

**MINUTES OF THE CABINET
TUESDAY, 8 FEBRUARY 2011**

Councillors: *Kober (Chair), *Reith (Vice-Chair), *Bevan, *Canver, *Dogus, *Goldberg, *Mallett and *Vanier.

*Present

Also Present: Councillors Allison, Bull and Gorrie.

MINUTE NO.	SUBJECT/DECISION	ACTION BY
CAB120.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Agenda Item 3) Councillor Reith in respect of item 9 – Medium Term Financial Planning 2011/12 - 2013/14. Councillor Canver in respect of item 16 – North London Waste Plan – Submission Draft.	HLDMS
CAB121.	MINUTES (Agenda Item 4) RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet held on 25 January 2011 be confirmed and signed.	HLDMS
CAB122.	DEPUTATIONS (Agenda Item 5) We received a deputation from the Haringey Friends of Parks Forum. The spokesperson, Dave Morris, addressed our meeting and expressed concern that the proposed cuts affecting the Parks Service totalled £1,195,000 and included a proposal to cut grounds maintenance by 50% which alone would have a devastating effect on Haringey's parks, irrespective of all the other proposals. Disquiet was also voiced that if the proposals were implemented they would result in a full time establishment of just 8 gardeners left to maintain all of the parks and open spaces across Haringey with an additional team of 5 mobile hygiene staff, responsible for collecting litter, emptying bins and dog waste bins. It was the view of the Forum that it would not be possible to maintain 16 green flag parks with the equivalent of just 8 gardeners, let alone all the other open spaces across the Borough. It was also felt that the staffing cuts were likely to conflict with the commitments made by the Council to the Heritage Lottery Fund and could jeopardise the release of lottery funding earmarked for regeneration. Parks were used by all sectors of the community and were a vital resource for the physical and mental health of residents, young and old. A national survey in 2010 had revealed that 87% of people have used their park or green space in the past year, more than any other public service and the current use of Haringey's open space was reported at 15.9 million visits with 52% residents visiting at least once per week.	

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	<p>Whilst there had been welcome investment to restore many Haringey Parks in recent years, the maintenance budgets had remained insufficient with important infrastructure going un-repaired and machinery well beyond its shelf life. The Forum feared that the proposed cuts would lead to neglected and run down green spaces which would inevitably reduce visitor numbers, leading to the spiral of decline seen in the 1980's and 1990's, when many residents became afraid to use deserted parks, leaving free rein to those wanting to engage in vandalism and anti-social behaviour. This would result in parks again becoming unsafe, problem areas and a drain on resources.</p> <p>The Forum were also of the view that volunteering was not a realistic alternative to adequate staffing and that there was a considerable difference between the typical improvement works carried out by Friends groups, such as occasional tree and bulb planting, compared to the day to day work maintaining parks which often involved the use of powered or heavy machinery with numerous safety risks to the operator and public and which required training and insurance cover.</p> <p>Questions were then put to the deputation by Cabinet Members and answers given following which the Cabinet Member for Adult and Community Services responded to the issues raised in their submission. We noted that with regard to staffing, the current establishment including vacancies involved in Grounds Maintenance/Hygiene was 59 and that it was proposed to reduce this by the deletion of vacant posts and by other service reductions/redundancies of 13 to a new establishment of 43.</p> <p>It was recognised that the proposals were challenging and would impact upon standards and performance, but measures to mitigate this were being actively explored including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with BTCV and Wolves Lane Nursery to undertake bedding planting; • Supporting and encouraging greater volunteering in the supervision of open space, in conjunction with the MPS and our Frontline Services, and the existing Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. • Re-organising our management of hygiene, to incorporate gate locking/unlocking. • Revisiting existing agreements/plans with the Heritage Lottery Fund. <p>Our Chair thanked the deputation for their presentation and, tribute having been to the work carried out by local Friends Groups in partnership with the Council's Recreation Services, invited them to remain for the discussion of budget issues as part of item 9 Medium Term Financial Planning (see Minute CAB.125 below).</p>	
CAB123.	<p>THE COUNCIL'S PERFORMANCE (PERIOD 9) - DECEMBER 2010 (Joint Report of the Chief Executive and the Director of Corporate Resources - Agenda Item 7)</p>	

