 2 to a 3 for financial reporting and maintained overall an assessment score of 3 out of 4. In the area of accounts and governance the comments were generally positive and this was reflected in the important auditor opinions that the accounts for 2007/08 were unqualified and that the value for money conclusion was also unqualified.
- 8.6 We report that in response to the areas for key actions identified by the Audit Commission we endorsed the following actions which were either planned or had taken place –

Address the Main Findings and Recommendations made by Ofsted in the Special Joint Area Review.

The Council and its partner agencies had submitted an action plan to Government responding to the specific points identified by OFSTED in the JAR but also setting out the framework for a journey that will take 3 years to progress from where the Council currently is to being an exemplar. The action plan covers a number of key changes namely:

- closer working between social workers, police officers and health staff;
- recruiting and developing top quality staff;
- putting more resources into safeguarding;

- improving systems and procedures;
- strengthening the managerial and political supervision of the system, including setting up a Children's Trust, and;
- a stronger, more robust Local Safeguarding Children Board with independent chairperson.

Accelerate the Pace of Improvement in Environment (Recycling) and Homelessness

Recycling

The Council's Greenest Borough Strategy and Recycling Strategy sets out how we will improve recycling services and performance in the next two years. Key actions included:

- ensure the same high standard of recycling service across the borough, including;
- provision of the full mixed material recycling service (including plastic bottles and cardboard, as well as food and garden waste collections) to final 4000 kerbside properties remaining on the original kerbside service;
- provision of the mixed material recycling service to remaining private blocks of flats (all Council-managed estates were provided with services in 2008/09);
- provision of the mixed material recycling service to flats above shops;
- provision of food waste collections to 10 schools (all schools were provided with the mixed material recycling service in 2008/09);
- participation drive to increase participation in recycling services and the amount recycled, and ensure value for money is achieved from the services provided;
- deliver awareness raising campaigns to reduce waste, increase composting and reduce contamination;
- improve the range and amount of materials recycled or reused through the Reuse & Recycling Centres;
- promote and develop local re-use and waste reduction schemes;
- introduce on-street recycling bins for public places and review the network of bring banks in the borough, and;
- actively engage with local businesses by establishing an environmental information scheme.

Homelessness - Temporary Accommodation (TA)

In April 2008 there were 5,389 households in TA this has reduced to 4568 as at March 2009 moving towards a target of 2,600 2010/11. A steering group chaired by the Chief Executive oversees the work being undertaken to reduce the number of households in temporary accommodation. Actions include:

- produce a TA Procurement Strategy;
- set up an Registered Social Landlord RSL and Lettings Forum;
- complete an audit of Supported Housing;
- produce in consultation with stakeholders a multi-agency strategy and action plan for tackling rough sleeping in Haringey;
- set up and launch a rent deposit scheme for non-priority homeless;

- develop a Move-On strategy to free up TA, and;
- the London plan for the annual housing provision target for 2007/8 - 2016/17 is 660 - 970 for Haringey. 50% of all new homes should be for social housing.

Maintain its Sustained Focus on Addressing Staff Sickness Levels and Recruiting Key Personnel

The Council had been working hard to improve sickness absence rates over the last two years. Use was made of the best sickness reporting tools in London to help managers monitor and address sickness absence in the Council. Regular meetings took place within Directorates and at Board level to monitor and challenge management action for addressing sickness. These will continue.

In the last two years sickness levels had reduced from 10.1 days in April 2007 to 8.5 days in January 2009. Current sickness levels were comparable or better than many other public sector employers. The figure on which the relationship manager made her assessment was 9.67 – based on December 2007 – so considerable progress had already been made.

The CBI absence and labour turnover survey 2008 identified the local government average sickness absence level at 9.2 days, and the average for public sector organisations with over 5000 staff as 9.7 days. Within London the London Councils sickness absence and turnover survey report 2008 showed average sickness level as 10 days, although this excluded schools staff. Haringey council current average excluding schools staff is 10.1 days.

There are no Haringey specific problems with recruitment or retention across the Council as a whole, other than those nationally recognised. The turnover rate is 12.6% which is within the London boroughs rate of 13.7% (2007). The level of agency workers covering vacancies is currently at approximately 10% of the workforce. This was better than many other London boroughs. A recent London Councils benchmarking survey of 13 boroughs (June 2008) showed the average agency level at 15.9%.

