

Chair:
Councillor Charles Adje

Deputy Chair:
Councillor Harry Lister

INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report covers matters considered by the Executive at our meeting on 1 November 2005. For ease of reference the Report is divided into the Executive portfolios.
- 1.2 We trust that this Report will be helpful to Members in their representative role and facilitate a fruitful dialogue between the Executive and all groups of Councillors. These reports are a welcome opportunity for the Executive on a regular basis to present the priorities and achievements of the Executive to Council colleagues for consideration and comment. The Executive values and encourages the input of fellow members.

ITEMS OF REPORT

Finance

2. FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE – AUGUST 2005

- 2.1 The Council was striving to improve its performance for the benefit of the people of the Borough and we noted the continuing good progress against many challenging targets set by ourselves and the Government. We also noted that there were areas where we must try harder and we considered a report which set out some of the measures being taken.
- 2.2 For the year to date position as at August 2005, 72% of indicators were on target or close to the end of year target. In addition 78% of indicators had maintained or improved performance since the end of last year. There had also been positive progress with regard to a number of key environment indicators including reduced missed collections and recycling.
- 2.3 Financial regulations required proposed budget changes be approved by us and those we approved were shown in the table below. These changes fell into one of two categories:
 - budget virements, where it was proposed that budget provision be transferred between one service budget and another. Explanations were provided where this is the case; or
 - Increases or decreases in budget, generally where notification had been received in-year of a change in the level of external funding such as grants or supplementary credit approval.
- 2.4 For the purposes of the Constitution, certain virements were key decisions. Key decisions were:
 - for revenue, any virement which resulted 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 were highlighted by an asterisk in the table.

2.5 The following table sets out the proposed changes. There were two figures shown in each line of the table, the first amount column related to changes in the current year's budgets and the second to changes in future years' budgets (full year). Differences between the two occurred when, for example, the budget variation required relates to an immediate but not on-going need or where the variation took effect for a part of the current year but would be in effect for the whole of future years. Proposed virements were set out in the following table:

Period	Service	Key	Amount current year (£'000)	Full year Amount (£'000)	Description
5	Social Services	Rev	171	158	Additional income for Substance Misuse from PCT's of £80k, £40k Pooled Treatment of Care Packages, Alcohol Misuse £27k, £11k estimation of the client contribution for the year. One off income from NE London NHS £13k.
5	Social Services	Rev	218		Development Fund income from Haringey PCT for Learning Difficulties.
5	Children's Services	Ca p*	1,799		NDC grant for Plevna Under 5's Centre and the Triangle Centre on St Ann's Road.
5	Children's Services	Ca p	102		Sure Start grants for the provision of Children's Centres at various sites within Haringey.
5	Environment	Ca p	179		Section 106 funds for Hornsey Regeneration £75k, former BT House £94k and Dagmar Arms Cornwall Road £10k.
5	Environment	Ca p	60		TFL funding for A406 survey works.
5	Children's Services	Ca p	230		LDA funding for Clyde Road Access.
5	Children's Services	Rev	25		LSC grant for transport support arrangements for students aged 16-19.
5	Finance	Rev	22		SRB JUNP Programme evaluation £10k, West Green Programme evaluation £12k.
5	Chief Executive	Rev *	409		DAAT funding £177k, GOL Building Safer Communities -£121k correction, LDA Sub-Regional Partnership £240k, OPDM Beacon, Getting closer to communities £67k. Various other £47k.
5	Chief Executive	Ca p*	389		SRB NP Improving the Public Realm £67k, NDC Manchester Gardens £50k, IEG Grants £150k, GOL Building Safer

					communities £122.
5	Chief Executive	Rev	148	148	Emergency Planning budget & Civil Contingencies Manager transferred from OD&L to Strategy.
5	Chief Executive	Rev *	415		Youth Offending adjustment £62k, Voluntary Sector adj £187k, DOH Learning Resource Centre £56k.
5	Children's Services	Rev	7		Youth Offending adjustments.
5	Children's Services	Rev *	4,490		General Sure Start Grant 2005/06 £2,560k, Children's Centres budget £922k, NNI Budget £1,008k.
5	Chief Executive, Social Services, NSR	Rev	380		Transfer of £380k investment monies agreed by Executive on 14 June 2005 from Strategy re City growth enterprise village to Social Services for adaptations (£320k) and £60k to contingency (NSR)
5	Finance	Cap	3,812		Accommodation strategy funded from sinking fund
5	Finance	Rev	307		Accommodation strategy funded from sinking fund

