

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

RECORD OF THE DECISIONS OF THE CABINET

HELD AT 5.34 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2019

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

Members Present:

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|---------------------------|--|
| Mayor John Biggs | |
| Councillor Sirajul Islam | (Statutory Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing) |
| Councillor Rachel Blake | (Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Planning, Air Quality and Tackling Poverty) |
| Councillor Asma Begum | (Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Equalities) |
| Councillor Sabina Akhtar | (Cabinet Member for Culture, Arts and Brexit) |
| Councillor Amina Ali | (Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing) |
| Councillor David Edgar | (Cabinet Member for Environment) |
| Councillor Danny Hassell | (Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Young People) |
| Councillor Candida Ronald | (Cabinet Member for Resources and the Voluntary Sector) |
| Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman | (Cabinet Member for Work and Economic Growth) |

Other Councillors Present:

Councillor Faroque Ahmed
Councillor Rajib Ahmed
Councillor Shah Ameen
Councillor Kevin Brady
Councillor Shad Chowdhury
Councillor Peter Golds
Councillor Ehtasham Haque
Councillor Asma Islam
Councillor Tarik Khan
Councillor James King
Councillor Gabriela Salva
Macallan

Officers Present:

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|----------------|---|
| John Archer | (Biodiversity Officer, Development and Renewal) |
| Mark Baigent | (Interim Divisional Director, Housing and Regeneration) |
| David Courcoux | (Head of the Mayor's Office) |
| Janet Fasan | (Divisional Director, Legal, Governance) |
| David Freeman | (Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Strategy) |

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Sharon Godman | Manager) (Divisional Director, Strategy, Policy and Performance) |
| Afazul Hoque | (Head of Corporate Strategy & Policy) |
| Muhammad Islam | (Pollution Team Leader, Environmental Health) |
| Debbie Jones | (Corporate Director, Children and Culture) |
| Abdul Khan | (Service Manager - Energy & Sustainability) |
| Alan McCarthy | (Asset Strategy Capital Delivery & Property Services) |
| Ralph Million | (Senior Strategic Asset Manager, Place) |
| Neville Murton | Corporate Director, Resources) |
| Denise Radley | (Corporate Director, Health, Adults & Community) |
| Michael Ritchie | (Place Shaping Team Leader, Strategic Planning) |
| Ann Sutcliffe | (Corporate Director, Place) |
| Will Tuckley | (Chief Executive) |
| Matthew Mannion | (Head of Democratic Services, Governance) |
| Zoe Folley | (Committee Officer, Governance) |
| David Knight | (Senior Democratic Services Officer) |

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf Asmat Hussain (Corporate Director, Governance), Janet Fasan (Divisional Director, Legal Services) deputised.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

In relation to Agenda Item 6.2 (Local Community Fund) it was noted that in the normal course of business it would be expected that local councillors would have contact, engagement and links with many different local organisations including many of those who had applied for funding under this process and that this did not need to be specifically declared.

In addition to the above, Councillor Asma Begum declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 6.2 in that her husband was a trustee of the Sporting Foundation.

In relation to Agenda Item 6.11 (Angela Court, Burdett Road; Lease to Mulberry Housing Society) it was noted that officers had been appointed as directors of that company.

3. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES

DECISION

1. That the unrestricted minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on Wednesday 26 June 2019 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record of proceedings.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY) FROM THE MAYOR

See the minutes.

5. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**5.1 Chair's Advice of Key Issues or Questions**

Pre-Decision Scrutiny Questions and officer responses were tabled in respect of Agenda Items 6.1 – 6.13. They were considered during discussion of the relevant items.

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

Nil items.

6. UNRESTRICTED REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION**6.1 Outcome of recent Ofsted Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS)**

The Pre-Decision Scrutiny Questions and officer responses were noted.

DECISION

1. To note the report and the outcome of the recent inspection.

Action by:

CORPORATE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN AND CULTURE (D. JONES)
(Strategy and Policy Manager (J. Solomons))

Reasons for the decision

Cabinet have been monitoring the progress of the Children's Services Improvement journey since the inspection in 2017. This report represents the culmination of that work.

Alternative options

There are no alternative options.

6.2 Local Community Fund

The recommendations were amended and then agreed.

The Pre-Decision Scrutiny Questions and officer responses were noted.

