

London Borough of Islington

Executive - 10 September 2020

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive held via Zoom on 10 September 2020 at 7.00 pm.

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

Also Present: **Councillors:** Cutler and Russell

Councillor Richard Watts in the Chair

743 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

744 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

745 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 16 July 2020 be agreed as a correct record and the Chair be authorised to sign them.

746 FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 JULY 2020

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 (+£23.033m) in 2020/21. (Section 3 and Table 1 of the report);
- (iii) That the council is facing total COVID-19 related budget pressures of approximately £64m and, after government grant received to date, a net

gap of approximately £45m (including HRA and potential council tax and business rates income losses) (Paragraphs 3.2-3.3 of the report) be noted;

- (iv) That the latest existing saving tracker, unchanged since month 3. (Paragraph 4.36, Table 2 and Appendix 3 of the report) be noted;
- (v) That departmental cash limits be adjusted with effect from 1 July 2020 to reflect the council-wide vacancy factor (Paragraph 4.38 and Table 3 of the report);
- (vi) That the forecast in-year HRA deficit of (+£3.990m). (Section 5 and Appendix 2 of the report) be noted;
- (vii) That it be noted that the latest 2020/21 to 2022/23 capital programme and that the COVID-19 crisis is expected to lead to significant slippage of the 2020/21 capital programme to future financial years. (Section 6, Table 4 and Appendix 4 of the report).

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

Other options considered - none

Conflicts of interest/dispensations granted – none

747

ARRANGEMENTS FOR YOUTH WORK DELIVERED FROM LIFT, PLATFORM AND ROSE BOWL BETWEEN APRIL AND OCTOBER 2021

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the proposed continuation of arrangement with the current service provider of youth work services at Lift, Platform and Rose Bowl until 31 October 2021 be agreed;
- (ii) That the proposal for the council to undertake a process of engagement with young people, local ward members, children's services professionals and other stakeholders in order to agree and test different approaches to the youth work delivery in the borough be agreed.

Reason for decision – as detailed in the report, to ensure there is no break in youth work services and to allow sufficient time for stakeholder engagement about the youth offer.

Other options considered – none

Conflicts of interest/dispensations granted – none

748 **RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - EQUALITIES IN EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES SCRUTINY REVIEW**

Councillor Cutler introduced the report and explained the Committee's recommendations. The Executive thanked the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee for their work.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the report of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee be received;
- (ii) That the Executive Member's response be reported to a future meeting of the Executive, including having due regard to any relevant implications of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee's recommendations.

Reason for decision – to receive the report of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Other options considered – none

Conflicts of interest/dispensations granted – none

749 **ADOPTION OF NEW BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN**

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the outcomes of the public consultation and resulting changes to the draft Biodiversity Action Plan 2020-2025, as outlined in the consultation report attached at Appendix 3 to the report, be noted;
- (ii) That the adoption of the final Biodiversity Action Plan 2020-2025, attached at appendix 2 to the report submitted, be agreed.

Reason for decision – to protect and enhance the green spaces and wildlife in Islington.

Other options considered – none

Conflicts of interest/dispensations granted – none

750

LEISURE MOBILISATION AND RECOVERY PLAN

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Mobilisation Plan for re-opening the leisure centres, as summarised in Section 5 of the report, be noted;
- (ii) That the financial viability assessment of GLL as set out in Exempt Appendix 2 to the report be noted;
- (iii) That it be agreed to provide further financial support to GLL to facilitate GLL's continued provision of the Leisure service for the Council up to the end of March 2021 based on the financial projections set out in Exempt Appendix 1 to the report submitted. This would be a further deferral of rent for 2020/21 reflecting projected income and costs in the financial business plan reconciled through the open book process;
- (iv) That a formal quarterly performance review of GLL will be implemented to monitor progress against the financial projections;
- (v) That the Corporate Director of Environment & Regeneration in consultation with the Executive Member for Health and Social Care and Corporate Director of Resources be authorised to agree changes to the mobilisation plan;
- (vi) That it be noted that a contract deed of variation for the first period of support has been agreed and signed by the Council and GLL;
- (vii) That the Corporate Director of Environment & Regeneration in consultation with the Corporate Director of Resources and the acting Director of Law and Governance be authorised to negotiate and agree the terms of the financial support to be provided to GLL for the period up to 31st March 2021; and the acting Director of Law and Governance (or officer authorised by them) be authorised to enter into a further deed of variation to the contract to give effect thereto.

Reason for decision – as specified in the report, to balance the recovery of the Leisure contract through the phased approach to re-opening to ensure Covid secure guidelines can be followed and to enable the financial risks to be managed and minimised whilst enabling access to facilities.

Other options considered – a full options appraisal is set out in the exempt appendix to the report. Other options would have a range of adverse implications, including interruption to service provision.

Conflicts of interest/dispensations granted – none

751 **LEISURE MOBILISATION AND RECOVERY PLAN - EXEMPT APPENDICES**

Noted.

MEETING CLOSED AT 8.00 pm