

Chair:
Councillor Clare Kober

Vice Chair:
Councillor Lorna Reith

INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report covers matters considered by the Cabinet at our meeting on 15 June 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.

ITEMS OF REPORT

Housing

2. NEW HOUSING ALLOCATIONS POLICY FOR CONSULTATION

- 2.1 We considered a report which informed us of the results of a comprehensive review of Haringey's Housing Allocations Policy and recommended a fresh approach to the way in which applications for social housing were administered and prioritised. The report also sought support for a new Housing Allocations Policy that would prioritise applications on the basis of housing needs bands rather than housing points and our agreement to the Council undertaking three months' formal consultation on the contents of the new Housing Allocations Policy with a view to the new policy being implemented in 2011.
- 2.2 We noted that every local authority had a statutory duty to publish its housing allocations policy and that Haringey's existing Housing Allocations Policy was extremely complex, difficult to explain and administer, prevented households from making informed decisions about their future housing, and made only a limited contribution to the achievement of the Borough's key strategic objectives. We also noted that a detailed review of the Housing Allocations Policy had been carried out, taking into account the new staffing structure of Strategic and Community Housing Services, good practice, government guidance and recent court decisions.
- 2.3 At a Leader's Conference in October 2009, there had been strong cross-party support for the use of housing needs bands (rather than housing points) and policy changes that would make it much easier for applicants to assess their housing prospects and make better, more informed decisions in relation to their options. A revised Housing Allocations Policy had been drafted and was now ready for consultation with a wide range of stakeholders, including customers. If implemented, the proposed changes would simplify the administration of the Housing Allocations Policy, make it easier to explain decisions, and ensure that housing choices were clearly and precisely communicated to customers.
- 2.4 Having noted the conclusions of the review and the need to complete a full review of the Housing Register in preparation for the implementation of the new Housing Allocations Policy; we report that we supported the proposed changes set out in the Draft Housing

Allocations Policy, including the use of housing needs bands (instead of housing points) as the basis for determining applicants' relative priority, and we agree that a 3 months consultation should take place in respect of the Draft Housing Allocations Policy with all preparatory work carried out to ensure the accurate and timely re-registration and reassessment of housing applications, to enable the new Housing Allocations Policy to be approved and implemented as soon as practicable.

3. ENFRANCHISEMENT OF RESIDENTIAL LEASEHOLD PROPERTIES

- 3.1 We considered a report which sought our agreement to the revision of a decision to dispose of the Council's leasehold interest in four leasehold residential properties that were in the final years of their leases and deemed as a wasting asset. The report also sought agreement to enfranchise these four properties whereby two would be retained in social housing use and two sold as they were surplus to requirements. Our agreement was also sought to the ring-fencing of the capital receipt to enable the enfranchisement of the properties with the surplus to the Council's resources.
- 3.2 We noted that the Council's Strategic and Community Housing Service held a number of leasehold residential street properties acquired individually in past years the majority of which had unexpired lease terms ranging from 10 to 74 years which required no action at present. However, there were four with a short term remaining that required immediate action. All properties were let as general needs accommodation on secure tenancies and are now managed by Homes for Haringey. As the leases reached their final years it had been the Housing Service's practice to re-house the occupants to suitable alternative accommodation and dispose of the remaining lease prior to expiry in order to avoid any claim by the freeholder against the Council for dilapidation. This also released a small capital receipt (£20,000 - £30,000 per property) for the residual leasehold interest for the unexpired lease. The residual value was due to the Council (as leaseholder) having a statutory right to enfranchise and secure the property freehold which was usually worth considerably more than the lease acquisition and freehold enfranchisement costs. Lease disposal proceeds are treated as capital receipts and taken into Corporate Resources to be used in accordance with the Council's financial strategy.
- 3.3 The Housing Service did not currently benefit directly from the small leasehold disposal receipts. However, it did bear the cost of suitably re-housing the secure tenants which also had the consequence of the loss of an affordable home, usually a family unit that could otherwise have been used in the reduction of temporary accommodation. It was currently estimated that in 2010/11 the average cost to the Council of maintaining a family in emergency accommodation would be £6,000 p.a. When this was considered against the estimated disposal receipt of £20-30,000 it represented a deficit within five years and did not offer best value when considering other options available and it was proposed to enfranchise and dispose of two units and enfranchise, improve and retain two units.
- 3.4 We report that we rescinded the decision taken under delegated authority on 23 April 2009 to dispose of the properties identified in the report and approved an allocation of circa £105,000 of capital funding to Strategic and Community Housing to be repaid from sales receipts during 2010/11. We also agreed to the acquisition of the four reversionary interests of four residential properties currently leased to the Council and to the ring