DECISION

1. To agree the Local Community Fund programme and funding to individual organisations as set out in appendix F to the report for a period of 42 months from 1st October 2019 to 31st March 2023,

subject to agreement of detailed funding agreements setting out the outcomes the funded projects are expected to achieve and conditions of funding. Subject to the following:

- a. That a delivery plan for the mitigation measures set out in paragraph 3.56 of the report, including how these will address the concerns raised at Cabinet with regards to meeting the needs of Somali and other minority community residents, be presented to the Mayor for consideration and agreement prior to the conclusion of the final funding agreements set out in Appendix F.
 - b. That the 'Advice and Information' Scheme 3A, will not be implemented until a further report is presented to the Mayor setting out how the recommended advice consortium will provide wide geographic coverage including in the south west area of the borough and will reach excluded communities.
 - c. That the report referred to in 1a above will include appropriate timelines for the mitigation measures set out in the Equality Analysis Action Plan referred to in 3 below.
2. To agree that transitional arrangements will be put in place for funded organisations set out in paragraphs 3.54 to 3.58 of the report.
 3. To note the Equality Analysis and the specific equalities considerations as set out in paragraph 4 of the report and to agree the Equality Analysis Action Plan set out in appendix A to the report.
 4. That a separate report be presented to the Mayor setting out how the Council supports areas such as 'play', 'sports' and 'activities for elders' outside of the Local Community Fund programme and how the conclusion of Mainstream Grants will impact on these programmes.

Action by:

CHIEF EXECUTIVE (W. TUCKLEY)

(Divisional Director, Strategy, Policy and Performance (S. Godman)
(VCS Strategy Manager (D. Freeman)

Reasons for the decision

The council has made a commitment in its Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Strategy 2016-19 to supporting a vibrant and sustainable voluntary sector in the borough. As part of this commitment the council has undertaken to continue to support the VCS through specific funding programmes to enable VCS organisations to participate in the delivery of high quality public services to local residents.

The council's principal funding stream specifically for services provided by the VCS, the Mainstream Grants Programme, ends on 30th September 2019. The Local Community Fund, alongside the Small Grants Programme, is

intended to replace the Mainstream Grants Programme (MSG) at the current level of £2.66m per annum.

Alternative options

The council could decide to cease specific funding directed towards supporting services and activities delivered by VCS organisations. However, the council agreed in 2016 a VCS Strategy which recognises the unique place of the VCS in the local community continues the commitment of the council to supporting services and activities delivered by VCS organisations.

The council could decide it wishes to fund a programme different from that recommended. The LCF programme is based on a policy framework co-designed with the VCS and previously agreed at Cabinet, invitations to bid to funding schemes developed from that framework, the assessment of bids based on agreed criteria, an analysis of the equality considerations relating to the programme and the principles of best value. If the council decided it wished to fund an alternative programme, the approach to developing such a programme would need to be significantly different from the LCF. Pursuing this option would also require consideration of the impact of the current funding programme coming to an end without an agreed replacement or the extension of MSG funding for a further period.

6.3 Strategic Review of Tower Hamlets Homes

The recommendations were amended and then approved.

The Pre-Decision Scrutiny Questions and officer responses were noted.

DECISION

1. To note the findings of Altair's independent review of current housing management arrangements and appraisal of future options (Appendix 1 to the report).
2. To note the outcome of the recent consultation exercise (Appendix 2 to the report) and agree to proceed with the extension of the Council's management agreement with Tower Hamlets Homes for four years (to 2024), with a possible extension for a further four years (to 2028).
3. To delegate to the Corporate Director (Place) after consultation with the Corporate Director (Governance), authority to complete the said extension by July 2020 and do all that is necessary for this purpose including negotiating and approving a revised Management Agreement.

Action by:

CORPORATE DIRECTOR, PLACE (A. SUTCLIFFE)

(Interim Divisional Director, Housing and Regeneration (M. Baigent)

(ALMO Client Manager (J. Kiwanuka)

Reasons for the decision

The strategic housing management option review identified extending the existing Management Agreement as the most effective way to deliver the Council's housing service in the current context. As the status quo option this route presents the least risk to the Council and hence is considered the most suitable, feasible and acceptable option. The review found no evidence to suggest fundamental problems with the current model that would indicate the ALMO should not be retained.

