

Chair:  
Councillor Clare Kober

Deputy Chair:  
Councillor Lorna Reith

## **INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This report covers matters considered by the Cabinet at our meeting on 13 October 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**

### **Leisure, Culture and Lifelong Learning**

#### **2. BIO-DIVERSITY FRAMEWORK AND ACTION PLAN**

- 2.1 We considered a report on the Haringey Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) which aimed to improve biodiversity value across the Borough and support the priorities and targets of both the London and UK plans as well as LB Haringey policies. The plan made reference to existing policies and actions but most importantly included a programme of new action.
- 2.2 In addition to specific actions on selected habitats and species the document included two new strands detailing how the Council would meet its 'Biodiversity Duty' as set out in the 'Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006' and on how to improve performance figures for National Indicator 197 – 'active management of local sites'.
- 2.3 The Biodiversity Duty strand would pull together all of the work currently taking place across the Council which was beneficial to biodiversity and document it in one place for the first time. Delivery of Biodiversity Duty actions would be the responsibility of each individual service and the designated lead officer for each service who would report to the BAP working group at quarterly meetings. This information would be used to guide the choice of actions for the following year which should be compiled as part of the Business Plan. A timetable for these actions would be agreed with the Better Haringey Programme Board
- 2.4 It was anticipated that additional service contributions would be added as the Plan was taken forward including actions from Planning, Highways, Property Services and Waste Management. Delivery of National Indicator 197 improvements would be the responsibility of the Nature Conservation Project Officer and Head of Parks who would report back to the BAP working group.
- 2.5 Habitat and Species Action Plans (HAPs and SAPs) each had a lead organisation and working group representative who would present any progress at quarterly meetings. HAP and SAP objectives, actions and progress were also recorded on the national Biological

Action Reporting System (BARS) which could generate reports as and when required. It was the responsibility of the Nature Conservation Project Officer to keep BARS up to date.

2.6 We noted that the formation of an overall BAP Working Group combining each of the three strands would meet quarterly to assess progress and update the Plan on agreement of the Better Haringey Programme Board and we report that we approved the adoption of the Haringey Biodiversity Action Plan.

### **3. TENNIS DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

3.1 The Council will recall that it has previously approved an overall Sport and Physical Activity Strategy for 2005-2010. A core component of this Strategy was to move towards a more localised approach for the provision of facilities and delivery of services that would better serve local residents, particularly younger residents, and improve service accessibility.

3.2 We considered a report which advised us that an audit of the number and quality of tennis courts had also previously been undertaken which had highlighted deficiencies in both respects and officers' had sought to improve the quality and utilisation of existing courts.

The Executive Summary of the Tennis Development Plan which was attached as an Appendix to the report set out 5 overall aims. These were:

- ***Increase Participation:*** To support existing players and introduce new male, female and disability players and diverse communities to tennis.
- ***Raising standards and improve club sustainability:*** To improve the quality of clubs, implement club links with public courts and assist clubs to promote for new members
- ***Developing better players:*** To create a clear pathway for player progression and improve the standard of play across the borough
- ***Workforce development:*** To increase the number of licensed coaches, tennis volunteers and tennis officials in the borough and retain the workforce within the borough.
- ***Facilities development:*** Develop a hierarchy of provision in line with the 'area-based offer' in 'The Haringey Sport and Physical Activity Strategy'.

Key outputs and outcomes from the Plan were:

- To improve the facilities at seven identified sites
- To increase the number of club members
- To increase the number of British Tennis members
- To increase the number of quality assured clubs.
- To increase the number of qualified coaches and improve their standard.
- To create better links between local schools and clubs.
- To increase the number of competitive opportunities/events

Though Tennis Foundation funding would be available for facility improvement works, the Foundation would expect each scheme to support the achievement of improved outcomes against each of the aims. These outcomes would be delivered by a combination of local clubs, the Tennis Development Officer and private organisations. A key component of the approach being pursued by officers to support this work was to identify a core club for each of the proposed investment sites as the lead club for the local area. Clubs would be supported to achieve quality accreditation via officer support, grant funding and facility hire subsidy.