fencing of funds from the capital receipt of the subsequent disposal of the freeholds with vacant possession of two of the properties listed in the report and to the net proceeds of the sales being made available for the Council's capital programme.

Community Safety and Cohesion

4. CABINET RESPONSE TO THE SCRUTINY REVIEW OF ENGAGING WITH HARD TO REACH COMMUNITIES

- 4.1 The Council will be aware that Haringey is the fifth most diverse borough in London. Nearly half of its population and three quarters of young people have a non white British ethnic group. Within this there are a number of communities and groups which do not engage with organisations, either because they do not feel empowered to do so or because they do not know how to access the relevant organisations.
- 4.2 We considered a response to a Scrutiny Review which had looked at who in Haringey was considered hard to reach and what could be done to ensure that these groups had an input into the services they received and were able to access the services to which they were entitled.
- 4.3 Having noted that many of the recommendations made in the Scrutiny Review were already in hand and had been incorporated into the Haringey Strategic Partnership's Community Engagement Framework delivery plan we report that we welcomed the actions proposed and endorsed the response.

Children's Services

5. CABINET RESPONSE TO THE SCRUTINY REVIEW OF SEXUAL HEALTH IN TEENAGERS

- 5.1 We noted that the Review had been commissioned as sexual health in teenagers had been identified by the Haringey Strategic Partnership as an area requiring specific action. This was reflected by the fact that two Local Area Assessment targets were directly relevant to this issue. These were:
- NI112; Rate of under-18 conceptions (per 1000 girls aged 15-17 as compared with the 1998 baseline rate)
 - NI113: Prevalence of Chlamydia in under 25 year olds.
- 5.2 The Review had focussed on what the Council and its partners did to promote and improve the sexual health of teenagers within the Borough including action to reduce the levels of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and conceptions. Rather than focus on what happens to young people when they become infected with a STI or pregnant, the review concentrated instead on the issue of prevention and the promotion of good sexual health.
- 5.3 We also noted that whilst the Review had acknowledged that much good work was being undertaken in Haringey and excellent progress was being made to reduce teenage

conceptions by the Children and Young People's Services and its partners eighteen recommendations were made a number of which had potential financial implications for the Council and, in addition to which others suggested the potential for schools, as partners, to use their delegated resources in ways which could have positive effects on reducing Teenage Pregnancy, following the example set by Woodside High School. The future of grant funding streams such as those through the Area Based Grant (ABG) were subject to some uncertainty post April 2011 and it was important that all relevant funding streams, across partners, were appropriate to levels of local need, consistent with levels of statistical neighbours and provided good value for money.

5.2 We report that we welcomed the Review and agreed the response proposed together with the proposed action plan.

Children's Services and Adults and Community Services

6. CABINET RESPONSE TO SCRUTINY REVIEW OF TRANSITION FROM CHILDREN'S SERVICES TO ADULT SERVICES

6.1 We noted that the terms of reference of the Review had been to assess the current transition services available to young people moving between children's and adult services specifically to provide an objective view of these services and whether they provided value for money