Extending the duration of the existing agreement puts THH onto a sound strategic and financial footing, enabling it to plan for the medium term, and to recruit and retain the staffing capacity appropriate to the purpose that the Council has set for it over that period.

Alternative options

Diversified ALMO: A detailed business case would need to be developed for each new or transferred service under consideration. The test is not whether THH could deliver those services well, but rather that THH could deliver them at greater quality and/or more efficiently than LBTH. The suitability of this option is highly dependent on the particular services (if any) that may be considered.

Thinner ALMO: Given that THH is already a 'thin' ALMO, it is not clear what services would be better placed being delivered by the Council. The suitability of this option is highly dependent on the particular services (if any) that may be considered.

In-house Housing Management: The review found that there was no performance or financial imperative to bring the housing service in-house. THH is generally well-performing and is making financial savings to the HRA in line with Council targets. Bringing the ALMO in-house risks losing the improvements to the housing service that THH has achieved in recent years. During the review, Councillors, LBTH staff, and many engaged residents did not consider the housing management service in need of such significant a change in delivery model: "the ALMO isn't broken".

6.4 Air Quality Action Plan Update on Progress

The updated report was noted.

The Pre-Decision Scrutiny Questions and officer responses were noted.

DECISION

1. To note the progress the Council is making in implementing the Air Quality Action Plan 2017-2022.
2. To approve the amalgamation of the Air Quality Partnership Board with the Health and Wellbeing Board.

3. To approve the preparation of an Air Quality Delivery Plan for the final years of the Air Quality Action Plan to address targeted action on our most polluted areas and the presence of PM2.5
4. To note the further actions identified in this report which would support a Delivery Plan.
5. To note the specific equalities considerations as set out in Paragraph in paragraph 4.1 of the report.

Action by:**CORPORATE DIRECTOR, PLACE (A. SUTCLIFFE)**

(Head of Environmental Health and Trading Standards (D. Tolley))

Reasons for the decision

Under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 Local Authorities have a duty to review and assess air quality in their area. Where levels of air pollutants exceed National Air quality Objectives set in the Environment Act, measures must be developed to reduce emissions towards achieving the air quality objectives.

Alternative options

This is an updating report so there are no alternative options to consider.

6.5 Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2019-2024

The Pre-Decision Scrutiny Questions and officer responses were noted.

DECISION

1. To approve the Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2019-24 as attached in Appendix 1 to the report.
2. To note the Equalities Impact Assessment as set out in Paragraph 4.1 of the report.

Action by:**CORPORATE DIRECTOR, PLACE (A. SUTCLIFFE)**

(Biodiversity Officer (J. Archer))

(Service Manager – Energy, Sustainability and Private Sector Housing (A. Khan))

Reasons for the decision

Due to a range of factors such as climate change, overexploitation and habitat loss, biodiversity is declining across Britain and throughout the world. In Tower Hamlets, rapid growth and development is the main pressure facing the borough's wild plants and animals, but also provides a big opportunity to enhance biodiversity.

Under the Section 40 of the Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006, all public bodies, including local authorities, must have regard to biodiversity conservation in the exercise of their functions. For local authorities, this is of most significance for planning and land management.

Through this action plan, the council can demonstrate local leadership, and demonstrate that it is meeting its responsibilities under the NERC Act, by setting out what is required to ensure that important biodiversity is conserved and enhanced in Tower Hamlets.

Alternative options

The council could choose to retain the existing Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2014-19. However, this is set out with objectives and targets for the five-year period. Most of the existing targets have already been delivered, so adopting an updated LBAP is more appropriate.

The council could also choose not to have a Local Biodiversity Action Plan at all. However, the detailed specific guidance required by planning policies or the Tower Hamlets Green Grid Strategy would then be lacking, and it would be difficult for the Council to demonstrate how it would carry out its duty under the NERC Act to have regard to biodiversity conservation in the exercise of its functions.

6.6 Children and Families Strategy 2019-2024

The Pre-Decision Scrutiny Questions and officer responses were noted.

DECISION

1. To note the contents of the draft Children and Families Strategy 2019-2024, which are reflective of changes which were made during the consultation phase that took place in May 2019.

Action by:

CORPORATE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN AND CULTURE (D. JONES)

(Senior Strategy and Policy Manager (T. Boahene))

Reasons for the decision

This is a noting report.

