

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CABINET
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 13 OCTOBER 2010**

COUNCILLORS

PRESENT Doug Taylor (Leader of the Council), Achilleas Georgiou (Deputy Leader, Public and Service Delivery), Chaudhury Anwar MBE (Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion and Capacity Building in the Third Sector), Bambos Charalambous (Cabinet Member for Young People and Culture, Leisure, Sports and the Olympics), Donald McGowan (Cabinet Member for Older People and Adult Social Services), Ayfer Orhan (Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services), Ahmet Oykener (Cabinet Member for Housing and Area Improvements) and Andrew Stafford (Cabinet Member for Finance, Facilities and Human Resources)

ABSENT Chris Bond (Cabinet Member for Environment, Street Scene and Parks)

OFFICERS: Rob Leak (Chief Executive), Ian Davis (Director of Environment and Street Scene), Sue Foster (Director of Place Shaping and Enterprise), Neil Rousell (Co Director of Education, Children's Services and Leisure), James Rolfe (Director of Finance and Corporate Resources), Ray James (Director of Health and Adult Social Care), Andrew Fraser (Co Director of Education, Children's Services and Leisure), Asmat Hussain (Acting Assistant Director Legal), Geoff Waterton (Head of Collection Services), Nathalie Boateng (Principal Lawyer), Neil Vokes (Project Manager, Place Shaping and Enterprise), John Austin (Assistant Director - Corporate Governance), Judy Flight (Head of Sustainable Communities), Mary O'Sullivan (Senior Project Manager Neighbourhood Renewal) and Kate Robertson (Assistant Director for Customer Service, Communications and Business Change)

Also Attending: Councillor Michael Lavender, Councillor Derek Levy.

1

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Chris Bond (Cabinet Member for Environment, Street Scene and Parks).

2

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor Chaudhury Anwar (Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion and Capacity Building in the Third Sector) declared a personal interest in Report No.80 – Transforming Social Care: Personalisation Customer Pathway (Minute No.7 below refers) as he worked for an organisation (Enfield Asian Carers) who provided domiciliary care in Enfield.

Councillor Ahmet Oykenner (Cabinet Member for Housing and Area Improvements) declared a prejudicial interest in Report No.80 – Transforming Social Care: Personalisation Customer Pathway as he was a Director of a company (Cyprian Care Ltd.) which provided services to London Councils on a spot purchase basis and Enfield was one of these Councils (Minute No.7. below refers). Councillor Oykenner left the meeting for this item).

Councillor Oykenner also declared a personal interest in Report No.82 – Ladderswood Place Shaping Report: Delegated Authority to Short-List at Detailed Solutions Stage and Extension to the Leasehold Buyback Programme. He is a Director of Cyprian Care Ltd, which is a tenant of the Notting Hill Housing Association, one of the short-listed bidders for the Ladderswood development. (Minute No.9 below refers).

3

URGENT ITEMS

NOTED that the reports listed on the agenda had been circulated in accordance with the requirements of the Council's Constitution and the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Amendment Regulations 2002. These requirements state that agendas and reports should be circulated at least 5 clear days in advance of meetings.

4

DEPUTATIONS AND PETITIONS

NOTED that no requests for deputations (with or without petitions) had been received for presentation to this Cabinet meeting.

5

CORPORATE RISK REGISTER

Councillor Andrew Stafford (Cabinet Member for Finance, Facilities and Human Resources) introduced the report of the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources (No.78) summarising some of the key risks and opportunities facing the Council for Cabinet information, review and comment.

NOTED

1. the Corporate Risk Register;
2. the Corporate Opportunities Register;
3. that whilst taking every reasonable measure, there might be certain risks outside the Council's immediate control;
4. the detailed diagrams in the register illustrating the current risk matrix and target risk matrix details. Councillor Stafford commended the report to Members. It was noted that the 2012 Olympics had been identified as both a potential risk and an opportunity to the Borough and that both were being tracked by the Audit Committee.

Alternative Options Considered: Not submitting the Corporate Risk Register to Cabinet would be contrary to current best practice and to the Council's Risk Management Strategy.

Reason: To note those risks that had been identified and that appropriate mitigating actions were in place in accordance with the Council's risk appetite and similarly to note the key opportunities identified.

(Non key)

6

BUSINESS RATE HARDSHIP RELIEF - EDMONTON GREEN SHOPPING CENTRE

Councillor Andrew Stafford (Cabinet Member for Finance, Facilities and Human Resources) introduced the report of the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources (No.79) setting out details of a proposed pilot scheme to use the business rate hardship relief scheme for a one year period to allow a reduction in rates to small businesses and other sole traders operating in Edmonton Green Shopping Centre who were suffering hardship.