There were some occupations that we have difficulty in recruiting to such as Planners, Occupational Therapists, Transport Engineers, Social Workers - Children & Families, Adults and Youth services, but all other London boroughs experienced difficulties in recruiting and retaining these occupations. The London Councils recruitment and retention report May 2007 had regularly, since 2000, listed these occupations in the top 10 of difficult to recruit and retain occupational groups.

Therefore, we were not too different and indeed better than many other London boroughs in our ability to resource our workforce but we would nevertheless continue to focus on managing and improving sickness levels in the future as well as on recruitment and retention.

Ensure its Treasury Management Strategy Continues to form a Robust Member Led Process for Protecting the Council's Financial Assets

We received an independent external review of our treasury management arrangements by Price Waterhouse Coopers in February 2009 which made a number of recommendations which were agreed for implementation and have or were being implemented. A separate national report by the Audit Commission was published in March 2009 and the recommendations for local government had been picked up and included in the action plan for this service. The progress in implementing these recommendations would be monitored by the Audit Committee as part of its routine quarterly reporting.

9. FINANCIAL OUTTURN

- 9.1 We considered a report which set out the Council's provisional outturn for 2008/09. We noted that the year end General Fund surplus was £0.75 million (0.3% of the approved revenue budget) excluding the dedicated schools grant (DSG). After carry forward requests of £0.735m that were proposed for approval, a net under spend of £0.015 million resulted.
- 9.2 The report also set out the capital outturn position, which was a net under spend of £14.2 million (10.5% of the approved budget). Carry forward requests of £10.409 million were submitted for consideration and the positions on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), non-schools and schools DSG were also reported. In overall terms, after taking into account adjustments previously reported through the budget management process, the financial out turn was broadly in line with the agreed financial strategy.
- 9.3 We noted the report and in so doing we approved the transfer to reserves of revenue and capital variations. We also approved revenue carry forward proposals amounting to £0.735 million and capital carry forward proposals of £10.409 million. In noting the provisional outturn of a £0.5 million over spend for schools, that decreased schools' balances to £6.6 million at the end of 2008/09, and noted the carry forward of the deficit.
- 9.4. We earmarked £0.75 million of the DSG under spend to help support child safeguarding resource issues noting that a report would be taken to the Schools Forum outlining this proposal seeking their agreement. We agreed a bid to fund capital works at Alexandra Palace of £0.3 million from the capital under spend.
- 9.5 We report that we delegated to the Chief Financial Officer authority to prepare the Council's financial accounts such that the financial position of the Council was optimised and noted that the Council's financial statements for 2008/09 would be approved by General Purposes Committee prior to external audit. We also noted the treasury management outturn.

Leader

10. END OF YEAR PERFORMANCE 2008/09

- 10.1 We considered a report which presented the Council's performance for the period between April 2008 and March 2009 as measured by national and key local indicators and we noted that information was based on data compiled by services and presented monthly to the Chief Executives Management Board (CEMB) and to our meetings.

- 10.2 We also noted that this was the first full year in which we were reporting against the national indicator set introduced in April 2008. Many of the national indicators were new and for this reason there was limited comparative data both with other authorities and with previous years. For indicators without established baselines it had not been possible to set targets and measure progress against these. We were informed that final outturn data for some of the new national indicator would become available later which explained the gaps in the Council's Performance Scorecard.
- 10.3 We report that, in summary, the 2008/09 outturn figures showed that targets had been achieved or nearly achieved for 72% of the indicators. Performance highlights under each of the Council's priorities were shown in the report while the targets for the next three years were shown in a separate appendix.

11. COUNCIL PLAN YEAR 3 (2009/10)

- 11.1 We noted that since the publication of the Council Plan in 2007, the strategic landscape had changed dramatically. A new Local Area Agreement (LAA) had been signed, a set of National Indicators adopted, extensive changes in Children and Young People's Services had taken place resulting in the production of a Joint Area Review (JAR) Action Plan, preparations had been made in anticipation for the introduction of the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) and the economic recession was being experienced.
- 11.2 The Council Plan reported to us pulled together the key issues, challenges and needs of Haringey aligned to the existing strategic priorities which remain unchanged. However, the format and the language had been modified to reflect a crisper message of what we are trying to achieve.
- 11.3 We also noted that the design of the update of the Council Plan took account of expectations of the CAA, our borough profile, of recent consultations and the current operating climate with each priority providing the following details:
- **Context** - sourced from the borough profile/consultations.
 - **Challenges and opportunities** – taken from Peer review business planning presentations and synchronised with CAA submissions
 - **Key Achievements** – performance improvements
 - **Moving Forward** – key priorities, underpinned by actions, measures/milestones and accountabilities
 - **Key Plans and Strategies** – that support delivery

