

London Borough of Islington

Executive - 1 February 2018

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive held at Committee Room 4, Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on 1 February 2018 at 7.00 pm.

Present: **Councillors:** Watts, Burgess, Caluori, Comer-Schwartz, Hull, Shaikh, Ward and Webbe

Councillor Richard Watts in the Chair

484 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

485 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

486 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting on 4 January 2018 be confirmed as a correct record and the Chair be authorised to sign them.

487 BUDGET PROPOSALS 2018-19

RESOLVED:

General Fund Budget 2018-19 and MTFs (Section 3 of the Main Report)

- 2.1. That the 2018-19 net Council cash limits as set out in Table 1, paragraph 3.1.4 of the report, and the MTFs at Appendix A of the report, which include the revenue savings at Appendix B of the report, be agreed.
- 2.2. That the growth of £0.8m on supporting over-5s childcare, after-school childcare and holiday childcare, plus tackling holiday hunger, paragraph 3.1.5 - 3.1.7 of the report, be agreed.
- 2.3. That the fees and charges policy be noted and the 2018-19 fees and charges, paragraphs 3.2.4 - 3.2.5 and Appendices C1 - C3 of the report, be agreed.
- 2.4. That the Council's policy on the level of General Fund balances be agreed and that the estimated level of earmarked reserves and general balance available for use in 2018-19, paragraphs 3.2.6 - 3.2.8 and Table 2 of the report, be noted.

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HRA Budget 2018-19 and MTFs (Section 4 of the Main Report)

- 2.5. That the balanced HRA 2018-19 budget within the HRA MTFs, at Appendix D1 of the report, be agreed.
- 2.6. That the 2018-19 HRA rents and other fees and charges, Tables 4 - 7 and Appendix D2 of the report, be noted.

Capital Programme 2018-21 (Section 5 of the Main Report)

- 2.7. That the 2018-19 capital programme, paragraph 5.1, Table 8 and Appendix E1 of the report, be agreed and the provisional programme for 2019-21, paragraph 5.1, Table 8 and Appendix E1 of the report, be noted.
- 2.8. That the Corporate Director Resources applies capital resources to fund the capital programme in the most cost-effective way, paragraph 5.2 of the report, be agreed.
- 2.9. That the schedule of planned Traffic and Transportation schemes in 2018-19, paragraph 5.3 and Appendix E2 of the report, be noted and that the related decision making responsibilities for these schemes, paragraph 5.3 and Appendix E2 of the report, be agreed.

Treasury Management Strategy (Section 6 of the Main Report)

- 2.10. That the Annual Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2018-19 (including external debt and treasury management Prudential Indicators), as considered by Audit Committee on 23rd January 2018, paragraph 6.1 and Appendix F1 of the report, be agreed.
- 2.11. That the additional capital Prudential Indicators (paragraph 6.1 and Appendix F2 of the report, be agreed.
- 2.12. That the minimum revenue provision (MRP) policy, paragraphs 6.2 to 6.7 of the report, be agreed.

Council Tax and Retained Business Rates 2018-19 (Section 7 of the Main Report)

- 2.13. That the calculations required for the determination of the 2018-19 council tax requirement and the level of council tax as detailed in Section 7 of the report and summarised below, be agreed:
 - 1) The 2018-19 council tax requirement of £88,763,542.91, paragraph 7.9 of the report.
 - 2) The relevant basic amount of Islington Band D council tax of £1,135.44, a 5.99% increase (comprising a 3.00% adult social care precept and a 2.99% core council tax increase) compared to 2017-18, and to determine that this is not 'excessive', paragraphs 7.10 and 7.11 of the report.
 - 3) The basic amount of Islington Band D council tax for dwellings to which no special item relates (i.e. outside of the Lloyd Square Garden Committee area) of £1,135.22 and total Band D council tax (including the GLA precept) of £1,429.44, paragraphs 7.12 and 7.16 of the report.
 - 4) The amount of 2018-19 council tax (excluding the GLA precept) for each valuation band over each of the Council's areas, paragraph 7.14, of the report.
 - 5) The total amount of 2018-19 council tax (including the GLA precept) for each valuation band over each of the Council's areas, paragraph 7.16, of the report.

