

Cabinet 6 th December 2016	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Zena Cooke, Corporate Director of Resources	Classification: Unrestricted
Corporate Directors' Decisions	

Lead Member	Councillor David Edgar, Cabinet Member for Resources
Originating Officer(s)	Alimul Kadir, Accountant - Financial Planning
Wards affected	All wards
Key Decision?	No
Community Plan Theme	One Tower Hamlets

Executive Summary

This report sets out Corporate Directors' decisions under Financial Regulation B10 which stipulates that such decisions be the subject of a noting report to Cabinet if they involve expenditure between £100,000 and £250,000.

Recommendations:

The Mayor in Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Note the Corporate Directors' decision set out in Appendix 1.

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 Financial Regulations require that regular reports be submitted to Cabinet setting out financial decisions taken under Financial Regulation B10.
- 1.2 The regular reporting of Corporate Directors' Decisions should assist in ensuring that Members are able to scrutinise officer decisions.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 The Council is bound by its Financial Regulations (which have been approved by Council) to report to Cabinet setting out financial decisions taken under Financial Regulation B10.
- 2.2 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.

3. DETAILS OF REPORT

- 3.1 Financial Regulation B10 sets out the Cabinet Reporting Thresholds for the following financial transactions:
 - Virements
 - Capital Estimates
 - Waiving Competition Requirements for Contracts and Orders (Subject to EU threshold)
 - Capital Overspends
 - Settlement Of Uninsured Claims
- 3.2 Under Financial Regulation B10, if the transaction involves a sum between £100,000 and £250,000 it can be authorised by the Corporate Director under the scheme of delegation but must also be the subject of a noting report to the next available Cabinet.
- 3.3 There have been five new Corporate Directors' Decisions between £100,000 and £250,000 since the last report on 4th October 2016.
- 3.4 The decision to extend the contract with Barts Health NHS Trust for the UNICEF Baby Friendly Initiative (reference 057-2016/17) is the third in a series of decisions covering this arrangement. The extensions are principally due to ongoing works in finalising a Section 75 Agreement to transfer the responsibility of commissioning part of this service to Tower Hamlets Clinical Commissioning Group. The value of the most recent extension is £49,630, and the cumulative total is £144,964.

- 3.5 There are four decisions to add projects to the capital programme, following confirmation of funding from Transport for London (TfL). Three of these projects are for the construction of various routes as part of TfL's Quietways network. The fourth is for the provision of cycle parking.
- 3.6 The details of the decisions referred to in 3.3 to 3.5 are provided within Appendix 1.

4. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 4.1 The comments of the Chief Financial Officer have been incorporated into the report and Appendix.

5. LEGAL COMMENTS

- 5.1 The report sets out individual Corporate Directors' Decisions for noting by Cabinet, as required by Financial Regulation B10.
- 5.2 Internal guidelines have been published setting out the process by which Records of Corporate Directors' Decisions are completed. These specify that the proposed decision must be in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations and its Procurement Procedures. There are limited circumstances in which a waiver of the Procurement Procedures is permissible and the guidelines reinforce that waivers should not be sought as a substitute for proper planning.
- 5.3 Each director's decision requires prior authorisation by the relevant service head, the responsible procurement officer, the directorate finance manager, and the chief legal officer before agreement by the corporate director. A template form is completed to record each director's decision and these Records of Corporate Directors' Decisions (RCDDs) must be maintained by each directorate. The legal implications of each of the individual decisions are provided as part of the decision making process and are recorded on the relevant RCDD.

6. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 This report is concerned with the notification of officers' decisions under Standing Orders and has no direct One Tower Hamlets implications. To the extent that there are One Tower Hamlets Considerations arising from the individual decisions, these would have been addressed in the records of each decision.

7. BEST VALUE (BV) IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Best Value implications associated with each of the Corporate Directors' decisions as set out in Appendix 1 would have been identified and evaluated as an integral part of the process which led to the decision.

8. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

8.1 There are no Sustainable Action for A Greener Environment implications arising from this report.

9. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The risks associated with each of the Corporate Directors' decisions as set out in Appendix 1 would have been identified and evaluated as an integral part of the process which led to the decision.

10. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no Crime and Disorder Reduction implications arising from this report.

11. SAFEGUARDING IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Safeguarding risks or benefits associated with each of the Corporate Directors' decisions as set out in Appendix 1 would have been identified and evaluated as an integral part of the process which led to the decision.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- None

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Corporate Directors' Decisions under Financial Regulation B10

Background Documents – Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012

- None

Officer contact details for documents:

- Stephen Adams, Finance Business Partner, Communities, Localities and Culture, Ext. 5212