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	<p>We noted that the report set out on an exception basis financial and performance information for the year to December 2010 and sought our approval to budget virements set out in this report in accordance with financial regulations.</p> <p>In response to a question about the projected overspend of £2.9 million and whether the underlying overspend was greater than that we noted that the use of £1.7 million of unallocated Area Based Grant budget had followed on from Government reductions to the 2010/11 Grant (ABG). Internal cash balances had been used instead of external borrowing in order to reduce debt repayments. In order to address the significant underlying pressure on the Children and Young People's Service's budget which had given rise to much of the projected overspend additional provision had been made for 2011/12.</p> <p>With regard to a question about the impact of the delay in the implementation of the housing benefit cap on the demand for temporary accommodation, we noted that while the delay was welcomed the service was already experiencing greater pressure as people were already seeking cheaper accommodation with Haringey seeing an increased demand.</p> <p>A further question having been asked about rent levels and occupancy rates at Technopark it was agreed that a written response should be supplied to Councillor Gorrie.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the report and the progress being made against the Council's priorities be noted and approval be granted to the budget changes (virements) set out in Appendix 2 to the interleaved report. 2. That Directors, where possible, be required to take necessary action to bring current year spending to within their approved budget. 	<p>DCR</p> <p>DCR</p> <p>CEMB</p>
CAB124.	<p>SHAPING OUR FUTURE - CONSULTATION EXERCISE (Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (People and Organisational Development) - Agenda Item 8)</p> <p>Our Chair agreed to admit the report which was tabled as urgent business. The report was late because following the consultation period it had been necessary to analyse the responses received. The report was too urgent to await the next meeting because it needed to be considered alongside the budget process.</p> <p>We noted that the report summarised what the public had told the Council during its <i>Shaping Our Future</i> consultation for its main budget setting process for the financial year 2011/12 (and beyond) together with the Council's responses to the comments and ideas it received.</p> <p>We also noted that <i>Shaping Our Future</i> had taken place between 4</p>	

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	<p>October 2010 and 17 December 2010 and had received a large response..</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That the report be received.</p>	
CAB125.	<p>MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLANNING 2011/12 - 2013/14 (Report of the Director of Corporate Resources - Agenda Item 9)</p> <p>Councillor Reith declared a personal interest in respect of this item by virtue of being a Homes for Haringey leaseholder.</p> <p>Our Chair agreed to admit the report as urgent business. The report was late because this was the most challenging financial settlement and budget package for many years in Haringey. The Government released the financial settlement very late and the Council needed the time to consider all proposals in appropriate detail. Furthermore, Overview and Scrutiny Committee needed time to scrutinise the budget proposals.</p> <p>The report was too urgent to await the next meeting because a legal budget had to be approved before then.</p> <p>We noted that the report provided a Medium Term Financial Plan covering the three years to March 2014 with a revised assessment in each of the three years of the General Fund, Dedicated Schools Grant, Housing Revenue Account and the Capital Programme including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The financial resources available to the Council; • The cost of providing existing services; and • The overall level of savings that have been and still need to be identified to give a balanced, sustainable budget over the medium term financial planning period. <p>The report also proposed a budget package for 2011-12 and later years. Appendix 12 (Recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet Responses) was tabled. Our Chair thanked the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for his attendance and for the work which the Committee and officers had undertaken.</p> <p>In response to questions raised we noted that children's social care faced increased costs as a result of a number of factors but that recent OfSTED inspections had confirmed that the thresholds being operated by the Council in relation to the reception of children into care were appropriate and safeguarding vulnerable children and families would continue to be a top priority. The impact of Government policy would be to drive up costs and there were considered to be clear reasons for the additional spending proposed for this area.</p> <p>While it was not clear if the high numbers of children being received into care reflected a 'legacy' element, changes to the benefits system were likely to see an increase in the number vulnerable families and children</p>	

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moving into the borough from central London and numbers were increasing generally across the country. Some comfort could be taken from the comments made by OfSTED about the Council's thresholds in this respect. The number of foster placements was high and increasing and the placement of siblings was a particular difficulty. Work was on-going with other boroughs and efforts made to recruit more foster parents. One factor was the high level of transients in the borough with 1 in 3 of all social work assessments requiring a translator to be present. While efforts were being made to reduce costs, including legal costs, the underlying pressures on the service remained.

The proposals for the Youth Service involved a 75% reduction and would involve re-shaping the service. Consultations had revealed how valued the Service and there would be further discussions about the form it should take. Many parts of the Children's Service were statutory in nature and could not be touched which meant that the discretionary elements would have to make larger reductions to meet the budget requirements.

