

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS
RECORD OF THE DECISIONS OF THE CABINET
HELD AT 5.30 P.M. ON TUESDAY, 28 JULY 2015

**C1, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE CRESCENT,
LONDON, E14 2BG**

Members Present:

Mayor John Biggs	
Councillor Sirajul Islam	(Statutory Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing Management & Performance)
Councillor Shiria Khatun	(Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Community Safety)
Councillor Rachael Saunders	(Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education & Children's Services)
Councillor Rachel Blake	(Cabinet Member for Strategic Development)
Councillor David Edgar	(Cabinet Member for Resources)
Councillor Ayas Miah	(Cabinet Member for Environment)
Councillor Joshua Peck	(Cabinet Member for Work & Economic Growth)
Councillor Amy Whitelock Gibbs	(Cabinet Member for Health & Adult Services)

Other Councillors Present:

Councillor Peter Golds	(Leader of the Conservative Group)
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Officers Present:

Luke Addams	(Interim Director of Adult's Services)
Katherine Ball	(Senior Accountant, Development & Renewal)
Simon Baxter	(Acting Service Head, Public Realm, Communities Localities & Culture)
Robin Beattie	(Service Head, Strategy & Resources, Communities Localities & Culture)
Kate Bingham	(Service Head, Children's and Adults Resources)
Max Caller	(Commissioner)
David Galpin	(Service Head, Legal Services, Law Probity & Governance)
Stephen Halsey	(Head of Paid Service and Corporate Director Communities, Localities & Culture)
Fiona Heyland	(Head of Waste Strategy Policy and Procurement, Public Realm, Communities Localities & Culture)
Chris Holme	(Acting Corporate Director - Resources)
Debbie Jones	(Interim Corporate Director, Children's Services)
Sir Ken Knight	(Commissioner)
Ellie Kuper-Thomas	(Strategy, Policy and Performance Officer - Executive Mayor's Office, One Tower Hamlets, DLPG)

Paul Leeson	(Finance Manager, Development & Renewal)
Jackie Odunoye	(Service Head, Strategy, Regeneration & Sustainability, Development and Renewal)
Nasima Patel	(Service Head Children's Social Care, Children's Services)
Kelly Powell	(Acting Head of Communications)
Louise Russell	(Service Head Corporate Strategy and Equality, Law Probity & Governance)
Barry Scarr	(Interim Service Head, Finance & Procurement)
Matthew Mannion	(Committee Services Manager, Democratic Services, LPG)
David Knight	(Senior Democratic Services Officer)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of:

- Councillor Asma Begum (Cabinet Member for Culture)
- Aman Dalvi (Corporate Director, Development & Renewal) for whom Jackie Odunoye (Service Head, Head of Strategy, Regeneration and Sustainability) was deputising.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were no declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

3. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES

The unrestricted minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 13 May 2015 were noted.

4. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4.1 Chair's Advice of Key Issues or Questions

Councillor John Pierce, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC), **tabled** pre-scrutiny questions in relation to the items on the agenda listed below. The questions were responded to during consideration of each respective item.

- Agenda Item 5.1 – Mental Health Recovery and Well-Being Service.
- Agenda Item 5.2 – Transfer of Commissioning Responsibility for Early Years (0-5 years) Public Health Services from NHS England to the Local Authority.
- Agenda Item 5.3 – Ending Groups, Gangs and Serious Violence (EGGSYV).
- Agenda Item 5.5 – Sovereign Court – Change of Consent and Lease Extension.

- Agenda Item 5.6 – Strategy and Options for the use of Right to Buy Receipts.
- Agenda Item 5.7 - Strategic Performance, 14/15 General Fund Revenue Budget and Capital Programme Monitoring Q4/Year End.
- Agenda Item 5.9 – Best Value Plans – Draft 6 Month Update Report.