- 3.5 We report that we approved the proposed investment in tennis facility improvements across the Borough and noted that the approach was consistent with the Council's Sport and Physical Activity Strategy as well as supporting the achievement of the Council's Local Area Agreement target for increases in sport and physical activity participation. We also endorsed the indicative priority rating given to the proposed improvement schemes identified in the Tennis Development Plan and agreed, subject to satisfactory agreement around the community programme, the approach recommended in the Plan of seeking to maximise opportunities for private investment. We approved the development of the relationship with the Tottenham Hotspur Foundation to assist it moving from its current focus on direct service delivery towards operational commissioning.
- 3.6 We also placed on record our thanks for the efforts of the Haringey Tennis Forum, Pavilion Tennis and of Mr. Robby Sukhdeo through whose efforts there was a thriving tennis and general sports development programme at Albert Road Recreation Ground with close links to the schools in the area.

## **Enforcement and Safer Communities**

### **4. AUTHORISATION TO OFFICERS OF TOWER HAMLETS ILLEGAL MONEY LENDING TEAM TO ENFORCE PARTS OF THE CONSUMER CREDIT ACT WITHIN HARINGEY**

- 4.1 The Council will be aware that there is considerable concern throughout the country about the activities of illegal moneylenders and that the investigation of their activities was very specialised and resource-intensive work.
- 4.2 We considered a report which advised us that the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills was funding a nationwide network of specialist illegal Money Lending Teams to deal with this. The London team was operated on the capital's behalf by Tower Hamlets Council. This team represented an additional resource available to protect consumers in Haringey from illegal moneylenders.
- 4.3 We noted that the team had been operating successfully in a number of boroughs but that their officers did not have the authority to exercise the powers under the Consumer Credit Act which would maximise their effectiveness. They had to rely on Haringey Council officers being present to exercise those powers and then assist them with the investigations.
- 4.4 The report proposed that authority be delegated to Tower Hamlets Council to investigate offences relating to illegal money lending and to prosecute those responsible. Haringey

officers would be consulted before any prosecutions were started. The project was funded until March 2011 and authorisation was sought until that date. Under the terms of the proposed protocol the Council would have the right to withdraw from the arrangement at any time, although it would only do so if it had good reason. We also noted that approval of the proposed delegation would mean that the additional resources provided by the Government would be used to their best advantage.

4.5 We report that we approved the proposed protocol between Haringey Council and Tower Hamlets Council in relation to cross border working and we authorised the Director of Urban Environment to sign the Instrument of Delegation on behalf of Haringey Council to delegate to Tower Hamlets Council enforcement of the provisions of the Consumer Credit Act 1974 and powers to prosecute matters relating to money lending as described in the protocol.

## **5. DRAFT DESIGN GUIDANCE FOR SOUTH TOTTENHAM HOUSE EXTENSIONS**

5.1 We considered a report which sought our approval to draft design guidance prepared for house extensions in the South Tottenham area of the Borough for the purposes of public consultation and, until the draft design guidance is formally adopted by the Council, for the principles set out in this guidance to guide the basis for decisions on house extension planning applications by Development Management.

5.2 There was a recognised need to relieve overcrowding and to provide for additional habitable accommodation for large families in part of South Tottenham. There was a pressing case for a new planning and design guidance to regularise house extensions in the area that would normally involve roof extensions and to ensure there is both adequate growing space for the occupiers and there were good design justifications.

5.3 We noted that these matters had been discussed with local residents and Ward Councillors and a public meeting held in May 2009 followed by a meeting with designated leaders in June. Draft illustrations of roof extensions were tabled for consideration and it had been agreed that three types should be recommended as good and well designed extensions and be subject to formal policy public consultations.

5.4 The draft design guidance document had been reported to the Planning Committee in September and they had given their support. We also noted that it was intended that there should be wider public consultation between October and December the outcome of which would inform the next stage of the design guidance. The design guidance would take the form of a Supplementary Planning Document which would be presented to us prior to it being formally adopted by the Council.

5.5 We report that we agreed to the issue of the Draft Design Guidance for South Tottenham House Extensions for public consultation and approved the principles for house extension as set out in the Draft Design Guidance for South Tottenham House Extensions forming the basis for assessing the house extensions planning applications by the Development Management Service pending formal adoption of the Guidance by the Council.

