



Town Hall, Upper Street, London, N1 2UD

AGENDA FOR THE EXECUTIVE

Members of the Executive are summoned to attend a meeting to be held in the Council Chamber, Islington Town Hall, Upper Street, London N1 2UD on **23 May 2024 at 7.00 pm.**

Enquiries to : Mary Green
Tel : 0207 527 3005
E-mail : democracy@islington.gov.uk
Despatched : 15 May 2024

Membership

Councillor Kaya Comer-Schwartz
Councillor Diarmaid Ward
Councillor Santiago Bell-Bradford
Councillor Rowena Champion
Councillor Sheila Chapman
Councillor Una O'Halloran
Councillor Michelline Safi Ngongo
Councillor Flora Williamson
Councillor John Woolf

Portfolio

Leader of the Council
Executive Member for Finance and Performance
Executive Member for Inclusive Economy, Culture and Jobs
Executive Member for Environment, Air Quality and Transport
Executive Member for Equalities, Communities and Inclusion
Executive Member for Homes and Neighbourhoods
Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families
Executive Member for Health and Social Care
Executive Member for Community Safety

Quorum is 4 Councillors

Please note

It is likely that part of this meeting may need to be held in private as some agenda items may involve the disclosure of exempt or confidential information within the terms of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. Members of the press and public may need to be excluded for that part of the meeting if necessary.

Details of any representations received about why the meeting should be open to the public - none

Declarations of interest:

If a member of the Executive has a **Disclosable Pecuniary Interest*** in an item of business and it is not yet on the council's register, the Councillor **must** declare both the existence and details of it at the start of the meeting or when it becomes apparent. Councillors may also **choose** to declare a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest that is already in the register in the interests of openness and transparency. In both the above cases, the Councillor **must** leave the room without participating in discussion of the item.

If a member of the Executive has a **personal** interest in an item of business they **must** declare both the existence and details of it at the start of the meeting or when it becomes apparent but may remain in the room, participate in the discussion and/or vote on the item if they have a dispensation from the Chief Executive.

- *(a) **Employment, etc** - Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
- (b) **Sponsorship** - Any payment or other financial benefit in respect expenses in carrying out duties as a member, or of election; including from a trade union.
- (c) **Contracts** - Any current contract for goods, services or works, between the Councillors or their partner (or a body in which one has a beneficial interest) and the council.
- (d) **Land** - Any beneficial interest in land which is within the council's area.
- (e) **Licences**- Any licence to occupy land in the council's area for a month or longer.
- (f) **Corporate tenancies** - Any tenancy between the council and a body in which the Councillor or their partner have a beneficial interest.
- (g) **Securities** - Any beneficial interest in securities of a body which has a place of business or land in the council's area, if the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body or of any one class of its issued share capital.

NOTE: Public questions may be asked on condition that the Chair agrees and that the questions relate to items on the agenda. No prior notice is required. Questions will be taken with the relevant item.

Requests for deputations must be made in writing at least two clear days before the meeting and are subject to the Leader's agreement. The matter on which the deputation wants to address the Executive must be on the agenda for that meeting.

A. **Formal matters**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Declarations of Interest
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4. Appointments to be made by the Executive 2024-2025 5 - 8

B.	Community Wealth Building	Page
1.	Grant of lease to Sunnyside Community Gardens	9 - 16
2.	Grant of a sub-lease for 2-4 Old Street Yard, EC1 8AF	17 - 22
C.	Greener, healthier Islington	
3.	Executive response to 2022-23 Scrutiny Report: Adult Social Care Transformation	23 - 34
D.	Other matters	
4.	Executive Committee arrangements	35 - 40
E.	Urgent non-exempt matters	
	Any non-exempt items which the Chair agrees should be considered urgently by reason of special circumstances. The reasons for urgency will be agreed by the Chair and recorded in the minutes.	
F.	Exclusion of the press and public	
	To consider whether to exclude the press and public during discussion of the remaining items on the agenda, in view of their confidential nature, in accordance with Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.	
G.	Confidential / exempt items for information	
1.	Grant of lease to Sunnyside Community Gardens - exempt appendix	41 - 44
2.	Grant of a sub-lease for 2-4 Old Street Yard, EC1 8AF - exempt appendix	45 - 50
H.	Urgent exempt matters	
	Any exempt items which the Chair agrees should be considered urgently by reason of special circumstances. The reasons for urgency will be agreed by the Chair and recorded in the minutes.	

The next meeting of the Executive will be on 27 June 2024

WEBCASTING NOTICE

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If you participate in the meeting you will be deemed by the Council to have consented to being filmed. By entering the Council Chamber you are also consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting and/or training purposes. If you do not wish to have your image captured you should sit in the public gallery area, overlooking the Chamber.

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London Borough of Islington

Executive - 18 April 2024

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive held in the Council Chamber, Islington Town Hall, Upper Street, London N1 2UD on 18 April 2024 at 7.00 pm.

Present: **Councillors:** Kaya Comer-Schwartz, Diarmaid Ward, Una O'Halloran, Rowena Champion, John Woolf and Santiago Bell-Bradford

Also Present: **Councillor:** Ernestas Jegorovas-Armstrong

Councillor Kaya Comer-Schwartz in the Chair

223 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Councillors Roulin Khondoker, Michelline Safi-Ngongo and Nurullah Turan.

Apologies for lateness received from Councillor Santiago Bell-Bradford.

224 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

225 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2024 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings and the Chair be authorised to sign them.

226 PROPOSALS ON THE FUTURE OF DUNCOMBE AND MONTEM SCHOOLS

In the absence of the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families, the report was introduced by Councillor Kaya Comer-Schwartz.

RESOLVED:

(a) To approve the proposal to amalgamate Duncombe and Montem Primary Schools on the Duncombe site on 31 August 2024.

(b) To endorse the following commitments:

(i) To provide early, dedicated, professional support as part of a comprehensive needs-led transition plan for pupils with Education, Health, and Care Plans to support all aspects of transition. Additional resources will be allocated to the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Team to work with individual children and their parents/carers to support their transition.

(ii) To facilitate a parent/carer group with representatives from both primary schools, as part of the transition process, to bring the two school communities together.

(iii) That officers will work with the parent/carer group and school staff to mitigate the risks of air pollution through developing safer walking routes to school.

(iv) That Schools' Human Resources will support any staff impacted by the proposed amalgamation.

(v) To support the cost of any new school uniform for displaced pupils, including pupils transferred to Duncombe.

(vi) To provide additional capacity to the schools to support the amalgamation process.

Reasons for the decision – To contribute to the ongoing financial resilience of Islington's school estate and to support the Council's ambition to strengthen the resilience of all Council schools, ensuring that they were financially healthy and able to sustain a quality curriculum. There was a need to significantly reduce capacity in the Hornsey area to account for falling rolls and reduced demand for primary school places. Duncombe and Montem primary schools were the two community schools, after Pooles Park School, with the next highest vacancy rates in the Hornsey planning area. By operating from one site, the amalgamated school would have lower running costs and, due to the size of the buildings, could accommodate all existing pupils and operate as a two-form entry school, with bulge classes for the larger higher year groups.

The rationale underpinning the recommendation to retain the Duncombe Primary School name was that the current financial position at Duncombe was more positive, meaning that the newly amalgamated school would start in a better financial position which would safeguard the financial position of the School and help to secure the School's long-term future.

