

Chair:  
Councillor Clare Kober

Deputy Chair:  
Councillor Lorna Reith

## **INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This report covers matters considered by the Cabinet at our meeting on 23 February 2010. 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.

## **ITEM FOR DECISION**

### **Leader**

#### **2. 2008/09 – 2010/11 LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT YEAR 2 REFRESH**

- 2.1 We reported to the Council on 22 February on the refreshed (Year 2) 2008/09-2010/11 Local Area Agreement which was recommended for local adoption and submission to Government Office for London by the deadline of 12 March 2010 and subsequent Ministerial sign off in late March. The proposed changes to the targets within the LAA were detailed in that report.
- 2.2 Because of the need to submit the final refreshed LAA to Government Office for London by 12 March we authorised the Leader (who was also Chair of the Haringey Strategic Partnership) to agree any final revisions required by Government Office for London following our approval on 23 February and by the HSP Performance Management Group. As the initial 2008/09 – 2010/11 Local Area Agreement was approved by Council their endorsement was sought to the proposed delegation of authority to agree the final refreshed version of the LAA to the Leader of the Council.

### **WE RECOMMEND**

That the decision to delegate authority to the Leader of the Council to agree the final refreshed version of the Local Area Agreement for submission to the Government Office for London post approval by the Cabinet and including any final revisions required by Government Office for London be endorsed.

## **ITEMS OF REPORT**

### **Children and Young People**

#### **3. CHILDRENS' SAFEGUARDING POLICY AND PRACTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

- 3.1 We reported to the Council on 19 October 2009 that we had established a Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Advisory Committee together with details of its membership, quorum and terms of reference.
- 3.2 At our meeting on 23 February 2010 we considered a report from the Advisory Committee which advised us that they had discussed their role and future. They had noted that while there were a range of other mechanisms for scrutinising safeguarding work including the Safeguarding Children's Board, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and the Children and Young People's Service itself, their Committee was the only backbench Member body that examined individual cases in detail and its Members had all received in depth training in these matters.
- 3.3 We noted that the Committee had reviewed details of the work it had undertaken with respect to the voice of service users (children and their parents) and referrers and also to the tracking of cases over a period of time concluding that there was still work to be carried out and that to disband the Committee now would send out the wrong message. We also noted that it was the Committee's intention that in the future to focus on particular vulnerable groups of children such as the under fives. Key areas of investigation would be groups of vulnerable children who fell just below the eligibility thresholds including by exploring the robustness of preventative services and by the tracking some cases. Also, to investigate the transition from children's to adult services and how children of adult service users were referred.
- 3.4 We also noted the view of the Committee that their reporting mechanisms and influence should be higher within the Council structure and to this end it should report direct to full Council to ensure that information was better disseminated to all Councillors. In this respect we were reminded that when the Advisory Committee had been established it had been agreed that their terms of would be reviewed by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People following the Council Elections in 2010 and we agreed that the views expressed by the Advisory Committee be taken on board as part of that review.
- 3.5 The Committee also requested that approval be sought to a presentation being given to the full Council on its work and its suggested proposals for its future and we report that we agreed accordingly.

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

### **4. PLAYBUILDER PROJECT YEAR 2**

- 4.1 The Council will be aware that the Haringey Play Strategy aimed to meet the play and learning needs of children and young people. The Strategy 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. The Strategy linked to the Children and Young People's Plan, the Open Space Strategy, and the recently announced NI 199 that measures satisfaction with play provision.
- 4.2 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 of which was to develop high quality and safe public play spaces for children and parents. We noted that developments were expected to be complete or substantial and involve the replacement of old equipment with new or the building of a completely new play area. This project would build upon investment made by the Council and external funding agencies in recent years across a range of parks and open spaces including Markfield Park, Chestnuts Park, Priory Park, Finsbury Park, Lordship Recreation Ground, Russell Park and Belmont Recreation Ground.

4.3 We also noted that the following criteria applied to all Play Builder project sites -

- Funding had to be used to develop new or existing public play area space within Haringey;
- Play spaces had to be open, free and accessible;
- There had to be local need and strong support for the play space from the local community;
- It had to be demonstrated how children, young people, parents and the local community would be engaged in the design and construction of facilities;
- The play space needed to be innovative and exciting with both stimulating and natural play equipment and landscaping to ensure the site would provide physically active play opportunities which were attractive to children, including 8 – 13 year olds;
- It had to be demonstrated how play spaces would be maintained once the funding had been used.