## **Housing**

## **6. AFFORDABLE WARMTH STRATEGY**

- 6.1 We considered a report which submitted the Affordable Warmth Strategy 2009-19 for approval and adoption as the Council's approach to combating fuel poverty in the Borough.
- 6.2 We noted that the Haringey Strategic Partnership Board's Integrated Housing Board had led on the delivery of this multi-agency Strategy and that they had endorsed the final version of it in September prior to its submission to us for final approval and adoption.
- 6.3 The development of an Affordable Warmth Strategy was identified in the Housing Strategy for 2009-19 and it would set out the strategic direction that the Council and its partners would take over the next ten years to combat fuel poverty in the Borough. It identified four key priorities and set out how actions to address how objectives would be taken forward. The delivery of the Strategy would be supported by an implementation group that would further develop the detail of the action plan. The four key priorities identified in the Strategy were –
- To engage with people to improve awareness and understanding of fuel poverty.
  - To increase the energy efficiency of housing across Haringey.
  - To maximise resources and opportunities for tackling fuel poverty
  - To make the links to other related strategies such as the Greenest Borough Strategy
- 6.4 We approved the adoption of the Affordable Warmth Strategy 2009-19 as the Council's approach to combating fuel poverty in the Borough and we asked that if the planned initiatives and improvements required extra investment then a report should be brought back to us at the earliest opportunity. Officers were also asked to ensure that the materials used for insulation and draught proofing were consistent with the delivery of measures to provide reduced carbon emissions.

## **6. TENANCY TERMINATION INCENTIVE SCHEME**

- 6.1 We considered a report which proposed the introduction of a new tenancy termination incentive scheme. We noted that the Audit Commission had highly praised the incentive scheme run by Homes for Islington (a three star ALMO) and it was on this that Homes for Haringey's proposed incentive scheme was based.
- 6.2 The purpose of the scheme was to encourage tenants who were moving out to leave the property in good condition and to allow an inspection and viewings to be held while they were still in occupation. This would decrease void turnaround times and costs. We report that we approved the new tenancy termination incentive scheme and noted that it would be reviewed in January 2011. The information from this review would be used to make a further decision on whether a rechargeable repairs policy should be introduced for leaseholders and tenants in residence.
- 6.3 We also noted the following actions -
- Recharging for work would continue to be publicised in the Tenancy Agreement, Repairs Handbook and Charters.

- A new guide to tenants' responsibilities would be produced clearly stating repair responsibilities and giving advice about home contents insurance.
- That all Contact Centre, Repairs and Tenancy Management staff were fully aware of tenants' repairs responsibilities.
- That tenants' responsibilities and the tenancy termination incentive scheme be publicised regularly in Homes Zone and on Homes for Haringey's website.
- That a new leaflet be produced detailing the new incentive scheme.

## **7. APPOINTMENT OF CONTRACTORS TO PROVIDE SUPPLIER MANAGED PRIVATE SECTOR LEASED SCHEME SERVICES**

- 7.1 We considered a report seeking approval to enter into a framework agreement with six providers of supplier-managed private sector leased accommodation following the completion of a successful tender process.
- 7.2 We noted that in April 2010 a new housing subsidy system would come into effect, changing the formula used to assess the amount of money that Council's could claim towards the cost of providing homeless people with temporary accommodation (TA). For Haringey, the financial implications of these subsidy changes were extremely serious not just because of the high number of households living in TA but also because of its reliance of expensive, nightly charged Emergency Accommodation (EA).
- 7.3 If the Council's use of EA and the unit cost of procuring TA was not reduced significantly, the adverse impact of the subsidy changes on the 2010/11 General Fund TA budget was expected to be in the region of £7 million.
- 7.4 We also noted that an Emergency Accommodation Reduction Project had been established in order to reduce the number of households in EA to 200 by the end of March 2010. Although it was anticipated that the Council would discharge its housing duty towards many of those households in EA by providing them with access to private rented accommodation, financial savings could also be achieved by converting EA to leased accommodation or moving households from EA to alternative, less expensive TA. The proposed framework contract for supplier-managed private sector leased properties would help the Council to reduce its use of Emergency Accommodation and procure a better quality, less expensive alternative to nightly-charged EA.
- 7.5 We report that we agreed to the Council entering into a Framework Agreement with each of the following six providers of supplier-managed private sector leased properties –
- Atlantic Lodge Ltd.
  - Dabora Conway Property Management Ltd.
  - Finefair Consultancy Ltd.
  - Grovehome Residential
  - Omega Lettings Ltd.
  - The Property Company London Ltd.