Other options considered – all as detailed in the report of the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families.

Conflicts of interest / dispensations granted – none

227

EXECUTIVE RESPONSE TO THE REPORT OF THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY REPORT: MAKING CHILDREN VISIBLE

In the absence of the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families, the report was introduced by Councillor Kaya Comer-Schwartz.

RESOLVED:

(a) To welcome the findings of the "Making Children Visible" report of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee.

(b) To agree the Executive responses to the recommendations of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee, as set out in section 4 of the report of the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families.

(c) To agree that officers report back on progress to the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee at a time agreed with the Scrutiny Committee

Reasons for the decision – To respond to the recommendations outlined in the “Making Children Visible” report of the Children’s Services Scrutiny report, which highlighted key areas of improvement to services which impacted the overall development and wellbeing of children and young people in Islington and to further improve how everyone ensured the visibility of vulnerable children.

Other options considered – as detailed in the report in the report of the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families.

Conflicts of interest / dispensations granted – none.

228 ADULT CARERS' STRATEGY

In the absence of the Executive Member for Health and Social Care, the report was introduced by Councillor Diarmaid Ward.

RESOLVED:

To approve Islington’s Adult Carers’ Strategy 2024 – 2030, as attached to the report of the Executive Member for Health and Social Care, for publication during Carers’ Week in June 2024.

Reasons for the decision – The proposed partnership strategy which included Council-wide commitment, would enhance the support for adult carers in Islington by working collaboratively with the Council’s strategic partners focussing on 6 priorities consisting of: physical and emotional wellbeing, employment, feeling supported, transition to adulthood, respected as experts, communications and access to information to create a more supportive environment for carers.

Other options considered – all as detailed in the report

Conflicts of interest / dispensations granted – none

229 ALLOCATION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH SUPPLEMENTARY SUBSTANCE MISUSE TREATMENT AND RECOVERY GRANT 2024-2025

In the absence of the Executive Member for Health and Social Care, the report was introduced by Councillor John Woolf.

RESOLVED:

(a) To agree to the receipt of the Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant for 2024/25 of £2,700,656, awarded by the Department of Health and Social Care.

(b) To agree the allocation of £1,861,084.66 of the Council’s Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant to Camden and Islington NHS Trust, via a Grant Agreement.

(c) To agree that £90,000 be allocated from the Public Health reserves as a precautionary measure, should the Supplementary Substance Misuse

Treatment and Recovery Grant be reduced for not meeting the in-year performance expectations outlined in the grant conditions.

Reasons for the decision – The Department of Health and Social Care had awarded the Council the Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant for the third consecutive year. Issuing the funding to the Camden and Islington NHS Trust in the form of a grant would ensure timely and effective delivery of the required outcomes. The outcomes were (i) increasing the numbers of people accessing alcohol and substance misuse structured treatment, (ii) improving the number of people engaging with alcohol and substance misuse treatment on release from prison and (iii) increasing the number of people that entered residential rehabilitation. These outcomes would be monitored by officers on a quarterly basis.

Other options considered – all as detailed in the report

Conflicts of interest / dispensations granted – none

**230 PROPOSALS ON THE FUTURE OF DUNCOMBE AND MONTEM SCHOOLS
- EXEMPT APPENDICES**

Noted.

**231 VOTE OF THANKS - MARINA LIPSCOMB, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF
LEGAL SERVICES**

Noting that Marina Lipscomb was due to retire from the Council at the end of this month, the Leader proposed a vote of thanks to be placed on record to thank her for her valuable service and advice over the years, particularly over the past year, when she had held the position of Acting Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer. On behalf of the Executive and the Council, she extended best wishes to her for the future.

RESOLVED: accordingly.

MEETING CLOSED AT 7.21 pm

Law and Governance
Town Hall, Upper Street,
London, N1 2UD

Report of: Director of Law and Governance

Meeting of: Executive

Date: 23 May 2024

Ward(s): All

Subject: Appointments to be made by the Executive 2024-25

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 This report seeks approval of the appointment of members to the Associated Joint Committee - London Councils' Grants Committee.
- 1.2 This report also seeks approval of the appointment of members to act as representatives of the Council at shareholder meetings of the London Collective Investment Vehicle (London LGPS CIV Limited).

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. To appoint Councillor Kaya Comer-Schwartz to the Associated Joint Committee – London Councils' Grants Committee and Councillors Safi-Ngongo, O'Halloran and Woolf as deputies, for the municipal year 2024/25, or until successors are appointed.
- 2.2. To appoint Councillor Paul Convery as the Council's representative at shareholder meetings of the London Collective Investment Vehicle (London LGPS CIV Limited), for the municipal year 2024/25, or until a successor is appointed.

3. Background

3.1 ASSOCIATED JOINT COMMITTEE - LONDON COUNCILS' GRANTS COMMITTEE

The Grants Committee of London Councils deals with the London Boroughs Grants Scheme for voluntary organisations under Section 48 of the Local Government Act 1985.

Under the scheme, £6m a year is invested in voluntary organisations on behalf of all London councils. All of the grants seek to improve the lives of people who live, work in and visit London.

Membership

The Committee comprises 33 representative members, one from each of London's local councils. Under an agreement entered into by the London boroughs in respect of the Joint Committee, Islington Council is entitled to appoint an elected member representative and one or more deputies to the Joint Committee, who must all be members of the Executive.

3.2 THE LONDON COLLECTIVE INVESTMENT VEHICLE (LONDON LGPS CIV LIMITED)

The London Collective Investment Vehicle (London LGPS CIV Limited) has replaced the Pensions CIV Sectoral Joint Committee, which was established in December 2014 to act as a representative body for the London local authorities who are participating in the Local Government Pensions Scheme (LGPS) Collective Investment Vehicle in the form of an Authorised Contractual Scheme (an ACS Operator). Participation in the CIV enables the council to benefit from significant savings achieved through collective investment. The committee deals with specialist investment matters and it is recommended that the Chair of each borough's pension committee is appointed.

Oversight of the ACS Operator is an executive function. Accordingly, the Executive appoint the representative to attend the shareholder meetings of the London Collective Investment Vehicle (London LGPS CIV Limited).

4. Implications

4.1. Financial Implications

There are no specific financial implications associated with the report. The Islington contribution to the London Councils' Grants Committee fund is agreed through the budget process.

4.2. Legal Implications

These are contained in the body of the report.

4.3 Environmental Implications and contribution to achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030

There are no environmental implications arising directly from this report.

4.4 Equalities Impact Assessment

The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act

2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

An Equalities Impact Assessment is not required for this report. A significant proportion of the grants made by the Grants Committee are to organisations meeting the needs and priorities of a wide range of Islington's residents and are aimed at improving fairness and equality in the Borough.

5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

5.1 The Executive is responsible for making these appointments to enable the Council's representatives to participate in meetings.

Appendices: None.