Alternative options

The Council could choose not to endorse the Children and Families Strategy; however as one of the largest partners on the Children and Families Partnership Board this would undermine the work and direction agreed by the Partnership for the next five years.

The strategy provides a framework for delivering on joint priorities for aspirations, healthy families and safety and security for children and families in the borough. Without this strategy it would be difficult to map a clear, coherent direction towards important outcomes for children, young people and families in Tower Hamlets.

6.7 Response to Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Challenge Session recommendations: Communications

The Pre-Decision Scrutiny Questions and officer responses were noted.

DECISION

1. To agree to the responses to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's (OSC) Challenge Session recommendations (at Appendix 1 to the report); and
2. To support officers' reporting of progress to OSC as required.

Action by:

DIVISIONAL DIRECTOR, COMMUNICATIONS (A. CHRISTOPHOROU)
(Strategy and Policy Officer (G. Duval))

Reasons for the decision

The Council's constitution requires the Executive to respond to recommendations from the OSC.

The action plan within this report outlines the Executive response to the recommendations arising from the Challenge Session recommendations.

Alternative options

To take no action, or not to agree the action plan is not recommended as the report outlines work undertaken by Councillors, officers and external partners to identify areas of improvement and the Council's response which identifies actions it will take to respond to these scrutiny recommendations.

6.8 Proposed additions to the local list

The Pre-Decision Scrutiny Questions and officer responses were noted.

DECISION

1. To approve the proposed additions to the local list.

Action by:

CORPORATE DIRECTOR, PLACE (A. SUTCLIFFE)
(Place Shaping Team Leader (M. Ritchie))

Reasons for the decision

The council's Conservation Strategy (2017) recognises that the boroughs heritage is an irreplaceable legacy that is intrinsic to the character of Tower Hamlets, and makes it a unique and distinctive place. It also recognises that heritage makes a significant contribution to the borough as a welcoming place to live, work and visit, delivering long-term benefits for the social and economic well-being of Tower Hamlets. The proposed additions to the local

list will give recognition to valued heritage assets and will help to ensure that they are protected and enhanced, so that they can be appreciated and enjoyed by future generations.

Alternative options

It may be decided to not add all, or some of, the proposed buildings to the local list. If this were the case, the buildings would still be considered to be undesignated heritage assets, and their heritage value would still be taken into account in planning decisions. However, they would not have the formal recognition of being identified on the council's local list.

6.9 Revised Commercial Property Lettings and Disposals Procedure

The Pre-Decision Scrutiny Questions and officer responses were noted.

DECISION

1. To approve the attached revised procedure, and delegate to the Corporate Director, Place the authority to agree any subsequent amendments of a minor nature.

Action by:

CORPORATE DIRECTOR, PLACE (A. SUTCLIFFE)

(Asset Strategy (A. McCarthy)

(Interim Asset Manager (D. Beament)

Reasons for the decision

The original 2015 procedure which has been used to provide guidance to relevant officers within the Council's Asset Management Team, needed updating to comply with current professional and commercial practice and the latest internal audit requirements to improve consistency and clarity, to ensure improved service delivery.

Alternative options

To keep the existing procedures :-

These procedures were drafted some 4 years ago and do not include the improvements made in both new technology and professional practice in the interim. If they continue to be used, this could limit future improvements in performance and service delivery.

Not to have procedures at all

This may result in a lack of consistency in undertaking non-residential letting and disposals transactions and could result in deterioration of service delivery to the detriment of local businesses and residents.

6.10 Land to the West of Virginia Street -London Docks School

The Pre-Decision Scrutiny Questions and officer responses were noted.

DECISION

1. To agree to delegate authority to the Corporate Director, Place:
 - a. the negotiation and completion of the lease between The Council and St George, the developer.
 - b. the negotiation and completion of the sublease between The Council and Mulberry Trust
 - c. to run an EU compliant procurement process and negotiate, agree and let the construction contract

Action by:

CORPORATE DIRECTOR, PLACE (A. SUTCLIFFE)

(Asset Management (A. McCarthy)

Reasons for the decision

Without approval the Council cannot enter into a long lease for the site and a new secondary school will not be built.