## **Environment and Conservation**

**8. CABINET RESPONSE TO REVIEW OF RECYCLING – SOURCE SEPARATED AND CO-MINGLED COLLECTION METHODS IN HARINGEY**

- 8.1 We considered a report which proposed a response to the Scrutiny Review of Source Separated and Co-Mingled Collection Methods in Haringey. Whilst recognising the rationale for the recommendations arising from the Review the report set out how the objectives of those recommendations would be achieved, firstly through the procurement of the integrated waste contract through competitive dialogue and, secondly, through on-going engagement with the NLWA procurement process for disposal facilities, as a constituent borough, for which NLWA had stated that source-separated and co-mingled collection methods would be retained into the future.
- 8.2 We report that we approved the approved the proposed responses which were along the lines outlined above and agreed that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be kept appraised of the progress of both procurements in relation to the issue of recycling collection systems at appropriate points in the course of the procurement projects.

**Children and Young People**

**9. ADMISSIONS TO SCHOOLS – APPROVAL TO CONSULT**

- 9.1 The Council will be aware that Section 89 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998, as amended by the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and associated Regulations, required admission authorities to consult annually on their admission arrangements for the following academic year.
- 9.2 We noted that the Children and Young People's Service also gave advice to governing bodies who were the admission authorities for other maintained primary and secondary schools in Haringey (i.e. St. Thomas More Catholic School, the John Loughborough School, Fortismere School and Greig City Academy). We also noted that consultation for all admission authorities should be completed by 1 March 2010 and determined by 15 April 2010. The new arrangements would then come into effect from the September 2011 intake.
- 9.3 We report that we approved for consultation the proposed admission arrangements for all community nursery classes, primary and secondary schools and St. Aidan's Voluntary Controlled Primary School for the 2011/12 school year as recommended in the report as well as the proposed consultation on admission arrangements for students starting sixth form study at Alexandra Park School, the Highgate/Hornsey Sixth Form Consortium and the Haringey Sixth Form Centre in September 2011.

**10. CABINET RESPONSE TO SCRUTINY REVIEW OF SUPPORT TO YOUNG PEOPLE AT THE RISK OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

- 10.1 We considered a report which proposed a response to the recommendations of the Scrutiny Review on Support to Young People at Risk of Substance Misuse and which provided an action plan.

- 10.2 We noted that throughout the review process views and evidence were considered from relevant Council Departments and service providers and that, additionally, a representative from the Youth Council had been co-opted onto the review to represent young people and provide feedback to the Youth Council. Representation from both secondary schools and NHS Haringey had also been secured through co-option.
- 10.3 The Council will be aware that it owes a duty to children in need under the Children Act 1989 and its related statutory instruments and guidance and the proposed action plan contained recommendations about the provision of services to children in need in the area required to implement those recommendations agreed from the Scrutiny Review.
- 10.4 We report that we approved the response to the Scrutiny Review and we agreed the action plan.

## **Leader**

### **11. THE COUNCIL'S PERFORMANCE: JULY AND AUGUST 2009 (PERIODS 4 AND 5)**

- 11.1 We considered a report which presented on an exception basis financial and performance information for July and August 2009 and asked us to agree budget virements in accordance with financial regulations.
- 11.2 We noted some highlights against targets were as follows -
- Tidy Britain group external assessment of street and environmental cleanliness for litter, detritus, graffiti and fly posting confirms the good performance previously reported.
  - The percentage of young people not in education, training or employment in July is 7.7 exceeding our stretch target of 10.4%.
  - Visits to our museums and libraries continue to exceed target.
- 11.3 We also noted areas where targets were not being met were:
- Levels of recorded offences of serious violent crime and knife crime rates are higher than targets set.
  - Children's social care initial assessments improved slightly in August but core assessments completed in time reduced and both remain below target.
  - Household waste sent for recycling remains below the 32% target.
  - Average time for processing new benefit claims and change events increased to 43.3 days in August and remains above the 17 day target for 2009/10.
  - Average re-let times for local authority dwellings declined to 45 days in August against a target of 31 days.
  - Call centre telephone answering - 82% of calls presented to the call centre answered against a target of 90%
- 11.4 The overall revenue budget monitoring, based on the August position, showed that the General Fund was now forecast to spend £1.5 million above budget, after taking into



account the potential use of £1 million of the general contingency and, additionally, a further saving of £1.5million due to the lower settlement of the officers' pay. Children and Young People Services (CYPS), Adults, Culture and Community Services (ACCS) and Corporate Resources were each projected to overspend and the reasons for the projected variations were detailed in the report. There were also some budget pressures outlined in the report that services were seeking to contain within the budget.

