

DECISIONS OF MAYOR IN CABINET 8TH FEBRUARY 2012 IN RESPECT OF BUDGET FRAMEWORK ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Agenda Item 11.1

General Fund Capital and Revenue Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan 2012-15 (CAB 071/112)

Decision

Decisions 1 to 12 below agreed subject to revision to reflect alternative options proposed and subsequently agreed as set out at (a) to (f) below:-

Budget Consultation

1. That the comments/ recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee [on the Executive's initial Budget proposals, considered at by the Mayor in Cabinet on 11 January 2012], be noted;

Formula Grant Funding

2. That the funding available for 2012-13 and the indications and forecasts for future years, as set out in Section 7.5 of the report (CAB 071/112), be noted;

Directorate Base Budgets 2012-13

3. That the base budgets for 2012-13 for each Directorate, as set out in Appendix 2 to the report (CAB 071/112), be agreed.

Approved Budget 2012-13

4. That the growth contingency and savings for 2012-13, as set out in Sections 8 and 9 and Appendices 3, 4.1, 4.2 and 5 of the report (CAB 071/112) be agreed; and that the implications for later financial years be noted;

Medium Term Financial Plan 2012-13 to 2014-15

5. That the Medium Term Financial Plan set out in Appendices 1 and 2 to the report (CAB 071/112), the savings target arising in relation to future years and the actions being undertaken to address it, be noted;

Capital Programme 2012-13 to 2014-15

6. That the capital programme for 2012-13 to 2014-15, as set out in Section 13 and detailed in Appendices 9.1, 9.2 and 9.3 to the report (CAB 071/112), be agreed;

Dedicated Schools Grant 2012-13

7. That the proposals with regard to the Dedicated Schools Grant for 2012-13, as set out in Section 11 and Appendix 7 to the report (CAB 071/112), be agreed; and that it be noted that final budgets for schools will be driven by actual, rather than estimated pupil numbers in January 2012.

Housing Revenue Account

8. That the position with regard to the Housing Revenue Account, as set out in Section 12 and Appendices 8.1, 8.2 and 8.3, to the report (CAB 071/112), be noted;

Financial Risks: Reserves and Contingencies

9. That the advice of the Corporate Director of Resources on strategic budget risks, as set out in Section 10 and Appendices 6.1 and 6.2 to the report (CAB 071/112), be noted;

Robustness of Budget Process

10. That the advice of the Corporate Director of Resources in relation to the robustness of the budget process, as set out in Section 10, paragraph 10.6 of the report (CAB 071/112), be noted;

Balances/Reserves

11. That the review of reserves and advice on the strategy for general reserves, as set out in Sections 7 and 10 and further detailed in Appendices 6.1 and 6.3 of the report (CAB 071/112), be noted; and

General Fund Revenue Budget and Council Tax 2012-13

12. That a General Fund Revenue Budget of £292.265m and a Council Tax (Band D) of £885.52 for 2012-13 be agreed and recommended to Budget Council for consideration and approval.

Alternative Options

- (a) Agreed with regard to Savings Proposal RES 4 (2012) “Rationalisation of One Stop Shops” [Appendix 5 New Savings Options (detailed proformas) to the report (CAB 071/112)] that the specific reference to the closure of the One Stop Shop at Rushmead be removed and instead a review into other options for achieving this saving be undertaken.
- (b) Agreed with regard to Savings Proposal AHWB 6 (2012) “Housing Link Phase 2” [Appendix 5 New Savings Options (detailed proformas) to the report (CAB 071/112)], that the Corporate Director Adults Health and Wellbeing, after consultation with the Corporate Director Resources, produce an alternative proposal which will keep a transitional Housing Link Service with two members of staff.
- (c) Agreed that £1.485 million be allocated to fund 17 police officers for the following three years; and that:-
 - (i) These police officers will be tasked with tackling drug dealing, organised crime and anti-social behaviour.
 - (ii) These police officers will be subject to joint tasking by the Borough Commander and the Council’s Community Safety team.
- (d) Agreed that:
 - (i) £210,000 be allocated to fund two dedicated borough-based victim support officers for the next three years; and that these officers be located in Tower Hamlets and recruited in partnership with the LBTH Community Safety Team.
 - (ii) £10,000 be allocated to commission a feasibility study to explore how after-school patrols may be re-introduced through reconfiguring the existing partnership Police, THEO’s and the Truancy Team to deliver this service.
 - (iii) £30,000 be allocated to support the development of an Energy Co-operative and exploration of innovative fuel purchasing models, identifying a community energy partner, in order to facilitate and accelerate work to help Council tenants and residents in fuel poverty in the Borough.
 - (iv) In the context of disruption to local businesses during London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games, that £10,000 be allocated to assist businesses affected by the Olympic Route network and other disruption to trade by signposting the business rates relief that is available from HMRC to individual businesses. The work to include holding workshops to assist local business to access the business rate relief.

- (v) £30,000 be allocated to promote local businesses in Tower Hamlets during the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games by providing 6 double-page spreads in East End Life over the games period to promote local businesses and voluntary organisations that would not otherwise advertise in East End Life.
 - (vi) A musical instrument recycling scheme, be funded from existing resources, to encourage donations of unwanted instruments, and to refurbish and distribute them to provide wider access to musical instruments for the Borough's children.
 - (vii) £10,000 be allocated to support the development and planting of a new avenue of trees to commemorate the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games.
- (e) That £250,000 of unallocated resources earmarked for the support of apprenticeships, leadership training and new graduate employment initiatives in 2011/12 be used to support the delivery of 3rd sector English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes in the community.
- (f) That the funding for the alternative options (a) to (e) above be from the resources identified by the Corporate Director Resources at the Cabinet meeting, as relating to: -
- A saving to the Authority's staffing budgets of £350,000 resulting from industrial action on 30 November 2011.
 - £1.3 million of Area Based Grant carry forward currently unallocated.
 - £100,000 of partnership monies earmarked to fund redundancies no longer required for this purpose.
 - £280,000 of monies earmarked to employment initiatives in last year's budget yet to be allocated.