



ISLINGTON

# COUNCIL

## 26 February 2015

### SECOND DESPATCH

**Please find enclosed the following items:**

<b>Item 9a.</b> Proposed amendment to the Budget Proposals 2015-16	1 - 4
<b>Item 12</b> Revised Chief Whip's report	5 - 8

Enquiries to : Philippa Murphy  
Tel : Tel: 020 7527 3184 Email: Philippa.murphy@islington.gov.uk  
Email : democracy@islington.gov.uk



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Report of : Councillor Caroline Russell

Meeting of	Date	Ward(s)
Council	26 February 2015	All
Delete as appropriate	Exempt	Non-exempt

## AMENDMENT TO BUDGET PROPOSALS 2015-16

### 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report amends the 'Budget Proposals 2015-16' report on the main agenda with proposed changes to the 2015-16 General Fund budget and medium term financial strategy (MTFS).

### 2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To agree the 'Budget Proposals 2015-16' report subject to the following, as set out in section 3 of the report;
- i. To agree to the decrease of £111,000 in the Chief Executives Department cash limit and an increase of £323,000 in the Finance and Resources cash limit for 2015-16; the difference to be funded from a one-off drawdown from the Housing Benefit Reserve.

### 3 REVISED GENERAL FUND BUDGET PROPOSALS 2015-16

#### GENERAL FUND REVENUE SAVINGS PROPOSALS

- 3.1 The new revenue savings proposals are explained below:  
**Political Support Officers (£111,000 saving)**
- 3.2 The Council currently has three Political Support Officer posts. It is proposed to remove these posts. Any associated redundancy costs would be funded from the Redundancy Reserve.

## **GENERAL FUND REVENUE GROWTH PROPOSALS**

3.3 The changes to the growth proposals are explained below:

### **Income Maximisation and Take Up Team (£323,000 one-off growth)**

3.4 Increase the team to 18.5 posts by retaining the 6 posts within the Take Up team and reinstating 2 posts in the Income Maximisation (IMAX) Team. The additional investment will help the Council in supporting some of its more vulnerable residents in 2015-16.

3.5 It is proposed to fund the shortfall of £212,000 from the Housing Benefit reserve. It should be noted that it is not sustainable for the reserve to be used on an ongoing basis and this proposal is for 2015-16 only.

3.6 The purpose of the reserve is to mitigate against cash flow risks, between the benefit that the Council pays out and the subsidy it receives on account. In addition to this, the reserve has increased to take into account the reduction in grant and uncertainties relating to the transition to universal credit, the loss of Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) and to supplement the Local Welfare Provision grant. The use of the reserve to fund the shortfall for the Take Up / IMAX team will reduce the funds available to support these areas.

### **Medium-Term Financial Strategy**

3.7 The overall budget requirement for 2015-16 remains unchanged.

## **4 MATTERS TO CONSIDER IN SETTING THE BUDGET**

### **COMMENTS OF THE SECTION 151 OFFICER**

4.1 The Council when determining the budget and thereby the level of council tax must take into account the report of its Section 151 Officer. The report must comment on the robustness of the estimates included in the budget and parallel consideration on the adequacy of the Council's proposed reserves. This section of the report includes consideration of these specific areas and enables the authority to discharge its duty to take account of the statutory report under section 25(2). **These comments are provided in addition to those in the substantive report 'Budget Proposals 2015-16' and relate to the proposals within the Opposition Budget.**

4.2 It is the opinion of the Section 151 Officer that the estimates for 2015-16 have been prepared on a robust basis, and further that where there are uncertainties, for instance on the levels of service demand, that these can be covered by the corporate contingency.

4.3 The Section 151 Officer is required to report to the authority, when it is making the statutory calculations required to determine its council tax, on the estimates included in the budget and the adequacy of the reserves the budget provides for. The level of general balances is set in the context of the prevailing financial climate within local government, the level of risk facing the authority and also the sustained improvement in our financial standing in recent years.

### **COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER**

4.4 In considering whether to adopt the amendments to the budget proposals contained within this report, members should have regard to the considerations set out in the main budget report.

4.5 That being said, these proposals would, if adopted, be lawful.

## 5 RESIDENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 The Equality Act 2010 sets out the requirement for the Council to pay due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act
  - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not
  - Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not
- 5.2 A Resident Impact Assessment (RIA) of the 2015-16 budget is set out at Appendix G. to the 'Budget Proposals 2015-16' report. It is supplemented by detailed RIAs of major proposals at departmental level. These demonstrate that the Council has met its duties under the Equality Act 2010 and the Child Poverty Act 2010.
- 5.3 In addition, the reinstatement of the posts within the Income Maximisation and Take Up Team should benefit those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage.
- 5.4 In all other respects the original Resident Impact Assessment report at Appendix G to the 'Budget Proposals 2015-16' report is still considered valid.