12. IMPROVING MARRIAGE AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP SERVICES THROUGH THE DE-COMMISSIONING OF REGISTER OFFICE ROOMS AND TO REVIEW FEES OF THE REGISTRATION AND CITIZENSHIP SERVICE

- 12.1 We considered a report which proposed changing the status of the current "register office" to become an 'approved premises' for the conduct of marriage and civil partnership services providing by this means a superior and more customer focused service. The report also proposed alternative arrangements for the provision of the statutory "register office" as well as an increase of fee for the designation of a 'private premises' as an

approved premise and other increases in fees for services provided by the Registrars Service.

12.2 We agreed -

- To the decommissioning of the ceremony room, Council Chamber and Committee Rooms 1 & 2 from the “register office”.
- To note that the statutory service of £43.50 would be provided in the superintendent and additional superintendent rooms.
- To an internal application be made by the Director of Corporate Resources on behalf of Council as the property owner to make the decommissioned rooms into “approved premises” known as “The Civic Suite” (or such other name deemed appropriate). The decision to approve to be made by the Registration Service in the ordinary way.
- A scale of charges to be reviewed annually for the marriage/civil partnership service in the “Civic Suite” and revised fees for the Nationality Checking Service as well as charges for Birth, Death and Marriage certificates and to applicants wishing to have their premises approved for wedding and civil partnership ceremonies. All changes being effective from 1 September 2009.

13. IMPLEMENTATION OF HARINGEY CHILDREN’S TRUST WITHIN THE HARINGEY STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

13.1 We considered a report which advised us that the Joint Area Review report into Haringey’s Children Services had identified the need to improve governance of children safeguarding arrangements. The report also set out proposals for the creation of a Children’s Trust within the Haringey Strategic Partnership to replace the Children and Young People’s Partnership. This would help strengthen the commitment and focus of strategic partners on the needs of children and the 5 outcomes within Every Child Matters.

13.2 We report that we approved, in so far as we were concerned, the proposed creation of a Children’s Trust noting that the proposal would be considered by the Haringey Strategic Partnership Board at their meeting on 23 June 2009.

14. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE ON THE HARINGEY STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP AND ITS THEME BOARDS

14.1 We report that we appointed Members to serve on the Haringey Strategic Partnership Board and its six Theme Boards indicated below for 2009/10 -

- Haringey Strategic Partnership Board - Councillors Canver, Cooke and Reith.
- Better Places Partnership Board – Cabinet Member for Environment and Conservation and Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion and Involvement
- Enterprise Partnership Board - Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Enterprise and Councillor Egan

- Integrated Housing Board - Cabinet Member for Housing
- Safer Communities Executive Board - Cabinet Member for Enforcement and Safer Communities
- Well Being Partnership Board - Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Wellbeing and Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillors C. Harris and Santry.

14.2 We also endorsed the nominations made by Theme Boards to serve on the Haringey Strategic Partnership Board for 2009/10 be noted.

15. APPOINTMENT OF CABINET COMMITTEES

15.1 We report that we re-appointed the Cabinet Procurement Committee and the Cabinet Voluntary Sector Committee with the memberships indicated below and in so doing we confirmed unchanged their terms of reference -

Procurement Committee

Cabinet Member Resources (Chair)
Leader of the Council
Cabinet Member Children and Young People
Cabinet Member Housing Services

(The appointed Members to be entitled to name any other Member of the Cabinet as a substitute in the event of absence and the substitute when attending in that capacity be recorded in the minutes as so doing and entitled to carry full voting and other rights and responsibilities).

Voluntary Sector Committee

Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion and Involvement (Chair)
Cabinet Member for Enforcement and Safer Communities
Cabinet Member for Resources

Plus 2 other Members of the Cabinet (All Members of the Cabinet to act as a panel of substitutes with two to be selected according to whose portfolio responsibilities were relevant to the particular areas of activity under review).

16. DELEGATED DECISIONS AND SIGNIFICANT ACTIONS

16.1 We were informed of the following significant actions taken by Directors under delegated powers -

Director of Adult, Culture and Community Services

Establishment Change – Development and Support Officer.