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- 2.14. That a new class of council tax charge payer known as Foster Carer be agreed and that the implementation of a new Foster Carer Relief scheme from 1st April 2018, to reduce the full council tax liability to nil of every Islington household for the period where the household includes an approved foster carer (including foster carers living in Islington who are registered with other local authorities or approved agencies), paragraphs 7.4 - 7.6 of the report, be agreed.
- 2.15. That Shared Lives carers living in Islington be included within the new Foster Carer Relief Scheme, paragraph 7.7 of the report, be agreed.
- 2.16. That the existing council tax relief scheme for care leavers be amended to cover the full council tax liability from 1st April 2018, paragraph 7.8 of the report, be agreed.
- 2.17. That the following recommendations in relation to the Council's proposed participation in the London Business Rates Pilot Pool, paragraphs 7.17 to 7.22 of the report, be agreed.
- 2.18. That the designation by the Secretary of State as an authority within the London Business Rates Pilot Pool pursuant to 34(7)(1) of Schedule 7B Local Government Finance Act 1988, be approved and accepted, be agreed.
- 2.19. That participation in the London Business Rates Pilot Pool with effect from 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019, be agreed.
- 2.20. That authority to undertake the authority's administrative functions as a billing authority pursuant to the Non-Domestic Rating (Rates Retention) Regulations 2013 be delegated to the City of London Corporation ("COLC") acting as the Lead Authority be agreed.
- 2.21. That the Lead Authority be authorised to sub-contract certain ancillary administrative functions regarding the financial transactions (payment of tariffs and top-ups) within the Pool to the GLA as it considers expedient, be agreed.
- 2.22. That authority be delegated to the Corporate Director Resources, in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance, Performance and Community Safety, to agree the operational details of the pooling arrangements with the participating authorities, be agreed.
- 2.23. That Corporate Director Resources, in consultation with the Acting Director of Law and Governance, be authorised to make any amendments to the Memorandum of Understanding, attached at Appendix G to the report, as may be required by the Secretary of State, and to enter into the final Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the authority, be agreed.
- 2.24. To authorise the Leader of the Council to represent the authority in relation to consultations regarding the London Business Rates Pilot Pool as may be undertaken by the Lead Authority pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding.
- 2.25. That authority be delegated to the Corporate Director Resources, in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance, Performance and Community Safety, to consider such consultative reports as the Lead Authority may circulate and to respond on behalf of the authority with regard to any recommendations and in particular, proposals for projects to be approved for funding from the Strategic Investment Pot, be agreed.
- 2.26. That authority be delegated to the Lead Authority to undertake the functions of assessment, due consultation and approval of projects eligible for funding from the Pool's Strategic Investment Pot following consultation with the participating authorities (provided that at least two thirds of such participating London Boroughs are (including the City of London Corporation) in favour of the relevant recommendation as well as the Mayor of London, and that no entire sub-region is in disagreement with the decision) on such terms and conditions as shall ensure value for money and compliance with the law, be agreed.

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- 2.27. That authority be delegated to the Corporate Director Resources to finalise the Council's estimated retained business rates in 2018-19 based on the final Pool model that will determine the amounts to be distributed by the pool in 2018-19, and to transfer any additional estimated retained business rates in 2018-19 to a new, earmarked 'NNDR Smoothing Reserve' until it is more certain for budgeting purposes, be agreed.

Matters to Consider in Setting the Budget (Section 8 of the Main Report)

- 2.28. That the Section 151 Officer's and the Monitoring Officer's comments in their determination of the revenue and capital budgets for 2018-19 and the basis for the level of council tax, including the Section 151 Officer's report in relation to his responsibilities under Section 25 (2) of the Local Government Act 2003, be noted.
- 2.29. That the Resident Impact Assessment (RIA) on the 2018-19 budget, Appendix H of the report, be noted.
- 2.30. That the Pay Policy Statement for 2018-19, at Appendix I of the report, be agreed.

Additional Recommendation:

- 2.31. The authority be delegated to the Corporate Director of Resources, in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance, Performance and Community Safety, to make any changes to the budget proposals contained within the report that are necessitated by the final Local Government Finance Settlement, confirmation of Levies and the GLA precept, be agreed.

Reason for decision – to allow Councillors to set a balanced budget.
Other options considered – none other than as specified in the report.
Conflicts of interest/dispensations granted – none.

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COMMENTS FROM THE POLICY AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET PROPOSALS 2018-19

RESOLVED:

- 2.1 That the comments of the Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee outlined in point 3 below and the committee's support of the budget proposals be noted.
- 2.2 That an investigation of the position with regard to the rent-raising powers of registered providers, and any flexibility in terms of the implementation of new rents in Islington, in the light of the current rent restrictions on Local Authorities, be agreed.

Reason for decision – to allow Councillors to consider the comments of the Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee in setting the budget.
Other options considered – none other than as specified in the report.
Conflicts of interest/dispensations granted – none.

489 **FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2017**

RESOLVED:

- 2.1 That the forecast revenue outturn for the General Fund (Table 1) of a gross overspend of £6.2m, including corporate items, paragraph 3.1 of the report, be noted.
- 2.2 That the actions to reduce the forecast gross General Fund overspend, and that any remaining overspend at year-end will be covered by drawing down from corporate contingency budgets in the first instance, Section 4, paragraph 3.3 of the report, be noted.
- 2.3 That the breakdown of the forecast General Fund outturn by individual variance at Appendix 1 and by service area at Appendix 2 of the report, be noted.
- 2.4 That the HRA forecast is a break-even position, Section 5, Table 1 of the report, be noted.
- 2.5 That the latest capital position with forecast capital expenditure of £105.6m in 2017-18, Section 6, Table 2, and Appendix 3 of the report, be noted.