4.4 Following our earlier consideration in June 2009, Play Builder sites for Year 2 had been identified through an open-bidding / application process. The strength of this process was that it allowed the broadest range of organisations from across all sectors – public, voluntary and community to put forward sites for potential development. Sixteen separate applications were received and each Application evaluated using a Ward Based Needs Assessment. Utilising the Assessments a Play Value Assessment and Evaluation / Selection Panel s was then tasked with putting forward eleven play sites for Play Builder investment in 2010/11 plus two reserve sites based on those assessments.

4.5 We report that we approved the following eleven sites for Year 2 Play Builder investment in 2010/11 -

- Down Lane Park - Tottenham Hale Ward
- The Sandlings Estate (Homes for Haringey site) – Noel Park Ward
- Wood Green Common – Noel Park Ward
- Partridge Way Estate (Homes for Haringey site) – Bounds Green Ward
- Bailey Close (Metropolitan Housing Trust – RSL) – Bounds Green Ward
- Thetford Close (Homes for Haringey site) - White Hart Lane Ward
- Markfield Project (Community Organisation) – Seven Sisters Ward
- Stamford Close (Homes for Haringey site) – Tottenham Green Ward
- Ducketts Common – Harringay Ward
- Carlton Lodge (Homes for Haringey site) – Stroud Green Ward
- Stationers Park – Stroud Green Ward

The developments on all the above sites would be dependant on consultation and local support and against the possibility that any of them was not fully supported we also agreed the following two reserve sites -

- Downhills Park
- Finsbury Park

- 4.6 A key criterion of the Play Builder programme was that the improved site offered open access to all children and young people who might wish to use it. This indicated that even where an improved site was located on a housing estate that it could and would be used by children and young people not living on the estate. As with previous research and the procedure agreed for Year 1, we agreed that leaseholders would not be recharged for schemes based on housing estates. We also approved a waiver of the statutory leaseholder consultation requirements with reference to funding contribution on the basis that if this was not agreed any external funding for improving play facilities on estates would be lost as this would not comply with the Play Builder funding criteria.

## **Housing**

### **5. INTEGRATED RECEPTION SYSTEMS (IRS) – DIGITAL TV**

- 5.1 The Council will be aware that in 2012 traditional analogue television signals will be switched off and replaced with digital signals. A large proportion of the Council's housing stock is serviced by communal television aerials and it is a statutory duty upon the Council to ensure these systems are capable of accepting digital signals. In order to ensure that that the Council's housing stock is ready for the digital switchover in 2012, Homes for Haringey (HfH) established a framework agreement approved by our Procurement Committee and comprising of four contractors to complete the outstanding work.
- 5.2 We considered a report which provided details of the cost of installing Integrated Reception Systems (IRS), summarised the payment options, recommended new charging arrangements and sought approval of a draft satellite dish policy. The report explained the process and the established framework agreement that was in place with four contractors to complete the outstanding work. We noted that two options had been presented for consideration and approval was sought for a proposed satellite dish policy which was set out in an appendix to the report and which would ensure unauthorised dishes erected on blocks of flats were removed once they received the full range of signals through the new system.
- 5.3 We also noted that although the work to upgrade these aerials had already started, HfH had considered the views of residents in respect to offering a choice of systems to be installed and to consider the cost of these installations.
- 5.4 We report that a comprehensive review of the IRS programme having been completed and a range of alternative options having been considered by the Decent Homes Board we agreed the proposed aerials and satellite dish policy and authorised Homes for Haringey to undertake a block by block consultation to determine which IRS system residents wished to have installed. Homes for Haringey were also authorized to offer residents, on a block by block basis, a choice of an aerial which would receive Freeview

and Sky Plus or one which would receive Freeview, Sky plus, Hotbird and Turksat.

5.5 We also agreed that Leaseholders should be charged their share of the cost of installing IRS, up to a maximum of £400 per property and similarly that tenants be charged their share of the cost of installing IRS, up to a maximum of £400 per property. Council policy would be changed in respect of IRS installations only to allow the tenant service charge to be recovered over a 10 year period, rather than the current one year period and a retrospective cap of £400 would be applied to the amount charged to leaseholders for IRS installation work that had already been completed.