Proposed Amendments to the Fairer Charging Policy

Director of Children and Young People's Services

Under 5's Childcare Providers (Voluntary Sector Sustainability Grants)

Building Schools for the Future Programme – St. Thomas More Catholic School (Early Works Package)

Building Schools for the Future Programme – Alexandra Park - Advanced Works Package.

Area Based Grant – Extension of Contract for Connexions

12 Foster Carers to provide 12/15 placements

Director of Corporate Resources

Plevna Road Day Nursery – Approval to terms of disposal

The Asian Council – Award of Contract for the Replacement of the Roof at 6 – 10 Caxton Road N22

Assistant Chief Executive (People & Organisational Development)

Extension of the framework contracts for learning and development

17. ACTIONS TAKEN UNDER URGENCY PROCEDURES

17.1 We were informed of the following action taken by Directors under urgency procedures -

Director of Corporate Resources

Approval to fees and charges proposed for services administered by Corporate Resources for implementation from 1 May 2009.

*Approval to a revised housing rent increase for 2009/10 of 32.34 per week (2.94% increase over 2008/09) and that housing rents are revised from 6 July 2009; to agree a revised HRA with a revised cash limit surplus of £607,000.

*N.B. With the consent of the Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee this decision was progressed under the Special Urgency Procedure.

Note by the Head of Local Democracy & Member Services

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN

The Council has reserved to itself for decision certain plans and strategies including approval of the Strategy for Children and Young People. The full list of functions of the full Council is specified in Part 2 Article 4 of the Constitution – The Full Council.

The Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) is the single statutory, overarching plan for all services which directly affect children and young people in Haringey. It shows how, by working together, the Children's Trust will integrate provision to improve the well-being of children and young people across all five Every Child Matters (ECM) outcomes, focussing on specific priorities. The five ECM outcomes are: Be Healthy; Stay Safe; Enjoy and Achieve; Make a Positive Contribution, and Achieve Economic Well-Being. The new plan must be in place by September 2009.

The emphasis on partnership working is stressed throughout the plan and particularly through area based working in the three geographic Children's Networks. It also provides an improved focus on target groups like support for looked after children and a re-doubling of efforts to address high levels of teenage pregnancy. There is a greater emphasis on joint commissioning of services in partnership with Health Services and the Police to achieve better value for money and a more focused use of resources.

The CYPP must cover all services for those in Haringey aged 0-19, young people age 20 and over, leaving care and young people up to the age of 25 with learning difficulties/disabilities. Until now, the CYPP has been a local authority plan led by the Director of Children and Young People and the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People. The new CYPP marks a step change as it is being developed and owned by all partners making up the Children's Trust and will be the central document for the strategic planning of services for children, young people and families in Haringey.

At its meeting on 21 July 2009 the Cabinet will consider a report by the Director of the Children and Young People's Service which advises that the current plan will conclude in September 2009 and an evaluation has been prepared of the outcomes. As mentioned above, the new CYPP is the responsibility of all partners on the Children's Trust and will be underpinned by a comprehensive Needs Assessment and Consultation process which meets the DCSF Guidance on preparing Children and Young People's Plans. It has also been informed by the findings from the evaluation of the current Children and Young People's Plan – Changing Lives 2006 - 2009.

At a Leader's Conference in June Members discussed the CYPP Strategic Plan and as well as input to determining the Strategic Plan requested input to the Implementation Plan. While the timescale for finalising the Plans has therefore been extended to enable this request to be met the requirement to have the CYPP in place within six weeks of the conclusion of the current CYPP means that it will not be possible to bring the final plan back to the full Council for approval.

The Cabinet will be asked to note the draft Children and Young People's Strategic Plan for 2009 – 2020, a copy of which is attached at Appendix 1 and to authorise the Director of the Children and Young People's Service in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People to approve the Children and Young People's Strategic Plan and Implementation Plan on behalf of the Council. In asking for authority to sign off the Plans to be delegated to the Director and Cabinet Member the report makes clear that drafts will be available for inspection and Members will have the opportunity to comment before the final sign off.

WE RECOMMEND

That the proposed delegation to the Director of the Children and Young People's Service in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People of authority to agree the final version of the Children and Young People's Strategic Plan and Implementation Plan Local Area Agreement for submission to the Department of Children, Families and Schools be endorsed.