Background Papers: None

Final report clearance:

Authorised by:

Director of Law and Governance

Date: 15 May 2024

Report Author: Jonathan Moore, Deputy Head of Democratic Services and Governance
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Community Wealth Building
Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD

Report of: Executive Member for Finance, Planning and Performance

Meeting of: Executive

Date: 23 May 2024

Ward: Hillrise Ward

[Appendix 2 to this report is exempt and not for publication](#)

Subject: Grant of lease to Sunnyside Community Gardens

1. Synopsis

- 1.1. Sunnyside Community Gardens has been occupying the main garden site at Hazelville Road London N19 3LX since 1977. Subsequently, in 1992, the gardens underwent formal registration as a charitable entity, strengthening their commitment to community service and environmental preservation.
- 1.2. Sunnyside Community Gardens has a long legacy of providing therapeutic horticulture services tailored to individuals with disabilities and those undergoing recovery from illness. Central to their mission is the commitment to fostering accessibility, social inclusivity, and serving as a valuable resource for individuals with special needs and physical disabilities.
- 1.3. Sunnyside Community Garden has been and continues to be, a successful partnership between the garden management team and the Council. Sunnyside Community Garden is a high-quality public space with a high level of community ownership and participation. They contribute enormously to the borough through their valuable work with disadvantaged groups and by strongly promoting social cohesion and integration.
- 1.4. Despite an executive decision being made in 2009, which, subject to consideration of any objections received, agreed the principle of the disposal of land to Sunnyside Community Centre, the formalisation of this arrangement never came

to fruition. Presently, Sunnyside Community Gardens continue to occupy the premises without a formal lease agreement in place. This absence of a lease significantly impairs their ability to engage in effective fundraising events as well as putting both parties at potential risk in the absence of a formal agreement.

- 1.5. The land's current designation as Open Space under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 invokes section 123(2A) of the Local Government Act 1972 for the lease's grant. Consequently, the Council is obligated to publish its intent to grant the lease, along with the specified land, in a local newspaper for two successive weeks. It must then review any objections to the proposed disposal before deciding whether to proceed with the disposal or retain the land, taking into account those objections.
- 1.6. The lease will include continued responsibility for statutory matters such as street lighting to remain with LBI.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. To authorise the Director of Law and Governance to advertise the proposed disposal via a lease of the Open Space identified in Appendix 1 in accordance with section 123(2A) Local Government Act 1972.
- 2.2. Subject to receiving no material objections from the public, to delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Community Wealth Building, following consultation with the Corporate Director of Resources, to grant a new lease to Sunnyside Community Garden based on the terms set out in the exempt Appendix 2.

3. Background

- 3.1. Sunnyside Community Gardens has a long legacy of providing therapeutic horticulture services tailored to individuals with disabilities and those undergoing recovery from illness. Central to their mission is the commitment to fostering accessibility, social inclusivity, and serving as a valuable resource for individuals with special needs and physical disabilities.
- 3.2. Sunnyside Community Garden has been and continues to be, a successful partnership between the garden management team and the Council. Sunnyside Community Garden is a high-quality public space with a high level of community ownership and participation. They contribute enormously to the borough through their valuable work with disadvantaged groups and by strongly promoting social cohesion and integration.

- 3.3. This is achieved through the implementation of sound horticultural practices facilitated by horticultural therapy. Sunnyside Community Garden has diligently developed and executed a diverse array of activities and initiatives that actively engage with the local community. From enriching horticultural therapy sessions to vibrant organic food markets, bicycle maintenance workshops, and lively summer festivals, Sunnyside Community Gardens stand as a vibrant hub of community interaction.
- 3.4. The garden's sustainability relies on funds generated through fundraising efforts and garden maintenance work. A lease will underpin fundraising and grow the garden maintenance operations. Sunnyside Community Garden must secure funding for its functioning. Therefore, they need to secure a long-term tenancy from the Council. Moreover, this arrangement removes the Council from the financial burden of maintaining the land should it become vacant.
- 3.5. Given that Sunnyside Gardens have been in occupation since 1977 and that the Council approved a disposal in principle to Sunnyside Gardens no alternative options for the use of the land have been considered.
- 3.6. The grant of a lease to Sunnyside Gardens will allow them to secure funding to enable them to develop, manage, maintain and sustain their garden sites and projects. Hence, removing the financial responsibilities from the Council.

4. Implications

4.1. **Financial Implications**

- 4.2. Under the terms of the proposed lease the tenant will take on responsibility for all utilities and rates and is responsible for maintenance of the premises. The Council is responsible for landlord insurance but will recharge the cost on to the tenant. A review of Sunnyside Community Gardens most recent financial statements (year to 31 March 2023) indicate that they are in good financial health.

4.3. **Legal Implications**

- 4.4. The Council acquired the land on which the Sunnyside Gardens are situated by statutory transmission from the former Greater London Council (GLC) on 1 October 1981. The land was held by the GLC for housing purposes and transferred to the Council for the same purpose. We have no record of an appropriation of the land from housing purposes to another use.
- 4.5. The Council has the power under s32 of the Housing Act 1985 to grant the proposed lease with the Secretary of State's consent. The Secretary of State granted a General Consent updated in 2013 in respect of disposals of land under s32 and the proposed lease to Sunnyside Gardens would come within the terms of paragraph A3.2 of the General Consent as it is a disposal of vacant land.

- 4.6. As the current use of the land has been identified as Open Space under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, s123 (2A) of the Local Government Act 1972 will apply to the granting of the lease. This means the Council must advertise its intention to grant the lease specifying the land in question in a local newspaper for two consecutive weeks and consider any objections to the proposed disposal before making a decision either for disposal or retention of the land having regard to those objections.
- 4.7. Although the Council have the necessary power to grant the lease, under s123 of the Local Government Act 1972 the council are under a statutory obligation to obtain the open market value and the best consideration that can be reasonably obtained. Any disposal at less than the best rent available and any decision to do so must be taken reasonably, in the light of the market value of the land/buildings and the amount of the proposed undervalue and with due regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its Council tax payers. Accordingly in deciding whether or not to grant the lease at less than best consideration the Council must consider properly the benefits to the community of doing so, as set out in this report, and weigh up and balance those benefits against the forgoing of a capital receipt or market rent for the land.
- 4.8. **Environmental Implications and contribution to achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030**
- 4.9. An Environmental Impact Assessment is unnecessary as the lease is formalizing the existing arrangements already in place.
- 4.10. Community gardens offer numerous environmental benefits, including green space creation, biodiversity enhancement, water management, soil health improvement, waste reduction, and support for local food systems. By promoting environmental sustainability and fostering community engagement, community gardens play a vital role in building healthier, more resilient, and more environmentally sustainable communities.
- 4.11. **Equalities Impact Assessment**
- 4.12. The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in

public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

- 4.13. An Equalities Impact Assessment was completed on 21 March 2024 and its main findings were that there were no equality implications in respect of this proposal.

5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 5.1. Sunnyside Community Garden has been and continues to be, a successful partnership between the garden management team and the Council. Sunnyside Community Garden is a high-quality public space with a high level of community ownership and participation. They contribute enormously to the borough through their valuable work with disadvantaged groups and by strongly promoting social cohesion and integration.
- 5.2. It is proposed that the Council regularises the position by granting a lease to Sunnyside Community Garden which will allow them to manage and look after the land in the Council's ownership forming the gardens.
- 5.3. The lease will allow them to secure funding to enable them to develop, manage, maintain and sustain their garden sites and projects. Hence, removing the financial responsibilities from the Council.

