


Cabinet 5 February 2014	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Corporate Director Resources	Classification: Unrestricted
Exercise of Corporate Directors' Discretions	

Lead Member	Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member Resources
Originating Officers	Ruth Ebaretonbofa-Morah, Deputy Financial Planning Manager Lisa Stone, Finance Officer
Wards affected	All
Community Plan Theme	One Tower Hamlets
Key Decision?	No

Executive Summary

This report sets out the exercise of Corporate Directors' discretions under Financial Regulation B8 which stipulates that such actions be the subject of a noting report to Cabinet if they involve expenditure between £0.100 million and £0.250 million.

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 Financial Regulations requires that regular reports be submitted to Council/Committee setting out financial decisions taken under Financial Regulation B8.
- 1.2 The regular reporting of Corporate Director's Discretions 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 Council/Committee setting out financial decisions taken under Financial Regulation B8.
- 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 Regulation B8 sets out the Cabinet Reporting Thresholds for specific financial transactions.
- 3.2 Financial Regulation B8 sets out the 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
- 3.3 Under Financial Regulation B8, if the transaction involves a sum between £0.100 million and £0.250 million 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.
- 3.4 Appendix 1 sets out the exercises of Corporate Directors' discretions, under the stipulations in 2.2 above, that have taken place since the previous Cabinet

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 the individual exercises of Directors' Discretions as required by Financial Regulations.
- 5.2 The legal implications of each of the individual decisions would have been provided as part of the decision making process. These will be recorded on the "Record of Corporate Directors' Actions" maintained by Directorates
- 5.3 The procedure for recording and reporting Corporate Director's Actions has recently been revised and strengthened. All proposed actions where the value exceeds £100,000 are now required to be agreed with the Mayor prior to officer's sign off and approval. The revised procedure came into effect in December 2011.

6. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 This report is concerned with the notification of officers' discretions 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 actions, these would have been addressed in the records of each action.

7. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

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

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

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

9. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no Crime and Disorder Reduction Implications arising from this report.

10. EFFICIENCY STATEMENT

10.1 The works referred to in the report will be procured in line with established practices, taking account of best value.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- None

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Exercise of Corporate Directors' Discretions under Financial Regulation B8

Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000

List of "Background Papers" used in the preparation of this report

- Record of Corporate Director's actions

Officer contact details for documents:

- Paul Leeson, Finance Manager, Education, Development and Renewal, Ext 4995
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