6.2 We also noted that the key findings of the Review had been:

- Successful transition planning and programmes are crucially dependent on collaboration between children's and adult services. Well planned transition improves clinical, educational and social outcomes for young people.
- Haringey has a well established multi-agency approach to transition planning involving young people and their parents/carers, education and health professionals.
- "My service '18" has been established as a joint strategic transition planning group between the Children & Young People Services and Adults Learning Disabilities Partnership.
- Haringey's Children and Young People and Adults' Services have identified the need to further improve transition for young people with Additional Needs, Learning Difficulties and Disabilities, including young people with special educational needs but without a statement, young people with mental health difficulties and young people leaving care.
- There is also a need to ensure all planning reflects the National Transition Programme to raise standards and to learn from best practice identified through this process and also the Personalisation agenda. Greater emphasis also needs to be placed on the key roles young people and their families, separately and jointly have in this agenda.
- My service @18 strategic planning group has four work groups which are taking this work forward, namely;

1. A needs analysis of specific complex needs/mapping of service in Children's and Adults services;
 2. Protocols including procedures and pathways;
 3. Social inclusion and personalisation;
 4. Information, participation and consultation.
- 6.3 We noted that the Review had made nineteen recommendations and that all of those which were agreed were to be undertaken within current resource allocations. Where agreement was in principle only, these would be progressed as and when resources permitted. Value for money would need to be a key consideration in the future commissioning of services for people in transition including ensuring robust and relevant activity information that demonstrated good outcomes to young people were being delivered.
- 6.4 We report, for information, that we endorsed the proposed response to the Review and agreed the Action Plan.

Adults and Community Services

7. CABINET RESPONSE TO SCRUTINY REVIEW OF SUPPORT TO CARERS

- 7.1 We noted that terms of reference for the Review had been to assess the support provided to adult carers of adults in Haringey specifically to provide an objective view of these services and whether they provide value for money". We also noted that the Carers Partnership Board had recently agreed a Carers Strategy and Delivery Plan, and that the recommendations within the Review contributed to the work being carried out.
- 7.2 The key findings of the review had been:
- Carers were estimated to save Haringey £236 million per annum;
 - There was a strategic commitment across the partnership to improving the support given to carers in Haringey;
 - Carers highly valued the support given to them by the Voluntary and Community Sector organisations and considered these services as a 'life line';
 - The Carers Partnership Board had a strategic input and was an effective forum for discussions and developments; and
 - Carers felt that easier access to flexible carers breaks/respite would help them to fulfil their caring role for longer.
- 7.3 The Review, which contained thirteen recommendations, linked to two key Council priorities – a health, caring Haringey; and delivering high quality, efficient services. While there were no direct financial implications arising from the Action Plan for responding to the Review the on-going impact of the implementation of the recommendations would need to be carefully monitored to ensure any future costs, arising from the raising of expectation levels amongst carers was managed.
- 7.5 We report that we endorsed the proposed response to the Review and agreed the Action Plan.

Planning and Regeneration

8. CABINET RESPONSE TO SCRUTINY REVIEW OF SUPPORT TO SMALL BUSINESSES

- 8.1 We considered a report which proposed a response to the Scrutiny Review of Support to Small Businesses. We noted that the Review contained fifteen recommendations and although many of these had no financial implications, the Action Plan showed that there was a cost attached to some actions. In some cases funding could be agreed by the Haringey Strategic Partnership Enterprise Board, but where this is not the case, it would be necessary to identify funding and have this agreed before the action could commence.
- 8.2 We also noted that a number of the recommendations would require individual legal advice as the Action Plan was implemented. Where it was agreed that any services should be procured, there should be compliance with Contract Standing Orders. Where there was a review of lettings policy, Corporate Property Services would have to pay regard to the statutory requirements in respect of the properties involved. Further legal advice would be given as and when necessary as the recommendations were being implemented and when further reports were produced.
- 8.3 We report that we endorsed the proposed response to the Review and agreed the Action Plan.

Neighbourhoods

9. CABINET RESPONSE TO SCRUTINY REVIEW OF SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

- 9.1 We considered a report which proposed a response to the Scrutiny Review of Sustainable Transport. The Review had a number of aims including the assessment of barriers to improved uptake of sustainable transport, the assessment of smarter travel initiatives in promoting encouragement of greater take up of sustainable transport; and identification of areas for more aligned working, and sharing of learning and good practice across the Haringey Strategic Partnership.
- 9.2 We noted that while no financial implications arose directly from the proposed response, the recommendations of the Review Panel included some actions for which additional funding would be required. Not all of the recommendations were within the Council's direct control either because the main funding source was elsewhere, such as Transport for London for 20 m.p.h. zones) or because the policy decision was taken elsewhere such as changing the operational hours for bus lanes. In these instances the Council's direct influence might be restricted to lobbying the appropriate bodies. Further, implementation of many of the recommendations would require statutory consultation and consideration would need to be given to any relevant statutory duties during the decision making process. Any specific legal implications could be addressed as the recommendations were moved forward and implemented.
- 9.3 We report that we endorsed the proposed response to the Review and agreed the Action Plan.

