

London Borough of Islington

**Executive - 6 February 2020**

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive held at Committee Room 4, Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD - Islington Town Hall on 6 February 2020 at 7.00 pm.

**Present:**           **Councillors:**   Watts, Burgess, Champion, Comer-Schwartz, Hull, O'Halloran, Shaikh and Ward.

**Also Present:**   **Councillors:**   Russell.

**Councillor Richard Watts in the Chair**

**684     APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

**685     DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Burgess and Councillor O'Halloran declared personal interests in relation to agenda item E10, School Admission Arrangements, as they are both governors of schools in one of the Planning Areas identified in the report. Councillor Ward also declared a personal interest in relation agenda item E10, School Admission Arrangements, as he is also a governor of an Islington School, although it is not within one of the Planning Areas identified in the report.

**686     MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

That the Minutes of the meeting on 16 January 2020 be agreed as a correct record and the Chair be authorised to sign them.

**687     FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019**  
**RESOLVED:**

- 2.1** That the forecast revenue outturn for the General Fund (Table 1) of an overall underspend of (-£1.973m) compared to a forecast underspend of (-£2.572m) in the previous reported position (Section 3 of the report) be noted.
- 2.2** That management action is required over the course of the financial year to bring forecast overspends back to within agreed cash limited budgets where possible (Paragraph 3.2 of the report) be noted.
- 2.3** That the breakdown of the forecast General Fund outturn by individual variance at Appendix 1 of the report and by service area at Appendix 2

of the report, be noted.

- 2.4 That the schedule of additional budget risks that are not included in the current forecasts (Paragraph 3.3 and Appendix 3 of the report) be noted.
- 2.5 That the latest position on the delivery of agreed 2019/20 savings (including the significant risks around the ongoing delivery of Red/Amber rated savings in future financial years) and the earmarked corporate transformation reserve (Paragraphs 5.2-5.3 and Table 2 of the report) be noted.
- 2.6 That the HRA forecast is a net break-even position (Table 1 and Appendix 2 of the report) be noted.
- 2.7 That the latest capital position and key capital variances with forecast capital expenditure of £131.873m in 2019/20 against the existing 2019/20 capital budget of £155.107m (Section 7, Table 3, and Appendix 4 of the report) be noted.

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

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

Conflicts of interest/dispensations granted – none.

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## **BUDGET PROPOSALS 2021-2022**

### **RESOLVED:**

#### **The General Fund Budget 2020/21 and MTFs (Section 3)**

- 1.1 That the assumed MTFs and budget gap, subject to the comments of the Acting Section 151 Officer in Section 7 regarding the additional medium-term budget risks that are not currently factored into the budget gap (paragraph 3.6, Table 1 and Appendix A of the report) be noted.
- 1.2 That the revised 2020/21 to 2022/23 savings and income generation programme (paragraph 3.18 and Appendix B of the report) and the revenue budget growth and additional/expanded service provision funded from existing budgets and external funding (paragraphs 3.22-3.23, Table 5 and Appendices C1-C2 of the report) be agreed and recommended to Council.
- 1.3 That there are significant risks around the savings currently assumed in the MTFs and that a risk-based review of all assumed savings is currently underway and will feed into the next refresh of budget assumptions at the outset of the 2021/22 budget setting process (paragraphs 3.19-3.21 of the report) be noted.

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- 1.4 That the 2020/21 net budgets by directorate (paragraph 3.24, Table 7 and Appendix A of the report) be agreed and recommended to Council.
- 1.5 That the variables that could still significantly affect the 2020/21 budget (paragraph 3.25 of the report) be noted.
- 1.6 That the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) settlement for 2020/21 and related funding assumptions (paragraphs 3.26-3.33 of the report) be noted.
- 1.7 That the 2020/21 fees and charges (paragraphs 3.34-3.36 and Appendices D1-D4 of the report) be noted.
- 1.8 That the budgeted movements to/from earmarked reserves assumed as part of the 2020/21 revenue budget and to note the policy on the minimum target level of General Fund balances (paragraphs 3.38-3.40 and Table 8 of the report) be agreed.
- 1.9 That if there any advantageous changes to 2020/21 budget assumptions before finalising the budget report to Council on 27 February 2020 and/or an overall underspend on the General Fund budget at the end of the current 2019/20 financial year, that this should be used to increase the corporate contingency budget and/or General Fund balances (paragraph 7.11 of the report) be agreed and recommended to Council.