It was accepted that the proposed Customer Service Centre closures would place pressure elsewhere on the service but the need to make budget reductions of £41 million in the next financial year meant that there could be no mitigation for a number of areas. An increase in the number of those living in poverty was likely to result in more people using the service so there would need to be close monitoring but flagging up potential problems without identifying alternative options was not helpful.

Equality Impact Assessments were important and would be carried out where appropriate on the savings proposals in the report. It was important to note that there was no raft of reserve items. Representations had been received from a number of groups and responses would be sent to them. Service users were also considered as a matter of course as proposals were formulated..

The Shaping the Future and other consultations had been taken into account in the formulation of budget proposals, examples being no change to the eligibility criteria for adult social care and the retention of all 9 of the Borough's libraries.

RESOLVED:

1. That the outcome of the of the consultation process on the Budget as set out in Section 17 of the interleaved report and the on-going consultation covering the proposals as set out in Appendix 6 be noted.
2. That approval be granted to the overall Medium Term Financial Plan as set out in Appendices 1 and 2 to the interleaved report.
3. That approval be granted to the new investment proposals as set out in Appendix 3 to the interleaved report.

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4. That approval be granted to the changes and variations as set out in Appendix 4 to the interleaved report.	DCR
5. That approval be granted to the revisions to previously agreed investment and savings proposals as set out in Appendices 5.1 and 5.2 to the interleaved report.	DCR
6. That approval be granted in principle to the new savings proposals set out in Appendix 6 to the interleaved report each of which represented a decision which would in the future be considered by the responsible Director and, where appropriate, the responsible Cabinet Member. Where appropriate certain of these would be the subject of consultation and of equality impact assessment when they came to be considered and a decision as to whether or not to proceed would be taken at that time. In the event that the relevant decision maker decided not to proceed with the result that savings were not realised there would be an enquiry as to whether equivalent savings could be found elsewhere in the budget. Accordingly, authority to make final decisions to be adopted be delegated to Directorates and where appropriate to the relevant Cabinet Members within their portfolio responsibilities following appropriate consideration of the results of any consultation and with due regard to the Council's relevant equality duties as set out in the Equality Act 2010.	DCR
7. That it be noted that significant savings still had to be identified to deliver a balanced budget in 2012/13 and 2013/14.	
8. That approval be granted to the level of un-marked General Fund reserves of £10.5 million and specific and other reserves as set out in Appendix 7.1 to the interleaved report.	DCR
9. That approval be granted to the proposals for the Children and Young People's Service Dedicated Schools Grant budget as set out in Section 13 and Appendix 8 of the interleaved report.	DCR
10. That approval be granted to the proposals for the Housing Revenue Account budget as set out in Section 14 and Appendix 10 of the interleaved report.	DCR
11. That approval be granted to the housing rent increases at an average £5.36 per week (6.5%).	DCR
12. That approval be granted to the housing tenant service charge changes as set out in Section 14.13 of the interleaved report.	DCR
13. That approval be granted to the proposals for the capital programme and funding as set out in Section 15 and Appendix 11 of the interleaved report.	DCR
14. That approval be granted to the proposed General Fund budget	

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	<p>requirement for 2011/12 of £286.169 million net of Dedicated Schools grant subject to the decisions and precepting and levying authorities.</p> <p>15. That approval be granted to the indicative criteria as set out in Appendix 8 to the interleaved report to be applied by all Directorates both in the consultation concerning and in the determination of the future funding of Third Sector organisations and other organisations where appropriate.</p> <p>16. That it be noted that the budget report would be considered by the Council on 24 February including the final decision on the budget and the Council Tax for 2011/12.</p>	<p>DCR</p> <p>DCR</p>
CAB126.	<p>CARBON REDUCTION PROGRAMME - INVESTMENT STRATEGY (Report of the Director of Corporate Resources - Agenda Item 10)</p> <p>We noted that the report provided us with an update on the progress to date in achieving the Council's carbon reduction target of 40% from corporate buildings by 2015 and outlined the next stage of the investment strategy required to support the carbon reduction programme. We also noted that the report recommended the optimum level of investment over the next three years as part of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That approval be granted to the allocation of an additional £0.5 million of the Financial Investment Reserve to the Sustainable Investment Fund. 2. That approval be granted in principle to the use of up to £1 million in prudential borrowing for further investment in carbon reduction projects subject to a viable business case supporting each project. 	<p>DCR</p> <p>DCR</p>
CAB127.	<p>SPORTS AND LEISURE - STRATEGIC DIRECTION (Report of the Director of Adult, Culture And Community Resources - Agenda Item 11)</p> <p>We noted that the report reviewed the current arrangements for the funding and provision of sports and leisure services in the borough and considered the range of options for future service provision and delivery and decide the way forward. The report also outlined the reduction in the budget, as a result of these proposals.</p> <p>In response to a question concerning the White Hart Lane Community Sports Centre, we were informed that it was proposed that separate, bespoke partnership solutions be pursued for the Centre and the Finsbury Park Track and Gym with local sports clubs and national governing bodies. This would be the subject of a separate report to a future meeting of the Cabinet.</p>	