3. FINANCIAL PLANNING 2006/7 TO 2008/9

3.1 At our meeting on 5 July we considered a comprehensive report on financial strategy for the period 2006/7 to 2008/9 and we agreed a business and budget setting process. At that time the budget was substantially balanced for 2006/7 and 2007/8 with assumed Council Tax increases of 2.5%. For 2008/9 there was a notional budget gap of £3.8 million with an assumed Council Tax increase of 2.5%.

3.2 We considered a report which provided us with an update on financial planning issues and proposed the release of the pre-business plan reviews for consultation and the scrutiny process. We noted that the Government had made several announcements in respect of financial planning issues including deferred timetables for the spending review, Council Tax revaluation and the Lyons review of local government finance. We also noted that the Government was consulting on changes to the revenue grant system which might be damaging to the Council's financial position.

3.3 We were advised that local financial issues were being managed as planned and the pre business plan reviews were scheduled for release to enable consultation and the budget scrutiny process. A number of amendments to the capital programme were also proposed in response to recent developments.

3.4 We report that we noted the updates on the national and local financial planning issues and agreed to the release of the pre-business plan reviews as recommended. We also approved the following adjustments to the capital programme –

- The sixth form land transaction which had been completed without the anticipated requirement to purchase land not immediately required for the development, with the sum allocated of £3.48 million no longer required for this purpose

- Our decision to market Cooperscroft as a going concern which would create a revenue shortfall of £1 million in 2006/7
- A primary school place programme we agreed which would give rise to a resource shortfall of £2.4 million which would be covered by a review of capital receipts projections including in respect of Children's Services assets or, failing this, from revenue budgets.

4. PROPOSALS FOR THE FUTURE OF THE HORNSEY TOWN HALL COMPLEX

- 4.1 At our meeting in December 2004 we agreed that an evolving partnership approach would be the most effective way to secure and improve Hornsey Town Hall for the benefit of future generations in Haringey. This partnership would bring together community, Council and commercial expertise. We subsequently agreed that a Community Partnership Board (CPB) be set up to work with the Council to review potential uses for the building and to finalise a development brief.
- 4.2 We considered a report which informed us that the CPB had met regularly over the past 6 months and was working with the Council's officers towards the production of a development briefing to set out a viable scheme. We were also informed that decisions needed to be taken in respect of the next stages of the process culminating in the issuing of a development brief to the market. We were advised that, in the meantime, the roof of the Town Hall was in urgent need of repair and the report made proposals about how this should be addressed.
- 4.3 We noted the progress made by the CPB to date and endorsed their key conclusion that an overall solution should be sought for the whole site and that sufficient value could only be generated from commercial development to enable any future community (non-commercial) use, rather than placing entire reliance on significant public sector fund raising. We also noted that there would nevertheless be a vigorous fund raising strategy developed to run in parallel, to access the maximum public sector funding available.
- 4.4 With regard to the question of essential roof repairs, we were also advised that a survey of the roof had been commissioned and the cost of replacement of the roof surfaces and roof windows including scaffolding had been estimated at £582,000. This would be dependent upon formal tender returns, an asbestos survey and an acoustic survey that was to be carried out on the Main Hall. We agreed that any approach to the replacement of the roof must be consistent with potential future uses and, based on our agreed principle of ring-fencing the value from the Hornsey Town Hall complex, we identified the capital receipt from the sale of 7-9 Hatherley Gardens (when vacated by the Citizens Advice Bureau) as a possible source of funding to meet the cost of roof repairs in advance of the main marketing process. In this respect, the Citizens Advice Bureau was being relocated and the site marketed.