4.2 Any Unrestricted Decisions "Called in" by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee

The Call-In reference report from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 12 May 2015 was considered. Having reviewed the report the Mayor:

DECISION

1. That the original decision be withdrawn and for a new report to be presented to Cabinet at the earliest opportunity.

5. UNRESTRICTED REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

5.1 Mental Health Recovery & Wellbeing Services

The recommendations were amended and agreed.

DECISION

1. To agree commencement of a procurement process to secure provision of the Mental Health Recovery & Wellbeing Service from April 2016
2. To authorise the Director of Adult Services to finalise the overall service design, after consultation with the Lead Member and Mayor.
3. That a report on the final awarding of the contract be brought back to Cabinet for decision.
4. To agree to extend the two existing contracts with Mind in Tower Hamlets and Working Well Trust detailed in Table 2 in paragraph 3.9 of the report until 31st March 2016.
5. To note that funding is already approved within the existing mental health base budget for 2016/17 and no funding reductions are proposed.

Reasons for the decision

There is now a pressing need to agree the broad principles of the recovery focused model, together with the contracting and procurement method. Current service arrangements have been maintained for the previous 3 years

with 17 temporary contracts extended on a temporary year by year basis. This has resulted in uncertainty for service users and staff with reduced ability to plan support for the longer term, which can be detrimental to mental health. Key partners including the Clinical Commissioning Group and existing mental health voluntary sector providers have been involved in the development of this model since 2013 and are keen to see progress.

Rationale for Change

The lead provider/partnership model is well established in Tower Hamlets with the older persons Link Age Plus and the Information, Advice & Advocacy service adopting a similar model. Positive learning from recent procurement exercises involving groups of local organisations have informed the proposals for mental health recovery and wellbeing services.

Existing mental health day services are generally valued by the people that use them, however in the past there has not been an overarching strategy that has informed this commissioning activity. This fragmented approach has led to positive outcomes for some groups but this is largely dependent on individual schemes rather than a coherent service offer consistent across the Borough. The lack of coordination between services can also make it difficult for some people to access the right support for their needs.

No Change – Implications

The 'no change' option would mean procurement of the same service specifications that have been rolled over for the last three years. It carries significant risks and challenges and is not recommended for the following reasons:

- Procurement of 17 separate services is unlikely to significantly increase the capacity of these services overall which would mean fewer people will be supported in the future than would be possible with a more efficient and effective delivery model.
- Separate contracts may not deliver a seamless service and would not align with local priorities in respect of closer joined up working with health and social care services.
- The proposal for a lead provider model encourages collaboration where smaller organisations can partner with larger organisations better equipped to lead on the bidding process, thus sharing risks and expertise.
- Procurement of several separate contracts and subsequent contract management will require a significant commissioning and procurement resource which is unlikely to result in an efficient use of public resources or better outcomes for local people.
- Consultation with the local voluntary sector has demonstrated that a collaborative lead provider model (via one contract) is the preferred

way forward. There is positive expectation in the community that local partnerships will have the opportunity to come together to improve outcomes for an increased number of people with mental health needs in Tower Hamlets.

- 'No change' would ultimately undermine much of the positive work already carried out by local voluntary organisations to form a mental health provider consortium, in anticipation of this new model.

Alternative options

Do Nothing - this option is not viable, as the current contracts have been issued for a temporary period with a decision to commence procurement pending. Any further delay in tendering for new services would mean a possible breach of the Council's standing financial instructions, if a further decision to issue new contracts without a competitive process is required, or a risk to the continuity of services.

Re-procure existing services with revised contract values/specifications This approach is not recommended because it is unlikely that a coherent service model would be delivered by letting up to 17 new contracts in line with existing provision. This option would carry a high risk of fragmented service provision, poor value for money, lower capacity than the proposed model and a lack of clarity or stability for service users.