Alternative options

There are no other alternative options for entering into a lease. The requirement for the Council to enter into a lease was explicit in the Section 106 agreement and the appended documents.

The major projects team have looked at the various options for procuring construction services for delivering the school. The approach to this procurement is detailed further in this report.

6.11 Angela Court, Burdett Road; Lease to Mulberry Housing Society

The exempt appendix was noted.

The Pre-Decision Scrutiny Questions and officer responses were noted.

DECISION

1. To agree to grant a lease of Angela Court, Burdett Road to Mulberry Housing Society on the main terms set out in paragraph 3.11 of the report.
2. To delegate to the Corporate Director, Place, in consultation with the Corporate Director, Resources, authority to negotiate a lease with Mulberry Housing Society that substantially reflects the main terms.
3. To note the specific equalities considerations as set out in paragraph 4.1 of the report.

Action by:**CORPORATE DIRECTOR, PLACE (A. SUTCLIFFE)**

(Senior Strategic Asset Manager (R. Million)

(Head of Strategic Finance, Place (P. Butler)

Reasons for the decision

The grant of a lease to MHS is a necessary part of the overall arrangements between the Council and MHS, to allow it to take on and operate the property as affordable housing. The Council has secured these 42 social rented homes through a s106 agreement and the proposed arrangement will entrust MHS to provide this affordable housing for the next 40 years, with grant provided to compensate MHS for the reasonable costs of providing these homes.

Alternative options

The Council has various options for the future use of the units in the building. The main options are;

- Transfer the units to MHS at or soon after completion. The mechanism for such a transfer is proposed as on a leasehold basis. This is the preferred option.
- Hold the units in the General Fund as temporary accommodation (TA). The Council is constrained by the s106 agreement provisions that the level of rent that it can charge to occupiers must be at social rent levels, and those are typically lower than that generally charged for TA.
- Hold the units in the HRA as TA or general needs housing. In the TA option the same rent considerations apply as for the General Fund option. For general needs housing let under secure or flexible tenancies, the right to buy will arise in the future.
- In any of the above scenarios the management of the units could be undertaken by THH or some other body, as the Council or MHS may choose.
- The units will be freehold assets of the Council which could be sold or let in the future, subject to any restrictions imposed by the s106 agreement.

6.12 Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Quarter 1 2019/20

The Pre-Decision Scrutiny Questions and officer responses were noted.

DECISION

1. To note the Council's projected outturn position against General Fund, Dedicated Schools Budget and Housing Revenue Account budgets agreed for 2019-20, based on information as at the end of June as detailed in the Appendices to the report.

2. To adopt the listed pipeline schemes as set out in Appendix 6 to the report into the Council's approved capital programme.
3. To agree that approval to proceed to award contracts for works and services be delegated to the Corporate Director, Place in consultation with the Corporate Director, Governance, subject to tenders being within the capital estimate amount and scheme PIDs being approved at Capital Strategy Board.
4. To note and approve the capital exception and change note summary in Appendix 6 to the report.
5. To note that there are no equalities implications directly resulting from this report, as set out in Paragraph 4 of the report.

Action by:**CORPORATE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES (N. MURTON)**

(Head of Strategic and Corporate Finance (A. Bannin))

Reasons for the decision

The Council could choose to monitor its budgetary performance against an alternative timeframe but it is considered that the reporting schedule provides the appropriate balance to allow strategic oversight of the budget by members and to manage the Council's exposure to financial risk. More frequent monitoring is undertaken by officers and considered by individual service directors and the Council's Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) including approval of management action.

To the extent that there are options for managing the issues identified these are highlighted in the report in order to ensure that members have a full picture of the issues and proposed solutions as part of their decision making.

Alternative options

The regular reporting of Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring information through the year and the preparation of the provisional outturn position after the year end provides detailed financial information to members, senior officers and other interested parties on the financial performance of the Council. It sets out the key variances being reported by budget holders and the management action being implemented to address the identified issues.

Further information across the Council's key financial activities is also included to ensure that CLT and Members have a full picture to inform their consideration of any financial decisions set out in this report and also their broader understanding of the Council's financial context when considering reports at the various Council Committees.

Set alongside relevant performance information it also informs decision making to ensure that Members' priorities are delivered within the agreed budget provision.