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	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the options for the future level and use of Council funding and the related service delivery arrangements for Sports and Leisure be noted. 2. That approval be granted to the package of proposals set out in paragraph 7 of the interleaved report. 3. That approval be granted to the initiation of a procurement process to externalise the management of Council owned sports and leisure facilities. 4. That authority to approve the final scope and procurement method be delegated to the Director of Adult, Culture and Community Services. 5. That approval be granted to the establishment of a Member Steering Group to oversee delivery of the project 6. That approval be granted to the related reductions to the budget, and potential re-direction of funding to the voluntary and community sector. 	<p>DACCS</p> <p>DACCS</p> <p>DACCS</p> <p>DACCS</p> <p>DACCS</p>
CAB128.	<p>CHILDCARE IN HARINGEY (Report of the Director of Children and Young Peoples' Services - Agenda Item 12)</p> <p>Our Chair agreed to admit the report as urgent business. The report was late because the issues were complex and potentially affected a large number of residents. This report had been prepared in tandem with a report to on the Sustainability of Children's Centres in Haringey. The lateness of the Government's financial settlement and the transfer of the funding for Children's Centres into the Early Intervention Grant meant that decisions could not be taken in isolation.</p> <p>The report was too urgent to await the next meeting because formal consultation needed to commence urgently regarding the proposed changes to the fee structure and charges and also the proposed reductions in levels of grant funding to the voluntary and community sector. Delays in doing this would impact on the Council's capacity to achieve the required savings.</p> <p>We noted that the report provided information on, and sought agreement in principle to proposed changes to the fee structure and charges made by the Council for the under fives childcare offered through our children's centres. We also noted that the proposal was subject to both consultation and an equalities impact assessment..</p> <p>The report also provided information on and sought agreement in principle to a proposed reduction in the levels of grant funding provided to voluntary and community sector childcare providers for sustainability. We noted that this option would be the subject of consultation and that</p>	

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	<p>we would be advised of the outcome of this exercise.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That approval be granted in principle, to the introduction of new fee structure for Children's Centres from September 2011. 2. That officers explore the introduction of differential fee rates in 2012-13 based on ability to pay as exemplified in Appendix 3 to the interleaved report. 3. That approval be granted in principle to a reduction in the level of funding provided to voluntary and community sector providers in the context of significant reductions in Council funding after April 2011 and the impact of the Early Years single funding formula. 4. That it be noted that a review was currently being undertaken of the provision of full-time early education places for 3 and 4 year olds and that a report would be submitted for consideration in the autumn 2011. 5. That authority to make the final decisions on the matters identified in Resolutions 1 and 2 above be delegated to the Cabinet Member with portfolio responsibility for Children's Services, in consultation with the Director of Children's Services, following appropriate consideration of the results of any consultation and with due regard to the Council's duties under the Equality Act 2010. 	<p>DCYPS</p> <p>DCYPS</p> <p>DCYPS</p> <p>DCYPS</p>
CAB129.	<p>THE SUSTAINABILITY OF CHILDREN'S CENTRES IN HARINGEY (Report of the Director of Children and Young Peoples' Services - Agenda Item 13)</p> <p>Our Chair agreed to admit the report as urgent business. The report was late because the issues were complex and potentially affect a large number of residents. The lateness of the Government's financial settlement and the transfer of the funding for Children's Centres into the Early Intervention Grant meant that decisions could not be taken in isolation as they impacted on 20 other areas of service provision.</p> <p>The report was too urgent to await the next meeting because formal consultation needed to commence urgently with groups affected and also with staff affected. Delays in doing this and starting the detailed planning of the implementation of the new model would impact on our capacity to achieve the required savings.</p> <p>We noted that the report set out proposals for the future delivery of Children's Centre services within budget constraints whilst ensuring high quality services continue to be offered to those most in need.</p>	