5.2 Transfer of Commissioning Responsibility for Early Years (0-5 years) Public Health Services from NHS England to the Local Authority

DECISION

1. To agree, in principle, to accept a novation of the current 0-5 services contract from NHS England to the Council on 1st October 2015.
2. To authorise the Director of Public Health, after consultation with the Service Head – Legal Services, to agree the terms of the novation on behalf of the Council, subject to due diligence checks.
3. To authorise the Director of Public Health to agree the amount of funding which the Council will accept to discharge the 0-5 public health functions which will transfer to it from 1st October 2015.
4. To authorise the Service Head – Legal Services to execute all necessary documentation to give effect to these decisions.

Action by:

INTERIM DIRECTOR, ADULT SERVICES (L. ADDAMS)

(Director of Public Health (S. Banerjee)

(Associate Director, Public Health (E. Trenchard-Mabere)

Reasons for the decision

The government has set out a national timescale for the transfer of commissioning responsibility for 0-5 public health services from NHS England, which has held this responsibility since April 2013, to local authorities. This will take place on 1st October 2015 and is the final stage in the transfer of public health services from the NHS to local government which commenced in 2013 under the Health and Social Care Act.

It is vital to maintain the quality of service delivery to children and families through this transition period and in order to maintain continuity whilst the specification is reviewed and future procurement decisions are made it is recommended to agree the novation. This will allow sufficient time for service specifications to be reviewed and an adequate procurement process to be followed.

Alternative options

The Mayor in Cabinet could direct that instead of novating the existing contract, the current contract should be terminated and the Council would immediately commission a new contract. However a contract of this value (in the region of £7.7 million per annum) requires a full Tollgate and EU procurement process and there is already insufficient time to complete this in time for 1st October. In addition, until 26th March 2015, there were significant uncertainties about the funding that will transfer to the Council. For these reasons the alternative option is not recommended.

5.3 Ending Groups, Gangs and serious Violence (EGGSYV)**DECISION**

1. To agree the Ending Groups, Gangs and Serious Youth Violence Strategy 2015/16 – 2017/18 and the supporting action plan.

Action by:

INTERIM CORPORATE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SERVICES

(Strategy, Policy and Performance Officer (J. Syeda))

Reasons for the decision

This is the borough's first Ending Groups, Gangs and Serious Youth Violence Strategy and needs to be signed off by the Mayor and Executive for implementation. The strategy is needed to enhance the partnership focus and approach to how we respond to local issues of GGSYV. This is needed to ensure we support and safeguard young people and families from harm in relation to involvement in GGSYV.

Alternative options

There are two alternative options. One of these is the option to do nothing, and continue to operate services as is. The strategy presents an opportunity to improve our partnership focus and co-ordination of our response to

GGSYV. The do nothing option does not enhance the service offer to those who are involved and does not enable the partnership to take a prevention approach to supporting those involved in GGSYV. The other alternative option would be to put in place an alternative strategy. The proposed strategy is the best fit strategy for our partnership and feedback from Home Office suggests that the way the strategy is framed in the context of identifying and supporting vulnerabilities is the best approach.

5.4 Re-procurement of Waste Management Services Contracts

DECISION

1. To agree that Blackwall Depot is designated as the Council's operational depot for the delivery of refuse, recycling and street cleansing services, within the Council's Asset Management Strategy
2. To approve a 16 month extension of the Municipal Waste (Cleansing) Contract to extend the contract term through until 30th September 2018
3. To approve the transfer of the existing Underground Refuse and Recycling Service to the Municipal Waste (Cleansing) Contract and authorise the Head of Legal Services to enter into all necessary supplemental agreements and documentation necessary to complete the transfer.
4. To approve the procurement of a short term Integrated Recycling Contract to run from 1st June 2017 to 30th September 2018 and authorise the Corporate Director CLC to award the contract and the Head of Legal Services to execute the contract documents.
5. To agree that a review of the Council's policies and service standards in relation to recycling, residual waste services and street cleansing be undertaken and be reported back to Cabinet.
6. To approve the procurement of a waste disposal contract for a contract term of 9 years 6 months initial term plus option to extend for 8 years and authorise the Corporate Director CLC to award the contract and the Head of Legal Services to execute the contract documents.
7. To agree that Northumberland Wharf Waste Transfer Station is offered to the contractor, through a commercial lease that will be co-terminus with the term of the contract, to support the delivery of waste treatment and disposal services
8. To note that the lease of Northumberland Wharf Waste Transfer Station will require the prior approval of the appointed commissioners being disposal of real property as required by the Directions made on 17 December 2014 by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