Community Involvement

5. REVIEW OF CUSTOMER SERVICES IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

- 5.1 The Council will be aware that our Customer Services strategy is based on four premises, viz:

- Accessing services should be a good quality experience;
- Services should be accessible in one place, which suits the individual;
- The service should be consistent; and
- The service should deliver a result.

5.2 Further, that we had set as our clear aspiration that 80% of initial customer contacts would be through Customer Services and the website with 80% of these being dealt with fully at the first point of contact.

5.3 We considered a report which set out progress in delivering the strategy and presented a revised programme for the on-going delivery of the strategy. We report that in noting the substantial achievement in improving the customer experience in the Call Centre we agreed a revised programme for priorities which we had previously agreed for widening and deepening the Customer Services approach as well as, subject to further scoping, expansion of the Customer Services approach to the following service areas -

Directorate	Business Unit	Business Area
Finance	Audit & Risk Management	Insurance Claims- Leaseholders
Finance	BLT	NNDR
Finance	Corporate Procurement	Procurement
Finance	Property Services	Commercial
The Children's Service	Community & Resources	Adult Learning
The Children's Service	Community & Resources	Early Years & Play – Childcare Information Service
The Children's Service	Community & Resources	Music & Performing Art
The Children's Service	Community & Resources	Youth Services
The Children's Service	Standards & Inclusions	School Governance
Environment	Streetscene	Highways Schemes
Housing	HSN	Housing Registration, Income Recovery, Lettings Team, Temp Accommodation
Chief Executive	OD – Member Services	Training and Information Team
Chief Executive	Libraries	Member Services/ General Enquiries
Chief Executive	OD- Personnel	Personnel
Social Services	Services for Adults and Older People	Initial Contact Service/ Cumberland Road Reception enquiries
Social Services	Services for Older People	Safe & Sound Alarms
Social Services	Services for Older People	Home Care & Meals on Wheels
Social Services	Services for Older People	Elderly Abuse

Enterprise and Regeneration

6. SEVEN SISTERS STATION IMPROVEMENT AND WARDS CORNER REDEVELOPMENT

- 6.1 We considered a report which sought our approval to a Co-operation Agreement with Northumberland & Durham Property Trust Limited as the principal operating company within the Grainger Trust Plc group of companies for securing control of the land interests necessary for Seven Sisters station improvement and redevelopment of the Wards Corner site.
- 6.2 The report also advised us that the proposed redevelopment of Wards Corner and improvement of Seven Sisters Underground Station on behalf of a consortium of public bodies in partnership with a lead developer required steps to be taken to secure the necessary control over the site. We noted that the site was in a declared renewal area, and redevelopment as a landmark mixed use formed part of the Council's strategic planning policies AC3 and AC4. Our approval was also sought in respect of the land assembly arrangements negotiated with the lead partner and in this respect we were informed that a programme of consultation would be undertaken following our decision including by way of a dedicated web-site by the Grainger Trust.
- 6.3 We were also informed that written offers had been made for the acquisition of all the freehold interests in the land required by the Grainger Trust, and its operating subsidiary but the timetable for development was likely to depend on compulsory purchase. The report publicised the arrangements in advance of a report for the making of a compulsory purchase order so that there was transparency about the Council's intentions.
- 6.4 We report that we approved the appointment of the Grainger Trust as the Lead Partner for the proposed redevelopment being published with the support of key stakeholders and the completion of a Co-operation Agreement with Northumberland & Durham Property Trust Limited. We also delegated authority to dispose of the Council's assets by means of an option on terms to the Director of Finance in consultation with the Executive Member for Housing and the Executive Member for Enterprise and Regeneration.