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	<p>In response to a question about the configuration of lead and linked children's centres we were advised that the table shown in Appendix 4 provided a provisional view only of which centres would be considered as full service and those which, subject to finances, would be linked centres and that consultation would be taking place about those arrangements. Any ideas about income generation which flowed from the consultation would also be considered.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That approval be granted to the future children's centre programme being re-configured so that it could be delivered within the budget constraints whilst ensuring that children living in the 0-30% most deprived super-output areas were able to access the full range of children's centre services; 2. That officers complete the detailed work required to meet Resolution 1 above including a commissioning strategy which sets out the required service level, revised formula for the allocation of funding and a revised fee structure that maximised income and supported the maintenance of services where parents/carers were able to contribute to the cost; 3. That approval be granted to consultations on this strategy and proposals taking place with each Children's Centre and school in the current programme in order to ensure that service delivery was protected for the most vulnerable families, resources were targeted to the areas that would be most effective and the programme was delivered within the available budget from April 2011. 4. That authority to make the final decisions on the matters identified in Resolutions 1, 2 and 3 above to the Cabinet Member with portfolio responsibility for Children's Services, in conjunction with the Director for CYPS, following appropriate consideration of the results of any consultation and with due regard to the Council's relevant equality duties as set out in the Equality Act 2010. 	<p>DCYPS</p> <p>DCYPS</p> <p>DCYPS</p> <p>DCYPS</p>
<p>CAB130.</p>	<p>SHARED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICE (HARINGEY AND WALTHAM FOREST) (Report of the Director of Urban Environment - Agenda Item 14)</p> <p>We noted that following our agreement of a Memorandum of Understanding on 21 December 2010 the Council was working with Waltham Forest Council to explore ways to provide high quality joint services shared services between the two Boroughs which could deliver services at reduced costs in a time of reduced resources.</p> <p>We also noted that the report set out an initial outline business case and model for a Shared Economic Development Service between Haringey and Waltham Forest and sought our approval to an initial plan and to the continuing work in establishing such a shared service.</p>	

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	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That approval be granted to the Shared Economic Development Service initial business case and model as set out in Appendix 1 to the interleaved report and that further work consistent with the approach and processes in the agreed Memorandum of Understanding be undertaken to establish a shared service in early 2011/12.</p>	DUE
CAB131.	<p>REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN (Report of the Director of Urban Environment - Agenda Item 15)</p> <p>We noted that following a statutory consultation the reviewed Air Quality Action Plan was being submitted for approval and subsequent publication. We also noted that the Action Plan would guide local initiatives towards the national target of reducing the level of certain pollutants in the atmosphere affecting human health.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That approval be granted to the revised Air Quality Action Plan as set out in Appendix 2 to the interleaved report for adoption and publication.</p>	DUE
CAB132.	<p>NORTH LONDON WASTE PLAN - SUBMISSION DRAFT (Report of the Director of Urban Environment - Agenda Item 16)</p> <p>Councillor Canver declared a personal interest in respect of this item by virtue of being a Member of the North London Waste Authority.</p> <p>We noted that the report sought approval for the submission of the North London Waste Plan for publication and subsequent submission to the Government.</p> <p>We also noted that following a public consultation on the preferred options a significant number of objections had been received to the inclusion of Pinkham Way in the Plan because of the potential impact of vehicles on local roads as well as potential impacts on the housing, park and school and nearby sites of nature conservation. We were informed that the site was owned by Barnet and was designated as an employment site although part of it had acquired ecological value and efforts were being made to try to balance the uses. Barnet had been supplied with a list of interested groups to be contacted as part of the consultation pre-application and a check would be made if they had. Haringey would carry out the formal consultation and the groups would certainly be contacted then in addition to local residents.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That the Council be recommended</p>	<p>DUE</p> <p>DUE/ HLDMS</p>

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To approve the North London Waste Plan as set out at Appendix 1 to the interleaved report for publication and subsequent submission to the Government. 2. That authority to submit changes to the Plan in the run up to and during the public examination of the document in response to objectors' submissions, requests from the Planning Inspector and any emerging evidence, guidance or legal advice be delegated to the Director of Urban Environment in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Regeneration and in conjunction with the other North London Boroughs. 	
CAB133.	<p>DELEGATED DECISIONS AND SIGNIFICANT ACTIONS (Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (People and Organisational Development) - Agenda Item 17)</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That the report be noted and any necessary action approved.</p>	

The meeting ended at 21.45 hours.

CLAIRE KOBER
Chair