9. To approve the procurement of Materials Sorting (MRF) Services on a rolling basis of 2+1 years and authorise the Corporate Director CLC to determine the procurement strategy and specification after consultation with the Mayor and Lead Member.
10. To authorise the Corporate Director CLC to award the MRF contract and the Head of Legal Services to execute the contract documents.
11. To agree that a review of the opportunity for shared service provision with other local authorities for refuse and recycling collections and street cleansing or the opportunity to bring some of the services in-house be undertaken and reported back to Cabinet prior to the procurement of a long term Refuse, Recycling and Street Cleansing Contract.
12. To agree that the waste treatment and disposal contract will include a price change mechanism to avoid inflation driven cuts to services over the lifetime of the contract.
13. To approve the commencement of the procurement of these services in line with the recommendations included in this report.
14. To agree the conduct of consultation regarding delivery of environmental services.

Action by:**CORPORATE DIRECTOR, COMMUNITIES, LOCALITIES AND CULTURE
(S. HALSEY)**

(Interim Head of Public Realm (S. Baxter)

(Head of Waste Management (F. Heyland)

Reasons for the decision

As a Unitary Authority, Tower Hamlets is both a Waste Collection Authority and a Waste Disposal Authority. As such the Council has a statutory duty to collect and dispose of Municipal Waste within its area.

The Council has historically chosen to discharge these statutory duties through a number of externalised service contracts.

There are currently 4 waste management contracts in place that will be expiring in April and May 2017. Therefore the Council must agree the contracting approach to ensure continued service provision through the extension of one of the waste services contracts and the re-procurement of other contracts for commencement when the current contracts expire.

Alternative options

The alternative options for the contracting approach are as follows:

- Whilst the Council has historically provided waste management services through externalised contracts there are alternative service delivery options such as shared services with other Local Authorities or

in-house services that the Council is proposing to explore. The review of alternative options would need to demonstrate that shared services or in-house delivery of services would deliver better value for money than the current model of externally provided services.

- The alternative option of not offering Northumberland Wharf Waste Transfer Station to support the delivery of waste treatment and disposal services would be likely to result in reduced competition and limited solutions for these services and therefore may increase service costs and reduce value for money.
- The alternative option of requiring economic benefits to be delivered for the waste treatment and disposal services would immediately add additional cost to the services as there is a minimum labour element to the service, unsuitable environments for young people, have little or no supply chain opportunities and the facilities are often in remote locations.
- The alternative option to require fixed prices for the full term of the waste treatment and disposal contract and have no mechanism to allow for growth as a result of additional housing stock and population would place a significant cost risk on the contractor. Transferring this risk would result in the additional cost to the Council as early years of the contract would have inflated costs to take account of the anticipated capacity necessary for the latter years of the contract.

5.5 Sovereign Court - Change of Use Consent and Lease Extension

DECISION

1. To agree to the change of use under the terms of the lease from office (Use Class B1) to residential (Use Class C3) upon such terms as the Council is advised by its advisers to accept and subject to payment of a premium of £7.35m on the payment terms described in this report.
2. To authorise the Corporate Director, Development & Renewal, after consultation with the Service Head – Legal Services, to agree the final terms and conditions of any agreement or deed including a deed of variation of lease to implement the above decision.
3. To authorise the Service Head – Legal Services to execute all necessary documents to implement this decision.