7. THE BRIDGE NEW DEAL FOR COMMUNITIES (NDC) – NEW ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

- 7.1 The Council will be aware that the Bridge NDC is governed by a Partnership Board and that the staff are, in formal terms, employees of the Council. We considered a report which advised us that the programme had been shifting its focus, in line with the agreed delivery plan and Partnership Board decisions, from revenue to capital interventions which necessitated a change in the organisational structure.
- 7.2 Earlier this year the Board appointed a new Director and they would shortly be agreeing a revised structure. In order to finalise the structure the Council's approval was required but as this was a technical decision we considered it appropriate to delegate authority to

approve the revised NDC structure to the Assistant Chief Executive (Access) on the advice of the Partnership Board.

Environment and Conservation

8. NORTH LONDON WASTE DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT

- 8.1 We considered a report which advised us that unitary authorities were required under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 to produce a Waste Development Plan Document (WDPD) for their area. The document needed to be in conformity with the London Plan and with Government guidance in Planning for Sustainable Waste Management (PPS10). The WDPD had to consider commercial and industrial, construction and demolition as well as municipal waste. The WDPD would have to safeguard the sites chosen for new waste facilities.
- 8.2 The Waste Development Plan could be produced as a separate document, or as a joint document with neighbouring authorities and the report recommended a joint document for the seven boroughs within the North London Waste Authority (NLWA) (Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Hackney, Haringey, Islington and Waltham Forest) because this approach was in line with Government guidance, enabled waste and recycling facilities to be shared across boroughs and enabled boroughs to share limited expertise available on waste planning.
- 8.3 The report also set out the process, timescales and costs involved and made recommendations as to how the seven boroughs could work together to produce a joint document. The recommendations in the report were supported by the findings of a scoping study jointly commissioned by the seven boroughs and supported by DEFRA. Our approval was sought to enable preparatory work to be undertaken on a North London Joint Waste Development Plan Document prior to budgetary provision for costs in future years and formal approvals of the WDPD processes by the Planning Applications Sub-Committee.
- 8.4 We report that we approved preliminary work being undertaken in conjunction with the other Boroughs in the North London Waste Authority, with the costs to be contained within current approved budgets prior to budgetary provision being agreed for future years. We also delegated authority to approve a Memorandum of Understanding for the purposes of agreeing detailed arrangements for the production of the joint document to the Director of Environmental Services, in consultation with the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation.
- 8.5 We also noted that a bid would be made in the budget setting process for 2006/07 to 2008/09 to fund the costs of the JWDPD process over the three year period and that further reports would be made to the Planning Applications Sub-Committee to obtain formal approval at each stage in the JWDPD process once budgetary provision had been agreed.

9. HARINGEY OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

- 9.1 We considered a report which advised us that the Haringey Open Space Strategy had drawn upon a range of information, user and organisational input in order to establish a long term vision for open space management and future provision within the Borough. We noted that the document covered the legislative and policy context, an overview of open space in

Haringey, changing demands and best practice, key issues and strategic objectives, which interpreted the 10 year vision which was -

“To enrich the quality of life for everyone in Haringey by working in partnership to provide safe, attractively designed, well used and maintained open spaces for the benefit and enjoyment of the whole community.”

9.2 We had approved the draft strategy in June for consultation purposes and the report provided us with an overview of the consultation process as well as with the views obtained and the changes proposed to the Strategy and Action Plan. We were informed that the key issues and themes to emerge from the consultation process were:

- The need to preserve, protect, maintain and improve open space
- Mapping all open space in the Borough
- The production of standards for provision and supplementary planning guidance
- The importance of maximising the benefits of partnership working/involving all groups and individuals with an interest in open space
- A concern that too much emphasis was being placed on parks rather than other types of open space
- Safety and the need to address user concerns about not feeling safe
- A desire to see greater emphasis placed on sustainability and biodiversity
- Improving allotments
- Providing improved facilities for walking
- The extent of resources available to the Council to implement the Strategy
- The ability of the Council to work effectively across service boundaries to implement the Strategy
- The extent of political commitment to open space
- The potential employment and training benefits associated with open space
- Access for people with disabilities to open space
- Young people’s play and recreation and working with schools
- Valuing the heritage and history of open spaces
- Future demand for burial space

9.5 As identified in the consultation feedback, the level of re-sourcing available to enable implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan would be a key issue. However, a significant number of the recommended actions were already being delivered, or were planned for delivery in 2006/07 in the Environmental Service’s Pre Business Plan Review. In the event that assumed future re-sourcing levels changed, the Action Plan would be reviewed to take account of this. We were also informed that all respondees to the consultation process would be provided with feedback concerning the issues they had raised.

