

London Borough of Islington

Executive - 10 March 2016

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive held at the Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on 10 March 2016 at 7.30 pm.

Present: **Councillors:** Watts, Burgess, Caluori, Convery, Murray, Webbe and Shaikh

Councillor Richard Watts in the Chair

249 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
Received from Councillor Andy Hull.

250 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
None.

251 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and the Chair be authorised to sign them.

252 **FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31ST JANUARY 2016**

In the absence of the Executive Member for Finance and Performance, the report was introduced by the Leader of the Council.

RESOLVED:

(a) That it be noted that the overall forecast revenue outturn for the General Fund was of a £3.5m overspend and that, in the event of an overall overspend at the end of the financial year, this would be funded from the one-off corporate contingency reserve of £3.5m in the first instance.

(b) That the new waste services charges, detailed in paragraph 4.6 of the report of the Executive Member for Finance and Performance, to be introduced with effect from 1st April 2016, be approved.

(c) That it be noted that the HRA was forecast to break-even over the financial year.

(d) That the latest capital position, with forecast capital expenditure of £96.7m in 2015-16, and detailed in paragraph 6 of the report, be noted.

Reasons for decision – to enable members to monitor the budget

Other options considered – none

Conflicts of interest/Any dispensations granted - none

253

BEST TEAM - EXECUTIVE MEMBER'S RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF POLICY AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the responses to the recommendations in the scrutiny review of the Best Team and progress to date, detailed in section 4 of the report of the Leader of the Council, be approved.
- (b) That officers report back on progress to the Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee in one year's time.
- (c) That the Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee and the Policy and Performance Team be thanked for their work on this matter.

Reasons for decision – The new Islington Learning, Skills and Employment Service would offer an improved service to residents.

Other options considered – none

Conflicts of interest/Any dispensations granted - none

254

ISLINGTON ENERGY

RESOLVED:

- (a) That a strategic partnership be agreed with OVO Energy for the marketing of gas and electricity to local residents, as detailed in the report of the Executive Member for Environment and Transport.
- (b) That the Corporate Director of Environment and Regeneration supply information to the member of the public who made the enquiry with details of the other companies who were considered and the criteria used in evaluating those companies.

Reasons for decision – As part of the Council's fuel poverty agenda, the new service will assist in lowering residents' energy bills, will help them cope with the cost of living and allow for warmer homes, thus helping to reduce the impacts of cold, damp, homes and improving health and quality of life.

Other options considered – none

Conflicts of interest/Any dispensations granted - none

255

PROPOSALS IN RELATION TO SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WITH SEVERE AND COMPLEX NEEDS AT LOUGH ROAD

RESOLVED:

- (a) That Islington Council retain the use of Lough Road as a central hub for children with disabilities and their parents, from where a number of key services would continue to be delivered.
- (b) That Lough Road be no longer used as an overnight short break service and that parents who need this type of service be offered access to the provider market for specialist placements so that they may have a choice over which kind of residential respite service might best meet the needs of their child in the future.

(c) That thanks be extended to the Service Manager for Commissioning and Business Support in Children's Services and her Team for their work with parents and stakeholders on this matter and the successful outcome.

Reasons for decision – By remodelling the services and ending overnight short breaks, the Council would be able to deliver the same services to children at a lower cost and extend the provision to fill identified gaps.

Other options considered – none

Conflicts of interest/Any dispensations granted - none

256 **PERMANENT EXPANSION OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

RESOLVED:

(a) That Arts and Media School Islington, Central Foundation, Highbury Grove and St Mary Magdalene Schools be permanently expanded from September 2018, with Arts and Media School Islington and St Mary Magdalene School temporarily expanding from September 2017.

(b) That the mix between boys' and girls' places in other schools in the Borough be reviewed, as recommended from the consultation responses, including the possibility of exploring the option of changing one of the single sex girls' schools to co-educational.

(c) That the responses to the public consultation, detailed in Appendix A of the report of the Executive Member for Children and Families, be noted.

(d) That it be noted that the construction of a new sixth form building for Highbury Grove School and the expansion proposals for Central Foundation School would be subject to separate planning applications. That it also be noted that the increases at Arts and Media and St Mary Magdalene Schools did not require planning permission.

Reasons for decision – There was concern that, without expansion of some secondary schools, there would be insufficient places for secondary aged pupils in the Borough in the future.

Other options considered – none

Conflicts of interest/Any dispensations granted – Councillors Convery and Watts

257 **ISLINGTON, CAMDEN AND HARINGEY ICT SHARED SERVICE**

In the absence of the Executive Member for Finance and Performance, the report was introduced by the Leader of the Council.

RESOLVED:

(a) That a shared ICT service be established between Islington, Camden and Haringey Councils.

(b) That an executive joint committee be established between the London Boroughs of Islington, Camden and Haringey, to oversee the shared service, with a review of governance arrangements performed within 12 months of its inception.

(c) That it be noted that the terms of reference for the Joint Committee may be approved by the Leader.

- (d) That the Assistant Director (Governance and Human Resources) be authorised to enter into the Joint Committee agreement (as approved by the Leader) and any additional legal documentation necessary for the establishment of the shared ICT service, noting that this did not extend to the establishment of any future commercial governance arrangement or operating models, which would require separate member approval.
- (e) That it be noted that Islington's maximum contribution to the cost of change budget would remain at £2.5m, with the same level of contribution applying to all three councils, leading to a maximum total cost of change budget of £7.5m to support the transition across the three boroughs.
- (f) That it be noted that the minimum level of savings expected for Islington and the two other boroughs is initially £2m per borough per annum, but that there is a clear intention to maximise the opportunity of the shared service to deliver in excess of £6m per annum savings over time.
- (g) That it be noted that costs and savings for the core service offering will be shared on an equal basis between the three boroughs, subject to due diligence, and that any variation should be agreed by Finance Directors.

Reasons for decision – The Society of Information Technology Management review had supported the rationale for a three-council ICT shared service. Finance Directors at the three councils were satisfied that the proposals were in the interests of their respective councils and that greater savings than those previously envisaged could be generated.

Other options considered – none

Conflicts of interest/Any dispensations granted - none

258 **SUMMARY OF ACTION TAKEN BY OFFICERS**

RESOLVED:

That the report of the Assistant Chief Executive, Governance and Human Resources, detailing an urgent decision taken by the Corporate Director of Children's Services to award a contract for the Dowrey Street redevelopment, be noted.

Reasons for decision – Requirement of the Constitution.

Other options considered – none

Conflicts of interest/Any dispensations granted – none

259 **PROCUREMENT STRATEGY FOR SUPPORTED LIVING ACCOMMODATION FOR SERVICE USERS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES (MEDIUM TO HIGH COMPLEX, PHYSICAL AND SENSORY NEEDS)**

RESOLVED:

That the procurement strategy for care and support for service users at Anson Road and Tollington Way, detailed in the report of the Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing, be approved.

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Reasons for decision – The current care and support contract was due to finish in December 2016 and a new provider needed to be appointed to take up the service from 1 January 2017.

Other options considered – none

Conflicts of interest/Any dispensations granted - none

The meeting closed at 7.52pm.