Appendices:

- Appendix 1 Floor Plans
- Appendix 2 Exempt Heads of Terms

Final report clearance:

Authorised by:

Executive Member for Finance, Planning and Performance

Date: Date the report received final approval: 3 May 2024

Report Author: Martina Kmetikova, Property Surveyor

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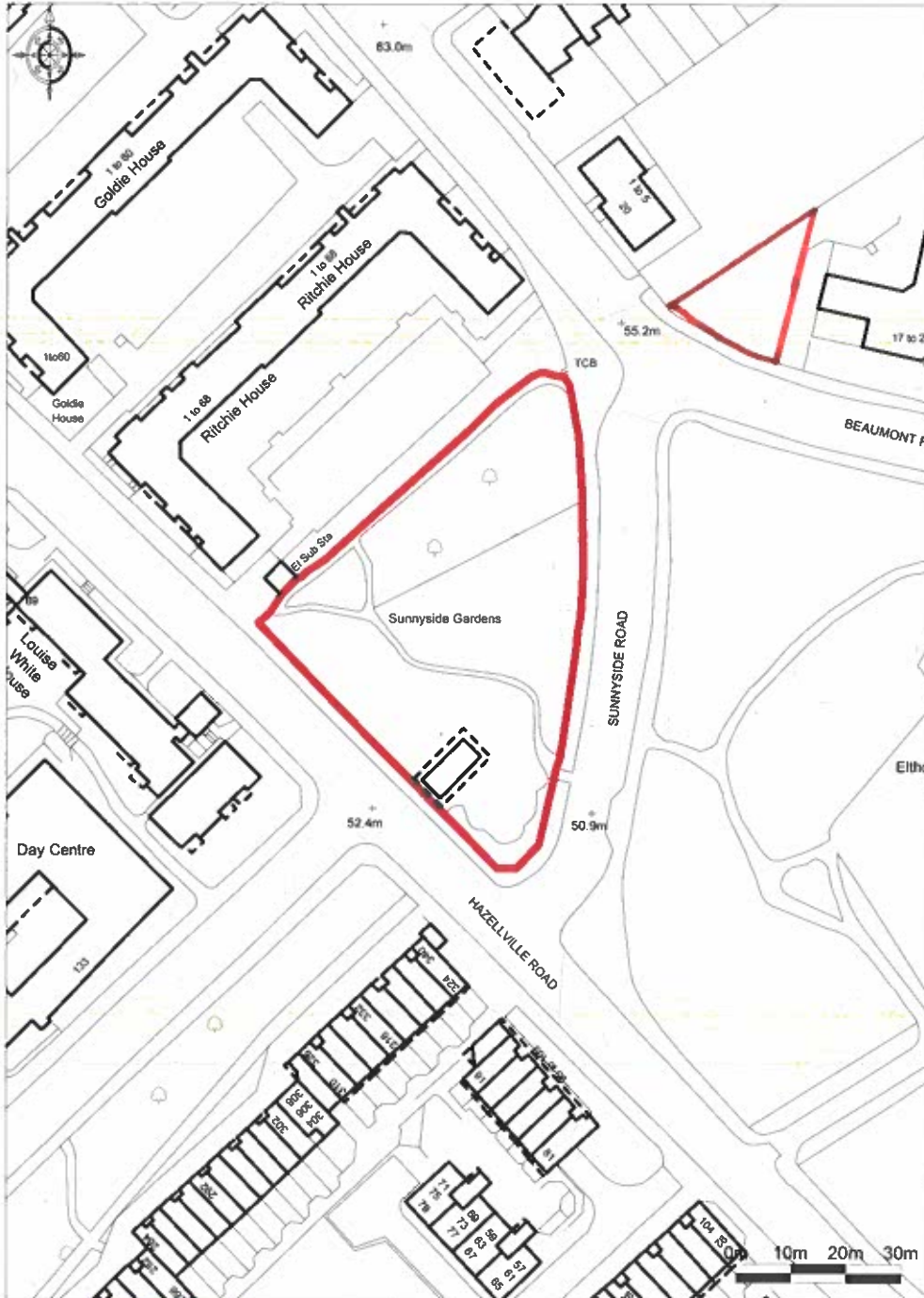
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Sunnyside Garden
London
N19



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*This plan is published for convenience of identification.
Any site boundaries shown are indicative only and
should be checked against title deeds.*

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Community Wealth Building
Town Hall, Upper Street, London, N1 2UD

Report of: Executive Member for Finance, Planning and Performance

Meeting of: Executive

Date: 23 May 2024

Ward(s): Bunhill

[Appendix 1 to this report is exempt and not for publication](#)

**Subject: Grant of a sub-lease for 2-4 Old Street Yard,
EC1Y 8AF**

Synopsis

- 1.1. The Council has a 10 year head lease on space within the White Collar Factory development at 2-4 Old Street Yard, EC1Y 8AF. One of its affordable workspace providers has unexpectedly terminated its underlease, exposing the Council to substantial operational liabilities such as business rates and service charges. The Council has been in discussion with Fareshare, the UK's longest running food redistribution charity, to move its HQ to the borough and has reached agreement for it to move into the vacated space at 2-4 Old Street Yard.
- 1.2. The proposed arrangement will both mitigate the Council's financial risk as well as establish a major national charity in the borough, offering a range of social value and partnership benefits for our residents and local businesses.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. To approve the granting of an underlease to FareShare for 2-4 Old Street Yard, EC1Y 8AF in line with the terms agreed in the exempt Appendix 1.
- 2.2. Delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Community Wealth Building to enter into the lease.

3. Background

- 3.1. Following one of the Council's affordable workspace providers unexpectedly terminating its underlease, the Council has been exposed to substantial operational liabilities such as business rates and service charges. It was essential that a new tenant was secured as rapidly as possible.
- 3.2. Fareshare's mission of redistributing unwanted food, fighting hunger and food waste closely align with the Council's vision to eliminate food poverty as well as its wider missions around Community Wealth Building and Fairer Together. They redistribute surplus food to charities that turn it into meals. In Islington, over the past 12 months, they delivered 1.1 million meals through 64 charities and if their tenancy is approved their commitment will increase to 1.5 million meals being distributed with over 100 charities being supported.
- 3.3. They work with over 400 food industry businesses and will leverage their contacts to offer business coaching, mentoring and employability support for Islington residents. Fareshare is also committed to working with the Council to develop more community kitchens.
- 3.4. The Corporate Landlord Service will manage the service charges and operational costs for the space, ensuring prompt payment by FareShare as well as the social value commitments that would be secured via the lease.

4. Implications

- 4.1. **Financial Implications**
- 4.2. The proposed lease to FareShare removes financial liabilities for the Council for business rates and service charges at 2-4 Old Street Yard EC1Y 8AF for which there is no budget (£183k per annum). The space was recently vacated by an affordable workspace provider following its decision to terminate its contract and lease.