### **The HRA Budget and MTFS (Section 4)**

- 1.10 That the balanced HRA 2020/21 budget and note the latest estimates over the 3-year MTFS period (paragraph 4.3 and Appendix E1 of the report) be agreed.
- 1.11 That the 2020/21 HRA rents and other fees and charges (Tables 10-13 and Appendix E2 of the report) be agreed.

### **Capital Investment and Treasury and Investment Management (Section 5)**

- 1.13 That the 2020/21 to 2022/23 capital programme (Paragraph 5.1, Table 14 and Appendix F of the report) be agreed and recommended to Council.
- 1.14 That further work will be required to allocate the additional capital investment pot and that a revised capital programme will be set out in a report to Council during 2020/21 (Paragraph 5.4 of the report) be noted.
- 1.15 To authority be delegated to the Section 151 Officer, where necessary, to apply capital resources to fund the capital programme in the most cost-effective way for the Council (Paragraph 5.6 of the report) be agreed.

- 1.16 That the annual Treasury Management Strategy for 2020/21, which was considered by Audit Committee on 28 January 2020 (paragraph 5.7 and Appendices G1-G3 of the report) be agreed and recommended to Council.
- 1.17 That the additional appendices relating to the Council's Capital Strategy, in compliance with the requirements of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities, and the Investment Strategy disclosures required by the Statutory Guidance on Local Government Investments will be included in the within the final budget report to Council on 27 February 2020 (Paragraph 5.8 of the report) be noted.

### **Council Tax and Retained Business Rates (Section 6)**

- 1.18 That the calculations required for the determination of the 2020/21 council tax requirement and the level of council tax as detailed in Section 6 of the report and summarised below be agreed and recommended to Council.
- 1) The 2020/21 council tax requirement of £98,768,282.10 (paragraph 6.2 of the report)
  - 2) The relevant basic amount of Islington Band D council tax of £1,216.04, a 3.99% increase compared to 2019/20 (comprising 2.00% for expenditure on adult social care and 1.99% for other expenditure), and that this is not 'excessive' (paragraphs 6.3 and 6.4 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 £1,215.81 (paragraph 6.5 of the report)
  - 4) The amount of 2020/21 council tax (excluding the GLA precept) for each valuation band over each of the Council's areas (paragraph 6.7 of the report)
  - 5) The total amount of 2020/21 council tax (including the GLA precept) for each valuation band over each of the Council's areas (paragraph 6.9 of the report)
- 1.19 That the arrangements for the London Business Rates Retention Pool in 2020/21, which will continue on a non-pilot basis (paragraphs 6.10-6.13 of the report) be noted.
- 1.20 That any additional estimated retained business rates income in 2020/21 before finalising the budget report to Council on 27 February 2020 should be used to further increase General Fund balances (paragraph 6.14 of the report) be agreed and recommended to Council.

### **Matters to Consider in Setting the Budget (Section 7)**

- 1.21 That the Acting Section 151 Officer's report on the robustness of the estimates included in the budget and the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves when making decisions about the budget and the level of council tax, as required under Section 25(2) of the Local Government Act 2003 (paragraphs 7.1-7.11 of the report) be noted.
- 1.22 That the comments of the Monitoring Officer (paragraphs 7.12-7.16 of the report) be noted.
- 1.23 That the Resident Impact Assessment (RIA) on the budget proposals (paragraphs 7.17-7.19 and Appendix H of the report) be noted.

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

**689**      **COMMENTS BY THE POLICY AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET PROPOSALS 2020/21**

Councillor Watts welcomed the comments of the Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee and thanked the committee for its work on the budget.

**RESOLVED:**

- 2.1 That the comments of the Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee be noted.