- 11.5 The dedicated schools budget (DSB) element of the overall Children & Young People's Service budget is projected to spend at budget while the net revenue projection with respect to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) was to achieve the budgeted surplus of £0.7 million.
- 11.6 The aggregate capital projected position in 2009/10 was to under spend by £4.4m (2%). The reasons for this projected variation were detailed in the report the majority of which was in ACCS. This projection included the approved re-phasing of the capital programme in CYPS including Building Schools for the Future (BSF).
- 11.7 Financial regulations require that proposed budget changes be approved by the Cabinet. These are shown in the table below and fall into one of two categories:
- Budget virements, where it was proposed that budget provision be transferred between one service budget and another. Explanations are provided where this is the case;
  - Increases or decreases in budget, generally where notification has been received in-year of a change in the level of external funding such as grants or supplementary credit approval.
- 11.8 Under the Constitution, certain virements are key decisions. Key decisions are:
- For revenue, any virement which results in change in a directorate cash limit of more than £250,000; and
  - For capital, any virement which results in the change of a programme area of more than £250,000.

Key decisions are highlighted by an asterisk in the table.

- 11.9 The following table sets out the proposed changes. There are two figures shown in each line of the table. The first amount column relates to changes in the current year's budgets and the second to changes in future years' budgets (full year). Differences between the two occur when, for example, the budget variation required relates to an immediate but not ongoing need or where the variation takes effect for a part of the current year but will be in effect for the whole of future years. Proposed virements are set out in the following table –

<b>Revenue Virements</b>
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Period	Service	Key	Amount current year (£'000)	Full year Amount (£'000)	Reason for budget changes	Description
6	UE	Rev*	2,065	2,065	Corrective Budget Realignment	Re-structuring of Coroner's budget following the appointment of a new Coroner.
6	Various	Rev*	2,566		2009/10 allocation	2009/10 Area Based Grant Well Being Theme 2nd half year allocations
6	PP	Rev*	433		2009/10 allocation	Budget adjustment following confirmation of grant allocations.
6	CR	Rev	207		2009/10 allocation	Housing Benefit & Council Tax Benefit - additional specific grant for administration
6	Various	Rev*	1,598		Corrective Budget Realignment	Revision of depreciation budgets following finalisation of fixed assets movements in 2008/09.
6	CYP	Rev*	20,250	20,250	Corrective Budget Realignment	Accounting adjustment to conform to Audit recommendations on the treatment of education grants received by the LA and devolved to schools.
6	CYP	Rev*	279		Corrective Budget Realignment	Re allocation of budget to reflect revised activities.
<b>Capital Virements</b>						
Period	Service	Key	Amount current year (£'000)	Full year Amount (£'000)	Reason for budget changes	Description
5	UE	Cap*	1,066		2009/10 allocation	Confirmation of 2009/10 Funding from Transport for London
6	UE	Cap	157		Corrective Budget Realignment	Realignment of budget following amendments to the Parking Plan.

## 12. URGENT ACTIONS IN CONSULTATION WITH CABINET MEMBERS

12.1 We were informed of the following actions taken by Directors in consultation with Cabinet Members under urgency procedures -

### Director of Urban Environment

Authorising the making and sealing of an Article 4 Direction to remove permitted Development rights for land at Haringey Heartlands Rail Corridor and preparing a final detailed Statement of Reasons outlining the planning justification for the making of the Direction for submission to the Secretary of State.

**Director of Corporate Services**

Approval to the delegation of authority to agree and execute a Section 106 Agreement binding the Council in its capacity as the freehold owner of the land at the former Children's Centre, Plevna Road N15.

**13. DELEGATED DECISIONS AND SIGNIFICANT ACTIONS**

- 13.1 We were informed of the following significant action taken by a Director under delegated powers -

**Director of Adult, Culture and Community Services**

Winkfield Resource Centre – Agreement to establishment charges