- 4.3. The proposed lease between the Council and FareShare is at a peppercorn rent. The undervalue of the lease has been confirmed as within the £2m limit allowable under the Local Government Act 1972.
- 4.4. The annual business rates liability is estimated at £91k per annum and the service charge at £92k per annum. These will be met by the tenant under the terms of the proposed lease. The tenant will also take on responsibility for meeting all repairs, insurance and utility costs.
- 4.5. The service charge will be levied by Derwent, the landlord, to the Council and will include VAT. This will then be recharged to FareShare including VAT. Reimbursement of the service charges by FareShare will be subject to regular monitoring to allow timely action by the Council if any debts accumulate.
- 4.6. Business rates will be charged directly by the Council's business rates department to the tenant. The payment of business rates will also be monitored on a regular basis to allow timely action by the Council if any debts accumulate.
- 4.7. FareShare is committing to bring significant social value to the borough under the lease. This includes:
- the redistribution of surplus foods top charities to turn into meals. This will increase from the current annual total of 1.1 million meals to 1.5 million meals
 - utilising kitchen space in our community centres to deliver meals in Islington
 - offering business coaching, mentoring and employability support for Islington residents.
 - seeking to employ local residents should any vacancies arise.
- 4.8. A credit check has been run on FareShare which indicates that it is in a very stable condition with a very low risk of failure. A review of their most recent financial statements (year ended 31 March 2023) show that they had a healthy balance sheet with reserves of £25.7m and a turnover of £23.1m. FareShare did incur a deficit of £4.1m in 2022/23 but this follows surpluses in each of the previous 4 years.
- 4.9. **Legal Implications**
- 4.10. 5.2.1 Section 123(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 to that prohibits a council from granting leases in excess of 7 years at a rent that is less than best consideration without first obtaining the Secretary of States consent. However, pursuant to the Local Government Act 1972: General Disposal Consent (England) 2003 the Secretary of State provided a general consent for the disposal of land (which would include the grant of a lease) at less than best consideration where the use of the land after disposal will promote or improve the economic,

environmental or social well-being of its area and/or its residents and the undervalue for the disposal does not exceed £2,000,000. To rely on the 2003 consent in taking the decision to grant the lease to FareShare at a peppercorn rent the Council must take into consideration how the lease to FareShare could contribute to the wellbeing of Islington or Islington's residents and also what the actual value of the market rent of the premises is in order to assess the extent of the undervalue.

- 4.11. Under the Council's headlease of the premises the Council will need to obtain the the head landlord's consent to the proposed underlease to FareShare.
- 4.12. Although the Council may have the necessary power (Section 123 or a general or specific ministerial consent) to lease the affordable workspace to FareShare at less than market rent consideration, any decision to do so must be taken:
 - (1) reasonably;
 - (2) having considered the market rent and the amount of the proposed undervalue; and
 - (3) with due regard to the Council's fiduciary duty.
- 4.13. **Environmental Implications and contribution to achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030**
- 4.14. There are no specific implications arising from the decision to enter into a new lease.
- 4.15. **Equalities Impact Assessment**
 - 4.15.1. The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.
- 4.16. An Equalities Impact Assessment was completed on 29 April 2024 and its main findings were that there were no equality implications in respect of this proposal.

5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 5.1. The unexpected termination of an underlease has exposed the Council to significant financial liability. It has secured a new tenant – Fareshare – who will both assume all financial liabilities and commit to delivering significant social value across the borough.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Exempt Heads of Terms

Background papers: None

Final report clearance:

Authorised by:

Executive Member for Finance, Planning and Performance

Date: Date the report received final approval 13 May 2024

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Adult Social Care
222 Upper Street, N1 1XR

Report of: Executive Member for Health and Social Care

Meeting of: Executive

Date: 23 May 2024

Ward(s): All

Subject: Response to Health and Care Scrutiny Committee - Review of Transformation in Adult Social Care (ASC)

1. Synopsis

- 1.1. Between October 2022 and May 2023, the Health and Care Scrutiny Committee undertook a review of transformation in ASC. This review proposed a number of recommendations, and this report sets out the Executive Member for Health and Social Care's response to each of these areas to be considered by the Executive.
- 1.2. This report also provides an update on progress following the review and further plans for delivering continuous improvement within ASC and across the health and social care system.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. To welcome the findings of the Health and Care Scrutiny Committee Review of Transformation in Adult Social Care.
- 2.2. To agree the Executive responses to the recommendation of the Health and Care Scrutiny Committee as set out in section 4 of this report.
- 2.3. To agree that officers report back on progress to the Health and Care Scrutiny Committee at a time agreed with the Scrutiny Committee.

3. Background

- 3.1. The review was held between October 2022 and May 2023. The overall aim was to consider the transformation of ASC services in the context of the Health and Social Care Act 2022, including challenges and opportunities associated with this, new developments in services, and the greater focus on preventative measures. The Committee agreed to the following objectives:
- To investigate the impacts of the Health and Social Care Act 2022 and the wider legislative framework, and how our response to this will impact on services and people who draw on them.
 - To review the vision for ASC in Islington, and to assess if the council's current and emerging plans for future development and reform are adequate, with a particular focus on improved outcomes for residents.
 - To review access to ASC services in Islington, demographic pressures, and the most effective operating models to meet those requirements.
 - Focus in on how we are designing our services in a way that will prevent increased need and enable residents to live their lives as independently as possible.
- 3.2. In undertaking the review, the Committee met with council officers from ASC staff, representatives of Whittington Health, reablement service users and staff, and representatives of voluntary sector groups including Age UK, Help on Your Doorstep, and Manor Gardens Welfare Trust. The Committee also considered evidence from Kent County Council, to consider comparative information on best practice in their services.
- 3.3. The Committee heard evidence from officers on the challenges facing ASC and opportunities for further development. Focusing on the reablement service as a case study, the Committee heard how new developments such as adopting a 7-day recovery model may offer more comprehensive support to those needing additional support following discharge from hospital. The Committee heard positive feedback from service users of the reablement service and considered how this work could be developed further through use of technology.
- 3.4. The Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee made 11 recommendations within their report, and we have responded to each one of these below.

4. Response to recommendations

Modernisation of Practice

- 4.1. **Recommendation 1:** To modernise the work of the reablement service, the Committee would support increased use of technology, for example carers being issued with tablets to record information during their visits. Reablement carers have tended to be digitally excluded, so would require appropriate technology and skills training.
- 4.2. The Executive recognise the work that the reablement service are doing to modernise their approach for the benefit of residents and staff. ASC have been working with the reablement service to modernise practice, improve efficiency, and maximise use of enablers time through the use of technology. All enablers are issued with a smart phone to access the CM2000 rostering system. This enables them to access the roster, view medication records, view the care plan and provide feedback to the office. The contract with CM2000 expires in April 2025 and the scoping for a new system and associated devices will factor in opportunities for wider integration with the council's care records and information held across the health and care sector within the London Care Record.
- 4.3. Further opportunities to improve reablement practice through the use of technology are being explored including through the pilot for Intelligent Lilli for which the council has received funding from the North Central London Integrated Care Board. Intelligent Lilli uses discrete sensors in people's home to observe the patterns and trend of everyday life and identify areas of risk and potential mitigations. This will enable staff to better understand an individual's needs and tailoring the support required to increase and maintain people's independence.
- 4.4. The Executive will ask ASC to continue to explore ways to modernise the work of the reablement service and update the committee on their progress.
- 4.5. **Recommendation 2:** To ensure that the voices of residents are heard and their views are considered in the developing our ASC services, the council should consider improving feedback mechanisms, both directly and via third parties.
- 4.6. The Executive welcomes this recommendation and notes that ASC's approach to consultation, engagement and co-production and centring the voice of people accessing services was identified within the recent LGA Peer Challenge as a significant area of strength. Areas of good practice were identified across departments with a particular focus on the development and commissioning of services. This is done both directly in the commissioning department as well as via community-based partners such as the Experts By Experience service, facilitated by Elfrida.