Finance and Sustainability

10. FINANCIAL OUTTURN

- 10.1 We considered a report which set out the provisional revenue and capital outturn for 2009/10 and asked us to consider revenue and capital carry forward requests. We noted that the year end general fund deficit was £2.183 million (0.98% of the approved revenue budget) excluding carry forward requests and the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). The report also set out the capital outturn position, which was a net under spend of £27.8 million (14.1% of the approved budget). Carry forward requests of £21.4 million were submitted for approval and the positions on the Housing Revenue Account, non-schools and schools Direct Service Grant were also reported.
- 10.2 In overall terms, after taking into account adjustments previously reported through the budget management process, the revenue financial outturn was broadly in line with last budget monitoring report submitted to us and the agreed financial strategy. However, we also noted that the use of reserves to fund an in-year overspend in 2009/10 had not been specifically anticipated.
- 10.3 We noted the position with regard to the provisional General Fund revenue outturn, the reasons for variations and we approved the planned transfers to reserves including the transfer from general balances of £2.391 million to fund the net revenue overspend. We also noted the provisional Housing Revenue Account (HRA) outturn and we approved the treatment of the Homes for Haringey deficit detailed in the report.
- 10.4 Approval was also granted to a revenue carry forward proposal amounting to £0.515 million and the required carry forward of the Catering DSO trading deficit of £0.307 million. We also noted the provisional capital outturn of a £27.8 million under spend and the reasons for variations and we approved capital carry forward requests proposals of £21.4 million.
- 10.5 Authority was delegated to the Chief Financial Officer, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Sustainability, to approve additional capital carry forward requests, relating to contractually committed schemes only given the level of available funding and we asked the Chief Financial Officer to carry out a review of the 2010/11 capital programme together with the 2009/10 carry forward requests that did not relate to contractually committed schemes in order to ensure the viability of the entire programme in light of likely reductions in available capital resources. We also asked that the outcome of the review together with the proposals for carry forward of capital receipt funded schemes, be reported to our July meeting.
- 10.4 The outturn of a £2.208 million overspend for schools that decreased schools' balances to £4.407 million at the end of 2009/10 and the carry forward of the in-year deficit was noted as was a carry forward of a £0.722 million Direct Schools Grant under spend and approval was granted to an earmarking proposal to help support child safeguarding resource issues with a report taken to the Schools Forum outlining this proposal and seeking their support.

- 10.5 We also delegated authority to the Chief Financial Officer to prepare the Council's financial accounts such that the financial position of the Council is optimised and noted that the Council's financial statements for 2009/10 were to be approved by General Purposes Committee prior to external audit.

Leader

11. COUNCIL'S PERFORMANCE: END OF YEAR 2009/10

- 11.1 We considered a report which presented on an exception basis performance information for the year 2009/10 and reviewed 2009/10 performance outcomes and achievements under the Sustainable Community Strategy priorities including the Local Area Agreement.
- 11.2 We noted that overall performance on the monthly basket of indicators showed that of the 74 indicators 73% had achieved or were close to achieving target while 27% did not achieve target. Performance against a basket of indicators monitored in 2009/10 showed that for 59% of indicators performance had improved from levels achieved in 2008/09.
- 11.3 Good progress had been made in a number of key priority areas including –
- Street cleanliness
 - Reducing road casualties
 - Educational attainment
 - Young People Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEETs)
 - Social care clients receiving self directed support
 - Visits to libraries and sport centres
 - Households in temporary accommodation
 - Reducing Personal Robbery and Achieving our Healthy Schools target (both LAA stretch targets)
- 11.4 While there were no specific implications highlighted in the report we noted that value for money had continued to be a key strand in the monitoring of performance and quality. It was recognised that performance monitoring throughout 2009/10 continued to include routine monitoring of unit costs so that performance and costs which reflected activity could inform our judgements on whether Haringey was delivering value for money services. The data also supported our overall understanding of costs, the relationship this had on outcomes and supported targeted decision making.
- 11.4 We noted the report and the progress being made against Council and Community Strategy priorities.