Action by:

CORPORATE DIRECTOR, DEVELOPMENT AND RENEWAL (A. DALVI)
(Service Head, Corporate Property & Capital Delivery (A. Sutcliffe))

Reasons for the decision

Granting landlord's consent to a change of use from Offices (Use Class B1(a)) to Residential (Use Class C3) would create 124 residential units and deliver to

the Council a premium, the details of which are set out in paragraphs 3.24-3.29 of the report, in return for the grant of its consent, whilst still retaining the freehold for the benefit of future generations of residents.

This would bring a currently under-used and vacant building in to full use and occupation and add to the housing stock in Wapping. This is entirely complimentary to surrounding uses.

This is a wholly sensible and commercial approach for the Council to take as a diligent landlord.

Alternative options

The Mayor in Cabinet could determine not to agree to the change of use as landlord, maintain the status quo and continue to collect the annual £10 ground rent for the residue of the term.

However, this is not recommended as it would require foregoing a significant premium and would be perceived as unnecessarily punitive when the tenant is offering to equally share the uplift in value.

5.6 Strategy and Options for the Use of Right to Buy Receipts

DECISION

1. To note the issues in this report and the proposal that a more detailed report will be brought in September.
2. To agree that a strategy to utilise receipts using the measures outlined in this report be developed, in order to secure additional Council Housing, and affordable housing provided by Registered Providers, and to avoid the risk of losing valuable resources.
3. To authorise the Corporate Director, Development and Renewal, after consultation with the Mayor, to identify and progress development feasibilities for a number of HRA sites for inclusion in the RTB Receipts programme for presentation to Cabinet.
4. To develop further ideas for the development of new homes at Tent Street and William Brinson, to be presented to Cabinet in September.
5. To authorise the Corporate Director to procure the professional and technical services required to identify the feasibility for development of these sites to RIBA stage 3.
6. To agree that a longer term strategy be developed for the use of right to buy receipts as they accrue and presented to Cabinet. This should include investigating the setting up of a RTB Receipts Grant programme for Registered Providers, utilising s106 schemes and exploring the use of RTB receipts to enhance Housing Options.

7. To agree to development of a strategy for a programme of Council RTB buy backs, which will be presented to the Executive at the earliest opportunity, and which may be extended to Registered Providers which satisfy conditions of affordability and good quality management.
8. Authorise the Corporate Director, Development & Renewal, after consultation with the Service Head – Legal Services, to agree the final terms and conditions of any agreements to implement the above decision.

Action by:**CORPORATE DIRECTOR, DEVELOPMENT AND RENEWAL (A. DALVI)**

(Service Head, Strategy, Regeneration and Sustainability (J. Odunoye))

Reasons for the decision

This report outlines the issues currently facing the Council's Housing Revenue Account, and as a result is primarily concerned with the use of right to buy receipts as a funding source. The use of these needs to be explored against the wider financial context of resources within the HRA. This is particularly the case because of the restriction placed on the use of right to buy receipts as a funding source for the supply of new homes.

LBTH entered into a retention agreement with DCLG in November 2012 for the use of '1-4-1' Right to Buy Receipts to part fund new housing for affordable or social rent. The main terms of the Agreement are as follows:

- RTB receipts not used within three years from the quarter of their generation will need to be repaid with interest.
- The retained Right to Buy receipt is not permitted to be more than 30% of the total amount spent on eligible development costs for the provision of social housing.
- The balance (70%) must come from the Council's own resources with no other grant or receipts permitted to be used in addition to the RTB receipts (other than for certain projects started before April 2013).

These terms were not negotiable.

The primary intended purpose for the RTB receipts is for new build housing, although acquisition of market housing for use as social housing is permitted but it is also subject to the 30% rule. This can be within or outside the Borough so long as the Council owns or has nomination rights over the properties.