9.6 We report that we adopted the Open Space Strategy and Action Plan a copy of which has been placed in the Members Room.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

10. BOUNDS GREEN SCHOOLS AMALGAMATION

- 10.1 Since last revised in July 2003, Council policy has been broadly in favour of all-through primary schools rather than separate Infant and Junior schools. We have now considered a report which proposed the amalgamation of Bounds Green Infant and Junior Schools into a single all-through primary school.
- 10.2 We noted that although none of the triggers which would normally have led to a review of whether to amalgamate Bounds Green Infant and Junior schools had occurred, a review had nevertheless taken place due to concerns about imminent budgetary difficulties. The review had looked at the potential impact of two changes in school organisation:
- amalgamation;
 - stabilising entry to the schools at 2 forms of entry (60 pupils per year group).
- 10.3 The conclusion of the review had been that both changes would significantly improve the stability of the school provision and the report we considered set out the case in more detail and recommended a timetable.
- 10.4 We noted that the Governing Bodies of the two schools had discussed these conclusions in detail and had agreed that amalgamation was the most likely way forward. We also noted that they had expressed some frustration that they found themselves in this situation and wished to continue exploring the financial situation in more detail. Officers would be working further with them through the consultation period in order to seek answers to their outstanding questions. The Governing Boards had also expressed the view that some premises works would be needed to unite the two existing buildings and discussions on this point would continue although at the time of our meeting no funding had been identified for such works.
- 10.5 We report that we approved the proposal to amalgamate Bounds Green Infant and Junior Schools into an all-through primary school, subject to statutory consultation in accordance with the requirements of the School Standards and Frameworks Act 1996.

11. CONTRACTS WITH PROSPECTS SERVICES LTD. AND CAREERS ENTERPRISE (FUTURES) LTD TO PROVIDE CONNEXIONS NORTH LONDON SERVICES

- 11.1 This matter was the subject of a report to the meeting of the Council held on 14 November 2005.

Health and Social Services

12. ADAPTATIONS SERVICE INVESTMENT PROPOSAL

- 12.1 At our meeting in June 2005 we agreed, in line with a recommendation of the Scrutiny Review of the Adaptations Service, that Social Services as the lead directorate should undertake a review of the Adaptations Service with the aim of achieving a single 'end to end' service involving occupational therapy, equipment and adaptations. At that time we also acknowledged the need for financial investment in this area of activity if performance was to be improved and we recognised that any investment needed to be across the

entire process from the assessment of need through the actual build programme in order to prevent a waiting list simply moving from one service to another.

- 12.2 We considered a report which advised us that a Project Board chaired by the Director of Social Services and with senior representatives from Environmental, Housing and Chief Executives services, had been meeting to consider how to ensure the delivery of the end to end service required. We noted that the Board had received a paper estimating the value of investment required to deliver a significantly improved adaptations service. This work had also identified a waiting list of 400 persons awaiting an assessment by the Occupational Therapy Service.
- 12.3 We also noted that a funding proposal was being submitted through the Council's Pre-business Plan Review (PBPR) process for the financial investment required to address the backlog of people waiting for an assessment as well as those people already assessed but awaiting the allocation of a Disabilities Facility Grant. We were informed of how an investment of £320,000 might be profiled to provide an additional 300 people with the service they required in 2005/06 and we agreed that this sum be made available as a 'one off' investment in the end to end delivery of an adaptation service.