- 4.7. The Executive supports this recommendation, and notes that the wider Islington Borough Partnership (IBP) are committed to this approach and are working to embed this good practice consistently across all areas of the business. This should be supported by targeted communications, so residents understand the work that is being done in this space, and the benefits and opportunities for them to contribute.
- 4.8. **Recommendation 3:** The Committee welcomes the pilot of the new ‘seven day recovery’ model being used to support the reablement service. The council should aspire to delivering this service in-house, to enable greater integration with the reablement service.
- 4.9. The Executive understands that the pilot of the seven-day recovery model, now known as “Take Home and Settle” has been running successfully for 10 months having been implemented from April 2023. It continues to support a significant number of Islington Residents (up to 100 per month) to be discharged from local acute hospitals. This has supported the Home First approach, reduced reliance on care home provision, and improved the council’s ability to negotiate seasonal pressures on the health and care system.
- 4.10. The Executive notes that the pilot is due to end in May 2024 and officers are preparing an options appraisal for the ASC Senior Leadership Team. This appraisal will include the development of a second phase of the pilot aligned to implementation of the new home care contract and locality-based delivery model. Analysis is being undertaken to understand whether the in-house reablement resources have the scale and speed to respond in the same way as the current Take Home and Settle model, and offer value for money, whilst maintaining the reablement service’s current focus on maximising people’s independence.

Collaboration and Cultural Change

- 4.11. **Recommendation 4:** Islington Council and local partners should work to develop a shared ethos across integrated health and social care services. This would need to be agreed across partner agencies and would focus on developing a shared Early Intervention / Prevention approach and building upon Strength Based Practice approaches. This would involve developing a shared vision, consistent training and clear development plans for all staff.
- 4.12. The Executive is aware that the IBP is the strategic board responsible for developing a shared ethos across the health and care system in Islington. The partnership vision is for a community where residents experience improved health, happiness, and independence. This includes accessible mental health care, support for independent living, and quality care when needed. To achieve this, integrated

programs have been established, guided by a shared vision and outcomes and aligned with the council's commitment to Early Intervention and Prevention.

- 4.13. High quality training and clear development plans for all staff are priorities for all partner organisations within the IBP. This shared ethos is led by the Health and Care Academy (H&CA) and the Islington Training Hub (ITH) whose role it is to support the shared Borough Partnership priority of Retention, Recruitment and Workforce. One example of this work was a project to support the recruitment of GP receptionist roles which helped to upskill local people to deliver and perform this essential work. The project combined the expertise of the HCA, ITH and the council's iWork team to recruit and train a cohort of staff to meet a local need and increase the social care workforce in entry level roles. The learning from this was analysed to identify wider applications across the health and care sector.
- 4.14. The Executive recognise that whilst there are strong examples of practice taking place in this area, the challenge is to implement this consistently across all member organisations. This consistency is strategic priority for the next financial year.
- 4.15. **Recommendation 5:** To fill vacancies in the local health and care system, Islington Council and partner organisations should consider working together on recruitment campaigns that prioritise the employment of local people and champion good quality jobs and career pathways in the health and care sector. This could also involve considering how health and care jobs are advertised and promoted locally.
- 4.16. The Executive are aware of a number of ways that the council and partners are working to address this recommendation. The H&CA referenced above are a dedicated service set up to highlight the opportunities within the health and care section across the integrated care system. This acts as a strategic group for coordinating partners, a platform for advertising opportunities and to create stronger local recruitment pathways, increase diversity and support retention in the local market. This is coordinated with the pan London scheme Proud to Care. The partners that form the Academy have been helping local care providers in sourcing local talent by modifying recruitment procedures and creating training programmes to bolster workforce development.
- 4.17. ASC are piloting new forms of recruitment to grow the health and care workforce such as the Values Based Recruitment pilot within Provider Services. Values-based recruitment is about attracting and recruiting people based on their values and fit for the role, rather than just based on their previous experience, qualifications and skills. This work will help to broaden the local pool of talent recruited into the health and care sector and the approach will be used to support the mobilisation of the new home care contract that is due to start in April. This work forms part of the wider targeted commissioning work with providers that supports market sustainability.

- 4.18. ASC are working with the LGA to revitalise the ASC People Plan through a programme of workshops identifying current and emerging demands within for the ASC workforce in Islington. The outcomes of this work include an updated People Plan, and a targeted communications campaign to highlight the benefits of working within the health and care sector in Islington.
- 4.19. The Executive welcome the approach outlined and expect ASC to update the Health and Social Care Scrutiny committee on the outcome of this coordinated effort.
- 4.20. **Recommendation 6:** The Committee considered the importance of health and care services being joined up, to enable the most comprehensive service to residents. ASC should work to identify where further collaborative working might add value for residents using our health and care services. This may include work with Mental Health services, Housing, and the Voluntary/Community sector.
- 4.21. The Executive welcomes this recommendation and the commitment to joined up systems that provide the most comprehensive services to residents. To support more effective integration of services within the North London Mental Health Partnership, Islington Council and Whittington Community Health have created a joint-funded role to champion more integrated ways of working across health and care. There are three initial priority areas for this role: Developing an integrated front door, a Rapid Access Service, and developing integrated locality teams.
- 4.22. The integrated front door for health and social care launched in October 2023 and is one of the key operational drivers for this work. This acts as a single point of access for all ASC and community health referrals, from residents, clinicians and other professionals. Residents contacting the service are given advice and sign-posted to support which will help them maximise their independence. Health and care 'screeners' have been co-located at 222 Upper Street since September 2023 and there has been positive feedback from staff in relation to the benefits of co-location. The signposting and referral pathways have been developed and agreed by health and social care partners. HR/IT/Data sharing agreements are now in place. The service has also started piloting an integrated referral form with 2 GP practices and 2 care homes, which has received positive feedback. As part of this work the telephone systems been upgraded, which allows calls to the service to be reviewed to support continuous improvement. Mystery shopping exercises have also been carried out and the learning from these will be embedded.
- 4.23. The Executive notes that the next phase of the work, the Rapid Access service is due to go live in April and localities will be piloted later in the year.
- 4.24. **Recommendation 7:** As this joined-up work develops, the council should work to collate information across agencies around inequality and use of services by communities we struggle to reach. This will involve support from Voluntary &

Community Sector and community-based groups. This could also involve developing a shared 'insight' function to make best use of intelligence.