There are no conditions on the number, type, size, rent or location of new homes to be built or acquired. Social rent and Affordable rented homes are permitted subject to financial viability testing.

The Council can use the receipts for its own direct development projects or it can allocate them to Registered Providers (RP) so long as the RTB receipt is no more than 30% of the eligible costs incurred by the RP.

The number of right to buy sales has increased substantially; approximately £24.2 million of additional and unallocated net LBTH RtB receipts have been generated as at the end of June 2015. This will be due to be used/spent in five tranches by the end of June 2017, September 2017, December 2017, March 2018 and June 2018. This will require £56.5 million of LBTH HRA resources to be spent in addition ie approximately £80.7m of capital spend in total. Table 2 in (paragraph 6.12) sets out when the RTB receipts need to be used or returned.

Alternative options

There is an acute need for affordable housing in the borough and there are limited alternatives that will provide an adequate solution to the use of receipts in a timely fashion and in Tower Hamlets.

DCLG has recently indicated that any returned receipts will be re-allocated to provide new housing, however there is no guarantee that the new provision will be in the originating borough, or even which tenure will be provided.

This report recommends that officers investigate options to spend the receipts and does not focus solely on a new build approach. A further report will be presented to Cabinet later in 2015.

5.7 Strategic Performance, 14/15 General Fund Revenue Budget and Capital Programme Monitoring Q4/Year End

DECISION

1. To note the Council's financial performance compared to budget for 2014/15 as detailed in sections 3 to 8 and appendices 1-5 of this report.
2. To note the transfers to reserves as detailed in Appendix 5 of this report.
3. To review and note 2014/15 year end performance for strategic measures and Strategic Plan activities in sections 9 -10 and appendices 6 to 7.
4. To review and note the findings of the Council's Annual Residents Survey 2014/15 in section 11 and appendix 8.

Action by:

ACTING CORPORATE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES (C. HOLME)

(Service Head, Corporate Strategy and Equality (L. Russell)

(Chief Accountant (K. Miles)

Reasons for the decision

Good financial practice requires that regular reports be submitted to Council/Committee setting out the financial position of the Council against budget, and its service performance against targets.

The regular reporting of the Strategic Performance and Corporate Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring should assist in ensuring that Members are able to scrutinise officer decisions.

Alternative options

The Council reports its annual outturn position against budget for both revenue and capital net spend. It also reports its strategic performance.

Significant variations, trends and corrective action are reported in the body and appendices of the report. No alternative action is considered necessary beyond that included below and this report is produced to ensure that Members are kept informed about decisions made under the delegated authority.

5.8 Contracts Forward Plan 2015/16**DECISION**

1. To confirm that the award of all the contracts listed should be individually presented to future Cabinet meetings for decision, unless urgency requires that an individual mayoral decision be sought.

Action by:

ACTING CORPORATE DIRECTOR RESOURCES (C. HOLME)

(Head of Procurement (Z. Ahmed))

Reasons for the decision

The Council's Procurement Procedures require submission of a quarterly forward plan of contracts for Cabinet consideration, and it is a requirement of the Constitution that "The contracting strategy and/or award of any contract for goods or services with an estimated value exceeding £250,000, and any contract for capital works with an estimated value exceeding £5,000,000, shall be approved by the Cabinet in accordance with the Procurement Procedures". This report fulfils these requirements for contracts to be let during and after the period Q1 of the Financial Year.

Alternative options

Bringing a consolidated report on contracting activity is considered the most efficient way of meeting the requirement in the Constitution, whilst providing full visibility of contracting activity; therefore no alternative proposals are being made.

5.9 Best Value Improvement Plan - Six Monthly Monitoring**DECISION**

1. To agree the draft six month progress update (Appendix 1) for submission to the Commissioners on 9th September;
2. To note that the progress report will be updated to reflect the latest position prior to consideration by the Commissioners on 9th September, before submission to the Secretary of State.