12. APPOINTMENT OF CABINET COMMITTEES

- 12.1 We report that we re-appointed our two executive Committee 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

Councillor Goldberg (Chair)
Councillor Bevan
Councillor Reith
Councillor Kober

(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

Councillor Dogus (Chair)
Councillor Goldberg
Councillor Vanier

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).

- 12.2 We report that we also re-appointed three Advisory Committees, the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee, the Children Safeguarding Policy and Practice Advisory Committee and the Adult Safeguarding Advisory Committee memberships indicated below and in so doing we confirmed unchanged their terms of reference -

Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee

Councillors Reith (Chair)
Alexander
Allison
Engert
Peacock
Stennett
Watson

Children Safeguarding Policy and Practice Advisory Committee

Councillors: Rice (Chair)
Amin
Davies
Hare
McNamara
Hilary Corrick (Non-Councillor Member - appointed by the Committee)

Adult Safeguarding Advisory Committee

Councillors: Adamou
Christophides
Winskill

12.3 We also appointed Councillor Cooke and Councillor Gorrie to serve on the Hornsey Town Hall Community Board and confirmed its terms of reference.

13. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE ON THE HARINGEY STANDING LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE AND ITS THEME BOARDS

13.1 We report that we appointed the following members to serve on the Haringey Strategic Partnership Standing Leadership Conference and the Theme Boards indicated -

Haringey Strategic Partnership (HSP) Standing Leadership Conference

Councillor Canver
Councillor Reith
Councillor Vanier

(In addition to the Leader and the Chief Executive who were ex-officio members)

Better Places Partnership -

Councillor Canver
Councillor Mallett

Children's Trust -

Councillor Reith
Councillor Allison
Councillor Kober
Councillor Vanier
Councillor Watson

Enterprise Partnership Board -

Councillor Mallett
Councillor Meehan

Integrated Housing Board -

Councillor Bevan
(One vacancy for a Majority Party member)

Safer Communities Executive Board –

Councillor Vanier

Well Being Partnership Board -

Councillor Bevan
Councillor Dogus
Councillor Waters

13.2 We also asked that the Safer Communities Executive Board be requested to consider increasing its membership to allow for the Cabinet Member for Adult and Community Services to serve on the Board.

14. 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 -

Chief Executive

Appointment of Cabinet Members and Confirmation of Executive Side Delegations to Officers – Approval to make formal appointments of Cabinet Members including the Deputy Leader and to confirm the existing scheme of delegation to officers with respect to ‘executive side’ functions so as to ensure continuity in decision making.

Director of Corporate Resources

Disposal of Saltram Close Playground Site – Authorisation of the Head of Corporate Property Services to negotiate and agree terms for the disposal of the Council’s freehold interest in the Saltram Close Playground Site to Shian Housing Association (or in the event that final terms cannot be agreed with Shian HA to Family Mosaic.

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

Festival Republic Concert in Finsbury Park

Haringey Adult Learning Service – Establishment Changes

ICT and Support Services – Establishment Changes

Safeguarding and Strategic Service – Finance Service – Establishment Changes (2 x Temporary Finance Officer Posts)

Recreation Services – Establishment Changes – Deletion of Senior Technical Post

Director of the Children and Young People’s Service

Grant Funding for the delivery of Children’s Centre Services by the Voluntary Sector for 2010/11

Refurbishment of Haslemere Respite Centre

Voluntary Sector Sustainability Grant – Under 5's Childcare Providers

Director of Corporate Resources

Q-Matic Upgrade – Award of the contract for the Q-Matic Upgrade for a period of three years.