

# Cabinet

## Minutes

### 8 October 2020

Record of decisions taken at the meeting held on Thursday 8 October 2020.

**Present:**

**Chair:** Councillor Graham Henson

**Councillors:** Sue Anderson  
Simon Brown  
Keith Ferry  
Phillip O'Dell  
Varsha Parmar  
Christine Robson  
Krishna Suresh  
Adam Swersky

**Non-Executive  
Cabinet  
Member:** Antonio Weiss

**Non-Executive  
Voluntary  
Sector  
Representative:** John Higgins

<b>In attendance (Councillors):</b>	Richard Almond	For Minute 360
	Marilyn Ashton	For Minute 360
	Paul Osborn	For Minute 354-364
	Anjana Patel	For Minute 360
	Pritesh Patel	For Minute 360

#### 354. Welcome

Having declared the meeting open, the Leader wished to make an announcement relating to the following short-term changes to the Cabinet set up:

- Councillor Varsha Parmar, Portfolio Holder for Environment, to assume responsibility for the Council's corporate equalities agenda
- Councillor Krishna Suresh, Portfolio Holder for Community Cohesion and Crime, to assume responsibility for the community directorate's enforcement activities.

The proposed changes would be reported to the next Full Council meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020

### **355. Apologies for Absence**

None received.

### **356. Declarations of Interest**

**RESOLVED:** To note that

- (1) the declaration of interests, which had been published on the Council website, be taken as read;
- (2) Councillor Richard Almond, who was not a member of Cabinet but was present at the meeting, declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to question 7 to item 5 – Councillor Questions in that he was a Governor of St Teresa's Catholic Primary School. He would remain in the virtual meeting whilst the matter was considered.

### **357. Petitions**

**RESOLVED:** To note that no petitions had been received.

### **358. Public Questions**

**RESOLVED:** To note that one public question had been received and responded to and the recording had been placed on the website.

### **359. COVID-19 Update**

Having varied the order of business, Cabinet received a presentation from the Chief Executive which provided an update on the latest Covid-19 situation, focusing on the Council's immediate and strategic response as well as the implications of balancing competing demands against advancing Council priorities. Acknowledging the challenging circumstances faced by the Council and expressing their gratitude to officers for their work and commitment, Cabinet

**RESOLVED:** That the verbal update and accompanying presentation be noted.

### **360. Councillor Questions**

**RESOLVED:** That the Councillor Questions were responded to and the recording placed on the Council's website.

**361. Key Decision Schedule October - December 2020**

**RESOLVED:** To note the contents of the updated Key Decision Schedule for the period October – December 2020.

**362. Progress on Scrutiny Projects**

**RESOLVED:** To receive and note the current progress of the scrutiny reports.

**Resolved Items**

**363. Housing Revenue Account Business Plan Update 2020**

**RESOLVED:** That

- (1) the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan update 2020, which would set the framework for the draft HRA Budget 2021-22 & Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2022-23 to 2023-24 and Capital Programme, due to be submitted to Cabinet on 3 December 2020, be approved;
- (2) the work being conducted on alternative delivery models, the costs and procurement route of which would be the subject of a future report to Cabinet and for which the HRA Business Plan would be updated, be noted.

**Reason for Decision:** To have in place an updated 30-year HRA Business Plan required for construction projects within the HRA which would have significant impacts on the Community and Businesses within the Borough by providing much needed accommodation and infrastructure. Given the nature and scale of the approved new developments, together with the impact of Covid 19 and Brexit, regular and rigorous reviews of the HRA Business Plan were warranted together with consideration of alternative delivery models to achieve new housing supply and contribute to the Council's wider regeneration aspirations.

**Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:** As set out in the report.

**Conflict of Interest relating to the matter declared by Cabinet Member/Dispensation Granted:** None.

**364. Medium Term Financial Strategy Update - 2021/22 to 2023/24**

**RESOLVED:** That

- (1) the estimated financial impact of Covid-19 on the Council in 2020/21 as reported to Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (Table 1 of the report), be noted;
- (2) the Council's strategy to tightly manage the 2020/21 revenue budget to protect reserve balances for future years (paragraph 3.5 & 3.6 of the report), be noted;
- (3) the actions the Council was taking to reduce pressures against the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) prior to announcements around the indicative funding settlement from central government (paragraphs 3.10 to 3.13 of the report), be noted;
- (4) the estimated range of the budget gap for 2021/22 from £22.6m to £18.8m, dependent upon a number of scenarios, and the uncertainties upon which this was based (Table 2 and paragraph 3.26 of the report), be noted;
- (5) the choices the Council faced in the setting of the draft 2021/22 budget in light of the lack of clarity around the indicative funding settlement from central government (paragraph 3.27 of the report), be noted.

**Reason for Decision:** To ensure Cabinet were updated on the estimated impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the Council's already challenging financial position over the medium term.

**Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:** As set out in the report.

**Conflict of Interest relating to the matter declared by Cabinet Member/Dispensation Granted:** None.

*[Call-in did not apply for the decision above as it was a noting report]*

(Note: The meeting, having commenced at 6.30 pm, closed at 8.09 pm).

Proper Officer

Publication of decisions:	<b>9 October 2020</b>
Deadline for Call-in:	<p><b>5.00 pm on 16 October 2020</b></p> <p><b>(Please note that Call-in does not apply to all decisions).</b></p> <p>To call-in a decision please contact:</p> <p>Daksha Ghelani on 020 8424 1881, email <a href="mailto:daksha.ghelani@harrow.gov.uk">daksha.ghelani@harrow.gov.uk</a></p>

Decisions may be implemented if not Called-in on:	<b>17 October 2020</b>
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