Action by:**SERVICE HEAD CORPORATE STRATEGY AND EQUALITY (L. RUSSELL)****Reasons for the decision**

The Council is required to monitor these plans to comply with Secretary of State Directions.

Alternative options

The Council is required to comply with Secretary of State Directions.

The actions within the plans have been the subject of consultation with a range of parties and the Commissioners which has considered alternative options.

5.10 Strategic and Resource Planning 2016/17 to 2018/19 - TO FOLLOW**DECISION**

1. To note the budget adjustments for 2015/16 to reflect new growth pressures and mayoral priorities (paragraph 3.3.4 and 3.3.5).
2. To note the additional funding secured by the authority through the Local enterprise partnership (LEP)
3. To agree spending plans that have been approved by the GLA (Appendix 1) (paragraph 3.3.7 to 3.3.10).
4. To note that through the 2014/15 closure process £7.5m uncommitted new homes bonus (NHB) has been set aside to fund replacement of social housing (paragraph 3.6.6).
5. To consider options to set aside additional NHB to fund more affordable homes as part of the budget process in 2016/17 (paragraph 3.6.8).
6. To agree the Strategic Plan for 2015/16 (Appendix 5).
7. To note that the financial outlook over the MTFP has been extended to include assumptions for 2018/19 and a total savings target of £63m

between 2016/17 and 2018/19 is the current working target (Appendix 3).

8. To note that the financial position is subject to volatility and that development's in Government policy following SR15 and their implications on MTFP planning assumptions will be monitored closely and reported back at regular intervals during the financial year as part of the budget process.

Action by:

ACTING CORPORATE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES (C. HOLME)

(Service Head, Corporate Strategy and Equality (L. Russell)

(Interim Service Head, Finance and Procurement (B. Scarr)

(Head of Financial Planning & Corporate Business Partner (E. Hussain)

Reasons for the decision

The authority is under a duty to set a balanced and sustainable budget and needs to plan the use of resources in such a way that it can deliver its statutory responsibilities and priorities as well as meeting local people's aspirations

A Medium Term Financial Plan is required to enable financial pressures and risks to be modelled, allowing resourcing decisions to be made in a planned and structured manner. This is especially pertinent when overall resources are reducing, and unaffordable spending commitments need to be avoided.

Alternative options

The authority has no practical alternative other than to deliver services within available resources while ensuring value for money in the use of these resources and managing risks through effective financial planning. Any decision not to develop options to address future spending reductions would have serious ramifications for the Council. The authority can take alternative approaches to how it sets about the process, for example of finding savings or providing in the budget for possible risks.

5.11 Exercise of Corporate Directors' Discretions

DECISION

1. Note the exercise of Corporate Directors' discretions as set out in Appendix 1.

Action by:

ACTING CORPORATE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES (C. HOLME)

Reasons for the decision

Financial Regulations require that regular reports be submitted to Council/Committee setting out financial decisions taken under Financial Regulation B10.

The regular reporting of Corporate Director's Discretions should assist in ensuring that Members are able to scrutinise officer decisions.

Alternative options

The Council is bound by its Financial Regulations (which have been approved by Council) to report to Council/Committee setting out financial decisions taken under Financial Regulation B10.

If the Council were to deviate from those requirements, there would need to be a good reason for doing so. It is not considered that there is any such reason, having regard to the need to ensure that Members are kept informed about decisions made under the delegated authority threshold and to ensure that these activities are in accordance with Financial Regulations.

6. ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT

Nil items.

7. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Nil items.

8. EXEMPT / CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

Nil items.

9. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**9.1 Chair's Advice of Key Issues or Questions in Relation to Exempt / Confidential Business**

Nil items.

9.2 Any Exempt / Confidential Decisions "Called in" by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Nil items.

10. ANY OTHER EXEMPT/ CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT

Nil items.

The meeting ended at 6.00 p.m.

John S Williams
SERVICE HEAD, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES