

London Borough of Islington

Executive - 16 July 2020

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive held via Zoom on 16 July 2020 at 7.00 pm.

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

Councillor Richard Watts in the Chair

737 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

738 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

739 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 18 June 2020 be agreed as a correct record and the Chair be authorised to sign them.

740 BUDGET MONITORING REPORT AND FUNDING ALLOCATION

RESOLVED:

- (i) 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.
- (ii) That it be noted that, after the application of COVID-19 government grant funding, there is a forecast net General Fund overspend of (+£24.496m) in 2020/21, (Section 3 and Table 1 of the report).
- (iii) That the council is facing total COVID-19 related budget pressures of around £62m, and after government grants received to date, a net gap of around £47m (including HRA and potential council tax and business rates income losses), be noted (Paragraph 3.2 of the report).
- (iv) That departments undertake a detailed review of their budgets to assess further scope to reduce COVID-19 budget pressures and/or

deliver underspends in other areas be agreed (Paragraph 3.5 of the report).

- (v) That the Public Health and homelessness grants prior year balances in earmarked reserves be allocated against the forecast General Fund overspend, where permissible within the terms of the original grants, be agreed (Paragraphs 4.10 and 4.23 of the report).
- (vi) That departmental cash limits be adjusted to reflect the latest re-profiling of savings, and to regularise any ongoing directorate underspends declared in this report, be agreed (Paragraph 4.32, Table 2 and Appendix 3 of the report).
- (vii) That the forecast in-year HRA deficit of (+£5.490m) be noted (Section 5 and Appendix 2).
- (viii) That the decision for Partners to repay the senior debt on the first housing PFI contract (PFI1) be delegated to the Corporate Director of Housing in consultation with the Corporate Director of Resources and the Executive Member for Housing and Development (Paragraph 5.4 of the report).
- (ix) That the latest 2020/21 to 2022/23 capital programme be noted, and pending more detailed review on an individual scheme basis, that it be noted that the COVID-19 crisis is expected to lead to slippage of at least 20% of the 2020/21 capital programme to future financial years (Section 6, Table 3 and Appendix 4 of the report).

Reason for decision – in order to improve the financial resilience of the council.

Other options considered - none.

Conflicts of interest/dispensations granted – none.

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STREET PROPERTIES MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the outcome of the consultation on the service delivery options following the expiry of the PFI 2 contract with Partners be noted;
- (i) That, having considered the outcome of the residents' consultation and after taking into account the other considerations set out in the report, it be agreed that services currently provided by Partners under the PFI2 contract should be provided directly by the council on expiry of the contract.

Reason for decision – To ensure a quality service is provided to residents and to deliver value for money through economies of scale.

Other options considered – as specified in the report, the council also considered a competitive tender process, and a combination of in-house service provision and procurement of a new service provider for the remaining services.

Conflicts of interest/dispensations granted – none.

742 PAVEMENT LICENSING

RESOLVED:

- (i) To introduce the new Pavement Licenses once the Business and Planning Bill 2020 receives Royal Assent.
- (ii) That authority be delegated to the Corporate Director of Environment and Regeneration, following consultation with Executive Member for Environment & Transport, to set the license fee within the range allowed by the legislation.
- (iii) That the Corporate Director of Environment & Regeneration be authorised, following consultation with the Executive Member for Environment & Transport, to take any further decisions in connection with implementation of Pavement Licensing following Royal Assent to the Bill.

Reason for decision – to allow the council to effectively administer the provisions for pavement licensing set out in the Business and Planning Bill 2020.

Other options considered – none.

Conflicts of interest/dispensations granted – none.

MEETING CLOSED AT 7.25 pm