**Background papers:** None

Final Report Clearance

Signed by

.....  
Councillor Caroline Russell

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Date

Received by

.....  
Head of Democratic Services

.....  
Date

Responsible Officers : Mike Curtis, Corporate Director of Finance and Resources

Report Author : Heather Salmon, Strategic Capital Manager

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# ISLINGTON

## COUNCIL MEETING – 26 February 2015

### REVISED REPORT OF THE CHIEF WHIP

#### 1. Appointment of Councillors to political positions

That it be noted that the Labour group have notified that Councillor David Poyser has been elected as a Deputy Chief Whip to replace Councillor Asima Shaikh.

**Recommendation:**

To note that Councillor Poyser has been elected as an Deputy Chief Whip replacing Councillor Shaikh, for the remainder of the municipal year or until a successor is appointed.

#### 2. Appointments to Council Committees:

**Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee**

That Councillors Poyser and Ismail be appointed as members of Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee in place of Councillors Gantly and Shaikh and that Councillor O'Halloran be appointed as Vice Chair, for the remainder of the municipal year or until a successor is appointed.

**Recommendation:**

To agree the appointments of Councillors Poyser and Ismail as members of the Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee and to agree the appointment of Councillor O'Halloran as Vice Chair, for the remainder of the municipal year or until a successor is appointed.

**Health and Care Scrutiny Committee**

That Councillor Turan be appointed as a member of the Health and Care Scrutiny Committee in place of Councillor Comer-Schwartz, for the remainder of the municipal year or until a successor is appointed.

**Recommendation:**

To agree the appointment of Councillor Turan as a member of the Health Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of the municipal year or until a successor is appointed.

### **Planning Committee**

That Councillor Ismail be appointed as a member of the Planning Committee in place of Councillor Kay, for the remainder of the municipal year or until a successor is appointed.

#### **Recommendation:**

To agree the appointment of Councillor Ismail as a member of Planning Committee for the remainder of the municipal year or until a successor is appointed.

### **Standards Committee**

That Councillor Poyser be appointed as a member of Standards Committee in place of Councillor Shaikh for the remainder of the municipal year or until a successor is appointed.

#### **Recommendation:**

To agree the appointment of Councillor Poyser as a member of Standards Committee for the remainder of the municipal year or until a successor is appointed.

### **Health and Wellbeing Board**

To appoint Wendy Wallace, Chief Executive, Camden and Islington NHS Foundation Trust and Simon Pleydell, Chief Executive, The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust as non-voting members of the Health and Wellbeing Board with immediate effect, for one year or until successors are appointed.

#### **Recommendation:**

To agree the appointment of Wendy Wallace, Chief Executive, Camden and Islington NHS Foundation Trust and Simon Pleydell, Chief Executive, The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust as non-voting members of the Health and Wellbeing Board with immediate effect, for one year or until successors are appointed.

## **3. Appointments to Outside Bodies:**

### **Appointment to St Mary Magdalen Academy**

That Councillor Angela Picknell be appointed as the LEA Governor for St Mary Magdalen Academy for a period of four years.

#### **Recommendation:**

To agree the appointment of Councillor Angela Picknell to be the LEA Governor for St Mary Magdalen Academy for a period of four years or until a successor is appointed.

### **Islington Community Covenant Grant Schemes Panel**

That Councillor Asima Shaikh be appointed to replace Councillor Rakhia Ismail with immediate effect.

#### **Recommendation:**

To agree the appointment of Councillor Asima Shaikh to the Islington Community Covenant Grants Schemes Panel for the remainder of the municipal year or until a successor is appointed.



**Cross River Partnership**

That Councillor Asima Shaikh be appointed to replace Councillor Joe Calouri with immediate effect.

**Recommendation:**

To agree the appointment of Councillor Asima Shaikh to the Cross River Partnership for the remainder of the municipal year or until a successor is appointed.

**Greater London Enterprise (GLE)**

That Councillor Asima Shaikh be appointed to replace Councillor Richard Watts with immediate effect.

**Recommendation:**

To agree the appointment of Councillor Asima Shaikh to Greater London Enterprise (GLE) for the remainder of the municipal year or until a successor is appointed.

**COUNCILLOR ALICE PERRY**  
**Chief Whip**

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