- 4.25. The Executive endorses the shared values that place challenging inequality as a priority for all members of the IBP. Tackling Health Inequalities is what is known as an enabler programme within the IBP's delivery plan and includes targeted projects between statutory, voluntary and community groups to engage with communities that statutory providers have struggled to reach. Public Health were commissioned to carry out analysis into inequalities for the Safeguarding Adult's Unit to review the how adults with different protected characteristics can access to ASC services, and how we safeguard them from harm. The findings from this analysis are being used to develop targeted communication and engagement activities for under supported groups. There will be engagement through the voluntary and community sector and community-based groups.
- 4.26. The outcomes and approach of work being done to tackle inequalities is shared through the IBP, but this is not systematic. There are a number of changes to computer systems planned that will better support the sharing of information consistently and be used to evidence the outcomes and the impact of the borough partnerships programme of work. Until the wider changes can be made, the most comprehensive way of doing this at the moment is proposed to be through the wellbeing index and shared outcomes framework.
- 4.27. The wellbeing index/shared outcomes framework will provide the council and its partners a common understanding of need in the borough across several wellbeing domains. The wellbeing index also provides outcomes, where available broken down by equalities characteristics which will enable us to quantify the impact of programme delivery.
- 4.28. **Recommendation 8:** Islington Council should work to strengthen collaborative working between ASC, key voluntary sector organisations and others to further develop our prevention offer, including use of 'Provider Summits' to encourage partnership working.
- 4.29. The Executive values the wealth of resources available to Islington's residents through the community and voluntary sectors. The Bright Lives Wellbeing Alliance has been established by Community Engagement and Wellbeing (CE&W) department as part of the Fairer Together strategy to bring health, VCS and council partners together, to ensure that residents can easily access the right support, at the right time through improving systems for integrated delivery. System change leads to better integration across services and organisations (while protecting specialised services) with the aspiration for easily accessible "front door(s)" combining online & in person touchpoints. The Access Islington Hubs will be an enabler for delivery of joined up services. The Bright Lives Practitioner Network has

been established through the work of the Bright Lives Alliance and brings together staff, volunteers and partners across Islington connect and network to familiarise with service offers; collaborate; learn and share and engage in professional development opportunities. Meetings are held monthly, and the membership list has now exceeded 180 local organisations.

- 4.30. The Islington's Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise Conference was delivered by Voluntary Action Islington on 12 March with representation from all council departments and a wide range of VCS and Health partners. The focus was on working together more effectively through collaboration to tackle inequality and address our collective challenges, improving outcomes for residents through greater connectivity across all sectors by enabling integration and alignment. There was broad consensus that the 'Compact' agreement setting out our principles for ways of working together and becoming evidence led by utilising data and insight will be key enablers to this. All partners agreed partnership working and greater involvement across Islington's wide range of voluntary sector organisations (circa 2000) has significant untapped potential for further development. VAI will be setting out the next steps to take this forward in collaboration with VCS, Health and council leaders.
- 4.31. The ASC and Community Engagement and Wellbeing (CE&W) departments have been meeting since January to better coordinate the delivery of statutory and non-statutory services and the work of key voluntary sector organisations. A programme of work is currently being developed to better coordinate the strategic approach of the council in enabling collaboration and engagement within this space.
- 4.32. The Executive welcomes this more integrated approach and commitment to support our residents through coordinated cross sector working with a focus on integration and collaboration.
- 4.33. **Recommendation 9:** Islington Council should explore opportunities for greater collaboration between ASC and the Central Point of Access (CPOA) to facilitate more referrals into the service.
- 4.34. The Executive notes that The CPOA is a shared referral mechanism that was set up between ASC and Age UK, Help on Your Doorstep and Manor Gardens to support referrals in voluntary and community sector organisations in Islington and support people to remain independent and connected to the local community.
- 4.35. The Executive recognises ASC have been working with the CPOA organisations and implementing opportunities to support greater referrals into the Central Point of Access Service. This was supported by a targeted communication strategy and the opening of the pathway to health teams which resulted in referrals of more than 70

per month in October and November and a reduced number over the Christmas period.

- 4.36. The Executive welcomes that ASC have been working with CE&W to ensure that CPOA approach can be developed into a sustainable delivery model that meets the needs of residents and supports access to the wider voluntary and community sector. The Bright Lives Alliance team are implementing a rapid review of the service in collaboration with the three partners that deliver CPOA. The three outputs of this review will be an evaluation of the current model, benchmarking with national models of good practice, and an options appraisal for taking this forward. The review will conclude in April and the outcomes will be discussed among the wider Bright Lives Alliance Partnership starting in May. A final model will be developed, and the decision taken by the Bright Lives Alliance by autumn 2024.

Smarter Travel

- 4.37. **Recommendation 10:** ASC should consider if reablement carers could make use of electric bikes and other active travel options; this may help carers to avoid traffic, have a positive environmental impact, and potentially reduce costs.
- 4.38. **Recommendation 11:** ASC should review the routing of reablement carers by ensuring that visits are grouped to take account of low traffic neighbourhoods. This will make journeys as efficient as possible, support carers arriving on time, and help to reduce the environmental impact of journeys.
- 4.39. The Executive commends the reablement service for prioritising active travel options with the majority of journeys taking place using public transport and/or travelling on foot. Intelligent rostering of enabler's activity seeks to group Islington residents within shorter commutable distances and maximise opportunities to walk between visits. Where personal vehicles are required, the senior enablers are now considering the impact of LTNs within the rostering activity to minimise the impact of the journeys.
- 4.40. The Executive notes the commitment of the reablement service to continue to maximise the opportunities for sustainable travel, to support organisational efficiency and align to the council's vision in the 2030 plan.

5. Implications

5.1. Financial Implications

- 5.1.1. This report provides an overview of a review conducted by the Health and Care Scrutiny Committee regarding the transformation of Adult Social Care (ASC) services in Islington. It outlines the Committee's recommendations and the

responses from the Executive Member of Health and Social Care. This report also includes updates on the progress made following the review and plans for continuous improvement within ASC and the broader health and social care system.

5.1.2. While this report does not outline specific financial implications, there are several areas where financial considerations may arise:

- Modernisation of Practises: increased use of technology implies potential costs associated with acquiring and implementing new technology.
- Collaboration and Cultural Change: strengthening collaborative working between ASC and other organisations, such as the voluntary sector may involve costs related to coordinating joint initiatives, training, and developing shared visions and approaches.
- Smarter Travel: use of electric bikes and optimising travel routes for reablement carers suggest potential investments in sustainable transportation options and adjustments to operational practices to reduce environmental impact. While these initiatives may lead to long term cost savings through efficiency gains, there could be initial investment costs.

5.1.3. The report highlights the ongoing efforts for continuous improvement within ASC and the broader health and social care system. Implementing recommendations related to service modernisation, collaboration, cultural change may require financial resources to support staff training, technology upgrades and service development.

5.1.4. Financial implications will need to be considered as proposals are drawn up and finalised.

5.1.5. The expectation is that any costs associated with implementation of the recommendations will be managed within existing departmental resources. However, if existing resources are inadequate to meet the financial needs, seeking additional funding may be required through a Corporate growth bid.

5.2. **Legal Implications**

5.2.1. The Health and Care act 2022 aims to make it easier for health and care organisations to deliver joined-up care for those who need multiple services. It builds on recommendations by NHS England and NHS Improvement. The legislation supports collaboration and partnership-working in order to integrate services.