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

**690**      **MONITORING THE COUNCIL'S USE OF SURVEILLANCE UNDER THE REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000 AND POLICY UPDATE**

**RESOLVED:**

- 2.1 That the level of directed surveillance undertaken by the council and the recent legal developments be noted.
- 2.2 That the updated RIPA policy and covert surveillance procedural notes be agreed.

Reason for decision – to allow members to monitor the use of directed surveillance and to agree the new policy.  
Other options considered – none other than as specified in the report.  
Conflicts of interest/dispensations granted – none.

**691**      **EXECUTIVE MEMBER'S RESPONSE TO THE HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE'S RESPONSIVE REPAIRS SCRUTINY**

**RESOLVED:**

- 2.1      That the responses to the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee as set out in section 4 of this report be agreed.
- 2.2      That officers report back on progress the Housing Scrutiny Committee in 12 months' time be agreed.

Reason for decision – to respond to the recommendations of the Housing Scrutiny Committee.

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

Conflicts of interest/dispensations granted – none.

**692**      **CONTRACT AWARD FOR FRONT ENTRANCE DOOR REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME**

**RESOLVED:**

- 2.1      That the procurement strategy for Works to Fire Doors (flat front entrance doors in purpose built blocks) as outlined in this report be agreed.
- 2.2      That a call-off contract be awarded to Mears Plc via the ProcurePlus framework agreement for "Fire Precaution Works (South)" be agreed.

Reason for decision – to enable implementation of the programme to replace front doors.

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

Conflicts of interest/dispensations granted – none.

**693**      **PROCUREMENT STRATEGY FOR CCTV**

**RESOLVED:**

- 2.1      That the procurement strategy for CCTV Service Provision as outlined in this report be agreed.
- 2.2      That a collaborative procurement with Hounslow (lead authority), Ealing and Southwark to establish a suitable framework agreement be agreed.

- 2.3 That authority to award a call-off contract be delegated to the Corporate Director of Environment and Regeneration, in consultation with the Executive member for Finance, Performance and Community Safety be agreed.

Reason for decision – to enable new arrangements for CCTV to be put in place. Other options considered – none other than as specified in the report. Conflicts of interest/dispensations granted – none.

**694 SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2021-22**

Councillor Burgess and Councillor O'Halloran declared personal interests in relation to agenda item E10, School Admission Arrangements, as they are both governors of schools in one of the Planning Areas identified in the report. Councillor Burgess and Councillor O'Halloran left the room for the consideration of this item and did not vote.

Councillor Ward also declared a personal interest in relation agenda item E10, School Admission Arrangements, as he is also a governor of an Islington School, although it is not within one of the Planning Areas identified in the report.

**RESOLVED:**

- 2.1 That the co-ordinated schemes and timetables for admission to Islington primary and secondary schools and academies in 2021/22, and in-year admission protocols for 2021/22, 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 2021/22, 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 2021/22, as set out in Appendices 3, 6 and 10 of the report be agreed.

Reason for decision – to meet the statutory requirement to agree a school admissions policy.

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

Conflicts of interest/dispensations granted – none.

**695 NEW LEASE AT 49-59 OLD STREET, LONDON, EC1V.**

**RESOLVED:**

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- 2.1 That the proposal to dispose of the Property by way of an initial 10 year lease to a serviced office provider on the terms set out in the Heads of Terms (attached as exempt Appendix 1 to the report) be agreed.
- 2.2 That authority be delegated to the Acting Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance, Performance and Community Safety to negotiate and agree the detailed final terms of the transaction including any amendment to the attached Heads of Terms be agreed.
- 2.3 That the Acting Director of Law & Governance be authorised to complete the necessary paperwork to conclude the proposed letting be agreed.

Reason for decision – to enable the lease arrangements to proceed.  
Other options considered – none other than as detailed in the report.  
Conflicts of interest/dispensations granted – none.

**696 NEW LEASE 49-59 OLD STREET, LONDON, - EXEMPT APPENDIX**

**RESOLVED:**

That the information in the exempt appendix to agenda item I12 be noted (see Minute 695 for details).

MEETING CLOSED AT 7.25 pm

CHAIR