## **6. ENHANCEMENTS TO LEASEHOLDER PAYMENT OPTIONS**

6.1 We considered a report which contained recommendations regarding leaseholders' payments options for major works, which proposed enhancements to the options agreed in July 2008 and provided estimates of the likely cost of introducing the new policies.

6.2 We noted that, with regard to the time of billing, up until August 2008 bills for major works were issued after the end of the financial year in which the work took place. This meant the major works bills were dispatched with the annual service charge final accounts for each year (the 'actuals') in September. However, these bills were now issued in advance when the contractor was about to start work on site based on the estimated costs, with the final accounts showing any adjustments being issued after the work had been completed.

6.3 We also noted that in response to requests from the Leasehold Panel and Haringey Leaseholders' Association, the Council had decided to improve the payment options for leaseholders in 2008 as part of a 'package' of more flexible payment options for leaseholders. The main options introduced in 2008 were as follows:

- 5.5% discount for payment in full
- up to 36 months interest free loan
- loan with interest from the Council (at a concessionary rate of interest), if a bank loan was not obtainable
- interest only loan if the leaseholder was eligible to claim the interest from the DWP

6.4 We report that we agreed to increase the maximum loan period regarding invoices for works from 3 years to six years and to introduce further periods for leaseholders to pay their bills with interest (in addition to the interest free period). Both of these enhancements would only be open to leaseholders whose property was their home and their only property in order to differentiate between resident leaseholders and leaseholders who sub-let by not offering payment options to sub-let landlords. We also report that in both options the period to pay the invoice would only apply to invoices over £5,000 and be dependent on the invoice amount.

## **Resources**

### **7. JACKSON'S LANE ARTS AND COMMUNITY CENTRE (JLCAC) – PROPOSED SURRENDER AND GRANT OF A NEW LEASE**

- 7.1 We considered a report which sought our authority to the surrender of the existing lease of the Jackson's Lane Arts and Community Centre (JLCAC) of 28 years which was due to expire in August 2013 and to grant a new lease on terms which varied from the standard terms for community buildings.
- 7.2 We noted that JLCAC was the only significant community building in the west of the borough and provided a long established and valuable contribution to the social fabric of the community with its theatrical, artistic and other community activities for the residents of Haringey and beyond. The Centre aimed to enrich and develop individuals through participation in the arts to create stronger communities for the people of North London. It was considered a flagship for the Council with the provision of arts activities in the areas of performance, courses, classes, training and community outreach work.
- 7.3 JLCAC was now seeking to secure grant funding from the National Lottery and other charitable organisations to enable a programme of investment in the facilities at Jackson's Lane. However, external funding sources required that the tenant must first secure a sufficiently long lease on their premises. Following the new London Council commissioning criteria introduced in 2008/09, London Council funding was no longer awarded to JLCAC. Arts Council funding had been secured for the next financial year but should a new lease not be agreed JLCAC's next funding round could be compromised because they would be applying for 3 year funding with only 2 years left on their lease.
- 7.4 We also noted that the grant of a new lease as along the lines proposed in the report would allow the Centre to bid for long-term grant funding which if secured would benefit the Council because the investment in Jackson's Lane would improve the condition of the building. The new lease would also lend greater clarity as to responsibility for internal repair.
- 7.5 We report that we agreed that JLACC be granted a new lease on the terms and conditions detailed in the report which were in line with the standard lease for community buildings with the following exceptions:-
- Lease length;
  - Additional break clause - The Council to also have the option to break the lease and grant a new lease on the Council's standard 5 year term if the tenant was unsuccessful in gaining significant grant funding for the improvement of the fabric of the building within 5 years of completion.

We also approved the proposed funding arrangements set out in the report.

## **Leader**

### **8. COUNCIL'S PERFORMANCE: DECEMBER 2009 (PERIOD 9) – QUARTER 3**

- 8.1 We considered a report which presented on an exception basis financial and performance information for the year to December 2009 asked us to agree proposed budget virements in accordance with financial regulations and provided an update on

progress against current Council Plan actions for the year up to the end of December 2009.

- 8.2 We noted that overall performance on the monthly basket of indicators showed that of the 76 indicators 62% were on or close to target and 30% were not currently achieving target. For the remaining 6 indicators (8%) data or targets were not available and therefore status could not be allocated.
- 8.3 With regard to the Council Plan update summary, we noted that Directorates were asked to provide an update every quarter of progress against actions in their Directorate Plans that formed the 2009-10 Council Plan. It was reported that of 154 actions in the Council Plan, 35 were now reported as complete, 4 were on target and minor issues were reported for 15 actions. No major issues had been reported for this quarter. Details of key achievements and issues were set out in the report.
- 8.3 The overall general fund revenue budget monitoring, based on the December position showed an increase in the service forecast overspend by £0.4 million compared to last period. The factors behind this increase were set out in the report but the highest pressure remained within the Children and Young People's Service. However, some compensatory savings were forecast from within the non service revenue budget which would help to reduce the overall net general fund outturn variance; £1 million contribution from the general contingency, a £1.5 million saving on the inflation budget plus a forecast saving of £0.6 million on energy costs since the Council had moved onto a new energy contract. This resulted in an overall outturn figure of a net £2.1 million above budget. We were informed that further measures to bring the budget back on line had been introduced and included a freeze on non-essential discretionary spend and a review of agency staff usage.
- 8.4 With regard to Treasury Management, the Council continued to adopt a restricted lending list to those UK institutions covered by the Government's Credit Guarantee Scheme (CGS), the Government's Debt Management Office and approved AAA rated Money Market Funds. Existing Treasury Management practices continued to concentrate on the security of the Council's investments and this impacted, along with the current bank base rate, on returns. Investment income had a projected outturn of £1.3 million this financial year. In terms of recovery of Icelandic deposits, an improved position had been reported by the Heritable Bank (UK) administrators and their base case return had been increased from 80p to 85p. This equated to an additional £1m for Haringey.
- 8.5 The aggregate capital projected position in 2009/10 was projected to under spend by £18.7 million which equated to 10% of the approved budget and had increased by £7.8 million since last period. The explanations for this variance were set out by Directorate in the report with the main variation being in respect of Building Schools for the Future (BSF).
- 6.6 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.

6.7 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>						
<b>Period</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Key</b>	<b>Amount current year (£'000)</b>	<b>Full year Amount (£'000)</b>	<b>Reason for budget changes</b>	<b>Description</b>
P10	HRA	Rev	(106)	(106)	Corrective Budget Realignment	Correction of depreciation budget on HRA
P10	Various	Rev*	337	822	Corrective Budget Realignment	Allocation of Haringey Forward Savings from VFM, ZBB & Support Functions Reviews
P10	Various	Rev*	616	1,659	Corrective Budget Realignment	Energy budget reduction 2009-10 and 2010-11 due to improved contract prices
P10	CYP	Rev		107	Corrective Budget Realignment	Moving Young Carers budget to Change for Children Business Unit
P10	Various	Rev*	754		2009/10 allocations	Additional ABG funding allocations
P10	Various	Rev*	159	161	2009/10 allocations	Increased rent following review; additional funding for the ASBAT team and creation of budget for out of hours security following transfer to Property services.
P10	CR	Rev	136		Corrective Budget Realignment	Transfer of existing provision to spending cost centre to cover costs pending disposal of key site

## **9. URGENT ACTIONS TAKEN IN CONSULTATION WITH CABINET MEMBERS**

We were informed of the following actions taken by a Director under urgency powers following consultation with a Cabinet Member -

### **Director of Corporate Resources**

The Council's Corporate Insurance Arrangements – Approval to the long term procurement of Insurance Services via the London Consortium and to the award of contracts of insurance to Zurich Municipal and Aon.

Implementation of the VAT Rate Change – Approval to the reversal of the decreases applied for the temporary reduction in VAT for the service fees and charges with effect from 1 January 2010 for the annual memberships of Sports and Leisure Centres and for Car Parking Season Tickets and to make no change to other fees and charges.



**10. DELEGATED DECISIONS AND SIGNIFICANT ACTIONS**

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

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

Safeguarding and Strategic Services – Change of Posts of Safeguarding and Deputy Safeguarding Co-ordinators

Adult Services and Commissioning – Learning Disabilities – Establishment Change re Project Officer

**Director of Children and Young People**

Asset Management Planning – Primary Schools Condition Surveys

Building Schools for the Future – Northumberland Park School – Access Control System

**Director of Corporate Resources**

Procurement of Consultancy Services – Approval to the procurement of a contract for the provision of management support services from SRT Management & Consultancy Ltd.