5.3. Environmental Implications and contribution to achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030

- 5.3.1. Overall, the work described within this report, its findings and proposals will have a minimal environmental implication to achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030.
- 5.3.2. Recommendations 1 sets out proposals to consider using new technology to aid the delivery of the service. We acknowledge that the purchasing of this equipment and its use (charging/data storage) will have an impact on carbon emissions. Officers will minimise the environmental impact of procuring this equipment through leasing rather than purchasing, in line with our Circular Economy Action Plan, the manufacturer / supplier's sustainability credentials and practices, the re-use/recycling of tech at the end of its life.
- 5.3.3. Recommendations 10 and 11 have particular relevance in regard to their environmental implications and demonstrate ASC's commitment to support achieving a net zero Islington by 2030 through prioritising the use of active travel and public transport wherever possible.
- 5.3.4. ASC recognise that the delivery of ASC more widely has significant environmental implications, and opportunities to minimise these impacts are considered in all areas of their work including the delivery, development and commissioning of services with appropriate Environmental Impact Assessments completed and scrutinised.
- 5.3.5. The environmental implications of service delivery will continue to be considered as part of any procurement and as proposals for new ways of working are implemented.

5.4. Equalities Impact Assessment

- 5.4.1. The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.
- 5.4.2. An Equalities Impact Assessment screening tool was completed on the 07/03/24 and it did not identify any that were negatively affected by the recommendations of this report. Based on this analysis, a full Equalities Impact Assessment is not required at this time.

5.4.3. Any changes, proposals or procurement that are delivered as part this work will be subject to their own Equalities Impact Assessments as and when required.

6. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

6.1. This report details the collective response to recommendations from the Health and Care Scrutiny Committee and has highlights key areas for improvement that will demonstrate that these recommendations have been actioned.

Final report clearance:

Authorised by: **Cllr Turan Executive Member for Health and Social Care** Date: 14/03/2023

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Resources Department
Town Hall, Islington, N1 2UD

Report of: Executive Member for Finance, Planning and Performance
Meeting of: Executive
Date: 23 May 2024
Ward(s): All
Decision No. I028485

Subject: Executive Committee Arrangements

1. Synopsis

- 1.1. The Voluntary and Community Sector Committee was established as a committee of the Executive in March 2011, primarily to make decisions on the allocation of the newly established 'Islington Community Fund'.
- 1.2. The Islington Community Fund no longer exists in its original form and the majority of funding to the voluntary and community sector is now distributed via a four year grants programme. This change has reduced the business considered by the committee. In the last twelve months the committee has met 6 times, at three of these meetings there was only one agenda item. The average number of items over this period was two per meeting and one meeting was cancelled due to lack of business.
- 1.3. The Council recognises how important the voluntary and community sector is and has made a commitment in the [Islington Together 2030 Plan](#) to continue to '*work with and support local voluntary and community groups and organisations*'. Rather than leave this important area of work under a committee with declining business, it is proposed that the committee is disbanded and this work is carried forward in future by the Executive.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. To agree to disband the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee
- 2.2. To agree to prioritise voluntary and community sector business, and related items, on future Executive agendas.

3. Background

- 3.1. The Voluntary and Community Sector Committee has existed for over 12 years and in that time, the relationship between the Council and the sector and the arrangements for supporting the sector have changed considerably.
- 3.2. The Voluntary and Community Sector Committee no longer has sufficient business to give the sector's work the profile it deserves or to justify the resources required to support the committee. The business undertaken by the committee over the last 12 months could be added to the Executive agenda without causing difficulty.
- 3.3. The Executive agenda is divided under headings reflecting the Council's priorities. To ensure that work currently being undertaken by the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee has a strong presence in the Executive agenda, it is proposed that a new heading is created titled 'Voluntary and Community Sector' and that this is one of the first sections of the agenda following the Budget.
- 3.4. The Executive meets more frequently than the current Voluntary and Community Sector Committee so there will be greater flexibility in relation to when decisions can be made. Colleagues who are currently submitting reports to the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee will be supported during the transition to Executive arrangements.

4. Implications

4.1. **Financial Implications**

- 4.1.1. There are no financial implications arising from the proposal to disband the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee. The budget work for Committee Services will remain the same and the staff time that would have supported these meetings will be reallocated to support other meetings.

4.2. **Legal Implications**

- 4.2.1. The council has power to provide grants to voluntary and community sector organisations under the general power of competence set out in section 1 of the Localism Act 2011.

4.2.2. The Voluntary and Community Sector Committee is a Committee of the Executive and has delegated authority, in Part 5 of the Council's Constitution:

"1. To oversee the Council's engagement with the Islington community and voluntary sector and to ensure value for money and fairness in the allocation of council resources to the sector.

2. To be responsible for the allocation off the Islington Community Fund including:

a. allocating the VCS Partnership Grants Programme;

b. allocating the Advice Fund;

c. allocating the Local Initiatives Fund having regard to the recommendations of the relevant ward members/relevant ward partnership or neighbourhood group and on the basis that the funding will be allocated equally among the 16 wards making up the Council's area.

3. To receive updates on the allocation of funding by the Islington Community Chest Panel.

4. To review and, if necessary, withdraw funding to organisations where there is a potential breach of conditions of grant aid and/or service level agreement.

5. To consider the management, use and disposal of council owned buildings occupied by voluntary and community sector organisations and to agree the disposal or leasing of council owned properties to voluntary sector and community bodies including, where relevant, the rent to be set save that decisions referred to in Part 3 4.4(j) may be taken by officers with the relevant delegated authority.

6. To approve the annual budget proposed for the London Councils Grants Committee.

7. To make an annual report to the Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee on its activities."

4.2.3. The Executive or the Leader may discharge these functions under paragraph 2 of Part 3 of the Constitution:

"2. Executive Functions

2.1 All functions of the Authority which are not the responsibility of any other part of the Authority, whether by law or, where the law provides a choice, under the Constitution (see Appendix 2), are the responsibility of the Executive.

2.2 *The Leader may exercise those functions or may delegate those functions to the Executive, a Committee of the Executive or a joint committee, another local authority, an individual member of the Executive or officers. The exercise of executive functions may be further delegated where the law permits in accordance with Part 4 paragraph 55.4.*

2.3 *The allocation of executive functions shall be included in the terms of reference set out in Part 5 and the delegations to officers in Part 3 section 8.*

2.4 *If the Leader makes any changes to the allocation of functions and delegations they shall as soon as practicable either:*

- (i) report the change to the Council or:*
- (ii) notify the Proper Officer of the change*

And no change shall be effective until either (i) or (ii) has been complied with. The Proper Officer shall as soon as practicable report any change notified to them to the Council.”

4.2.4. In addition, the Terms of Reference for the Executive in Part 5 of the Constitution stipulate that the Executive is responsible for the discharge of all functions of the authority which are not included in Appendix 2(i) or designated as non-Executive functions in Appendix 2(ii).

4.3. **Environmental Implications and contribution to achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030**

4.3.1. There are no Environmental Implications arising from this report.

4.4. **Equalities Impact Assessment**

4.4.1. The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

4.4.2. An Equalities Impact Assessment is not required in relation to this report, because screening for the requirement to complete an Equalities Impact Assessment did not identify any impacts on individuals or groups with protected characteristics.

5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 5.1. It is recommended that the Executive disbands the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee and prioritises agenda items relating to the voluntary and community sector on future Executive agendas, to ensure that an appropriate level of priority is given to the work of the Voluntary and Community Sector.

Appendices: None

Background papers: None

Final report clearance:

Authorised by:

Councillor Diarmaid Ward, Executive Member for Finance, Planning and Performance

Date: 9 May 2024

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