Reason for decision – to allow Councillors to monitor the budget.

Other options considered – none other than as specified in the report.

Conflicts of interest/dispensations granted – none

490 **BUSINESS RATES - THE DETERMINATION OF THE REVALUATION RELIEF AWARDS FOR 2018/2019**

RESOLVED:

- 2.1 That the award of Revaluation Relief in 2018/2019, by applying a discount to businesses' bills that is broadly equivalent to forward capping the increases in businesses' notional 2019/20 bills (after transitional relief) to no more than 5% for micro businesses and 10% for small businesses and that no further capping for medium sized businesses (i.e. no further relief offered for this size of business), be agreed.
- 2.3 That the Corporate Director of Resources, in consultation with the Executive Member for Economic Development, be authorised to vary the discounts and/or make individual awards of relief, if it appears that there will be unspent funds at the end of the financial year, be agreed.
- 2.4 That the Corporate Director of Resources, in consultation with the Executive Member for Economic Development, be authorised to adjust scheme awards proportionately or stop applications so as not to exceed the funding provided by government and to assess further awards of relief by reference to the sum that remains available, be agreed.
- 2.5 That the award of Pub Relief of up to £1,000 to qualifying public houses in

occupation of premises which have a Rateable Value of less than £100,000 for the financial year 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019 be agreed and that for every year thereafter that the government provides funding for this relief, it continue to be awarded at the level of any funding provided, unless there is proper reason to reverse it, as advised by officers, be agreed.

Reason for decision – To enable the distribution of Rate Revaluation Relief.

Other options considered – none other than as specified in the report.

Conflicts of interest/dispensations granted – none

491 CARBON OFFSET FUND ALLOCATIONS

RESOLVED:

- 2.1 That the allocations of Section 106 Carbon Offset funds as detailed in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report be agreed.

Reason for decision – to allocate the fund and therefore mitigate the impacts of new development by reducing carbon emissions and contributing to tackling fuel poverty.

Other options considered – none other than as specified in the report.

Conflicts of interest/dispensations granted – none

492 TRIANGLE ESTATE - APPLICATION FOR COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER IN RESPECT OF LEASEHOLD AND COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES

RESOLVED:

- 2.1 That the Corporate Director for Resources, in consultation with the Executive Member for Housing and Development and the Corporate Director for Housing and Adult Social Services, be authorised to take all necessary steps, including the making of Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPO) under section 226(1)(a) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, General Vesting Declarations or Notices to Treat, to ensure that the leasehold and any other interests in the properties described in Table 2.1 below, where attempts to negotiate a voluntary acquisition of the leasehold interest in accordance with the development timetable have failed, be agreed.

Table 2.1

Address of premises				Interest to be acquired
Number	Estate / Commercial	Street	Postcode	
49	The Triangle	Compton Street	EC1C 0AG	Residential long leasehold
1	Cafe	Goswell Road	EC1V 7JY	a. Commercial Head lease; and b. Commercial Sub-Lease

- 2.2 That where the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources approves the making of a CPO, the Acting Director of Law and Governance be authorised to take all necessary steps to secure the making, confirmation and implementation of the CPO including the approval of agreements with the owners and any objectors for the withdrawal of objections to the CPO, the settling of compensation and the acquisition of all interests in the properties on terms recommended by the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources, be agreed.
- 2.3 That the use of CPO powers in respect of the properties identified in this report is being exercised after balancing the rights of the individual property owners with the requirement to obtain possession of the properties in the public interest, be agreed.
- 2.4 That the interference with the human rights of the property owners affected by the proposals in this report, and in particular their rights to a home and to the ownership of property, is proportionate, given their rights to object and to compensation, and the benefit to the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the areas of Islington affected by these proposals, be agreed.

Reason for decision – to enable the development of 54 new homes, 27 of which will be for social rent.

Other options considered – none other than as specified in the report.

Conflicts of interest/dispensations granted – none

493 SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2019/2020

RESOLVED:

- 2.1 That the co-ordinated schemes and timetables for admission to Islington primary and secondary schools and academies in 2019/20, and in-year admission protocols for 2019/20, as set out in Appendices 1, 4 and 7 of the report be agreed.
- 2.2 That the policy and oversubscription criteria for admission to community primary and secondary schools and Islington Sixth Form Consortium for admission in 2019/20, as set out in Appendices 2, 5, 8 and 9 of the report be agreed.
- 2.3 That the proposed admission numbers for Islington community primary and secondary schools, and for external applicants to the Islington Sixth Form Consortium in 2019/20, as set out in Appendices 3, 6 and 10 of the report be agreed.

Reason for decision – to meet the requirements of the Schools Admission Code 2014.

Other options considered – none other than as specified in the report.

Conflicts of interest/dispensations granted – none

CHAIR
MEETING CLOSED AT 7.35 pm