It is important that issues are addressed to remain within the approved budget provision or where they cannot be contained by individual service management action, alternative proposals are developed and solutions proposed which address the financial impact; CLT and Members have a key role in approving such actions as they represent changes to the budget originally set and approved by them.

6.13 Medium Term Financial Strategy Refresh & 2020-21 Budget Planning

The Pre-Decision Scrutiny Questions and officer responses were noted.

DECISION

1. To note the updated draft budget position for 2020-21.
2. To note the need to set a balanced budget over the whole of the MTFS period.
3. To note the issues and actions set out in this report which are informing the development of the Council's MTFS for 2020-23.
4. To note the indicative timeline of formal budget consultation with residents, businesses and other key stakeholders and to receive feedback on the consultation at Cabinet in November.

In relation to the Housing Revenue Account:-

5. To note the most recent HRA 30 year financial modelling assumes that from 2020-21 HRA rents will increase by CPI + 1% for five years, and then by CPI only.

In relation to the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (LCTRS):-

6. To maintain the existing 100% Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2020-21 protecting our residents on low incomes.

Action by:

CORPORATE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES (N. MURTON)

(Divisional Director, Finance, Procurement and Audit (K. Bartle))

Reasons for the decision

The Council is under a duty to set a balanced and sustainable budget and maintain adequate reserves such that it can deliver its statutory responsibilities and priorities.

A Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) covering the entirety of the resources available to the Council is considered to be the best way that resource prioritisation and allocation decisions can be considered and agreed in a way that provides a stable and considered approach to service delivery and takes into account relevant risks and uncertainty.

Statutory budget consultation is required with business ratepayers however, a broader consultation with all residents and other relevant stakeholders is considered to represent best practice.

Alternative options

Whilst the Council will adopt a number of approaches to the identification of measures aimed at delivering its MTFS there is no alternative other than to set a legal and balanced budget and agree its Council Tax before the statutory deadline.

In relation to the HRA, on 26th February 2019 the government confirmed that it is directing the Regulator of Social Housing to include local authority registered providers within the scope of the Regulator's Rent Standard from April 2020 and has issued a policy statement for social housing rents from 2020. This confirms that registered providers will be permitted to increase rents on social rent and affordable rent properties by up to CPI+1% each year from 2020. Therefore the Council can decrease HRA rents or increase HRA rents up to a maximum of CPI + 1%.

A number of decisions in relation to the use of the Dedicated Schools Grant are the responsibility of the Schools Forum and the Council therefore has no option to vary that decision; however in some cases, such as in respect to changes to the School's funding formula, the Council makes the final decision having received recommendations from the Schools Forum.

6.14 Nominations to Outside Bodies

DECISION

1. To agree the nominations to Outside Bodies as shown in Paragraph 3.5 of the report.

Action by:

HEAD OF THE MAYOR'S OFFICE (D. COURCOUX)
HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES (M. MANNION)

Reasons for the decision

Having representatives on outside bodies increases the Council's engagement with the local community and improves its potential to offer leadership and guidance in relation to activities taking place in the borough.

Alternative options

The Mayor could decide not to make appointments to outside bodies at all. However, this is not recommended as it would reduce the Council's opportunity to be involved in and to support good work within the community and it would also reduce the Council's leadership opportunities. There are also a number of bodies where the Council is required or expected to provide a representative.

7. ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT

Nil items.

8. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

DECISION

1. That the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that the remaining agenda item contained information defined as exempt or confidential in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

9. EXEMPT / CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

Nil items.

10. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

10.1 Chair's Advice of Key Issues or Questions in Relation to Exempt / Confidential Business

Nil items.

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

Nil items.

11. EXEMPT / CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

11.1 Poplar Baths - Refinancing

The recommendations were amended and then agreed.

DECISION

1. To note the need to refinance the Poplar baths PPP arrangement and the options available for refinancing.
2. To note the proposed changes, to be reported to the Audit Committee, to the Council's Treasury Management Strategy Statement necessary to enable debt finance to be provided to the Poplar Baths project.
3. To delegate to the Corporate Director of Resources the power to agree the commercial terms under which the Council would be prepared to offer finance to the project.

Action by:

CORPORATE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES (N. MURTON)

Reasons for the decision

As set out in the report.

Alternative options

As set out in the report.

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

Nil items.

The meeting ended at 8.59 p.m.

Mayor John Biggs