Councillor Stafford expressed his thanks to the Officers who had been involved, James Rolfe (Director of Finance and Corporate Resources), Stuart Dennison (Assistant Director – Revenues, Benefits and Systems) and Geoff Waterton (Head of Collection Services).

NOTED

1. the reasons for the proposed pilot scheme, as detailed in the report. Edmonton Green remained the Council's most deprived ward. The pilot scheme, along with other regeneration initiatives, aimed to help retain and attract businesses in Edmonton Green;

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2. that the proposed pilot scheme supported the Council's regeneration initiatives and was an opportunity to support small businesses in the Borough. The initiative had been welcomed by shopkeepers in Edmonton Green. The effectiveness of the pilot scheme would be monitored.

Alternative Options Considered: NOTED the alternative options which had been considered as detailed in section 7 of the report.

DECISION: The Cabinet agreed

1. to approve the one year pilot scheme to allow the business rate hardship scheme detailed in paragraph 6 of the report;
2. the guidelines for the assessment by the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources (under existing delegated authority) of hardship relief under section 49 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 as set out in the paragraph 6.1 of the report, and also to authorise the Assistant Director of Revenues and Benefits and the Head of Collection to exercise the same delegated decision;
3. to approve a budget variation of up to £90k in 2010/11 from central contingency;
4. that the scheme be evaluated after the one year pilot had concluded and a report brought back to Cabinet giving the results of the scheme and recommendations for future use of hardship relief.

Reason: In "Making Enfield Better" the Council pledged to support local businesses through a number of initiatives, including the use of area based funding. The use of business rate hardship relief specifically to target businesses suffering hardship in Edmonton Green, the most deprived ward in the borough, was an example of putting this pledge into practice to help local business and the local community. It also enhanced the additional Government rate relief to small businesses which also recognised the importance of business to the whole community.

(Key decision – reference number 3132)

7

TRANSFORMING SOCIAL CARE: PERSONALISATION CUSTOMER PATHWAY

Councillor Ahmet Oyken (Cabinet Member for Housing and Area Improvements) left the meeting for this item.

Councillor Don McGowan (Cabinet Member for Older People and Adult Social Services) introduced the report of the Director of Health and Adult Social Care (No.80) outlining the changes required to the existing Health and Adult Social Care operating model to enable the council to deliver services in line with the government agenda for personalisation.

NOTED the existing structure and proposed new structure as detailed in the report. A comprehensive consultation exercise had taken place with relevant stakeholders and a considerable amount of work undertaken to reach the proposals now being presented to Members for agreement.

Alternative Options Considered: The process for designing the new operating model and structures had been “co-produced” with a significant level of stakeholder engagement, as detailed in section 4 of the report.

DECISION: The Cabinet agreed

1. the implementation of the new operating model framework for personalisation;
2. the implementation of the associated structures to support the new operating model for Health and Adult Social Care to support personalisation in Enfield.

Reason: The service had reviewed its existing operating model and identified that the approach was not sustainable or fit for purpose to deliver personalisation in the coming years, especially at a time when increasing demand and expectations would put significant pressure on the authority. Section 5 of the report referred.

(Key decision – reference number 3091)

8

TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION - HOUSING BENEFIT SUBSIDY

Councillor Ahmet Oykenar (Cabinet Member for Housing and Area Improvements) introduced the report of the Director of Place Shaping and Enterprise (No.81) seeking approval to an amended level of rents to be operative with effect from 20 December 2010 back dated to 5 April 2010 for tenants in 4 and 5 bedroom temporary accommodation and to note the effects to General Fund account budgets.

NOTED the background to the required change, introduced by the previous Government, as set out in the report. This was in effect a technical change, the cost of which would be met by the Council, not the tenants. Members’ were advised of the detailed impact on the tenants and the Council.

Alternative Options Considered: The option to maintain rents at the previously set levels for the whole of the financial year had been considered but rejected to minimise the loss and protect the subsidy claim integrity. Tenants had been able to claim Housing Benefit on the rent level set resulting in a loss of subsidy for rents charged in excess of the £375 cap.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

1. that the guideline rents for 2010/11 for temporary accommodation tenancies be decreased to the cap level of £375.00 per week in line with the announcement by the DWP to the Housing Benefit subsidy cap for 2010/11.
2. to note that this would result in a decrease of £2.50 per week for 302 tenants in 4 bedroom properties and £121.92 per week for 9 tenants in 5 bedroom properties. This amended the rent increase agreed at Cabinet (10 February 2010) and Council (24 February 2010) whereby rents were set at the previous Housing Benefit subsidy level of Local Housing Allowance less 10% plus £40 per week.
3. that the weekly reduction in actual rents as outlined above be implemented as soon as possible to accommodate the legal notice period of 4 weeks and back dated to 5 April 2010.

Reason: To continue the Council's practice of setting rents for temporary accommodation at the Housing Benefit subsidy levels.

(Key decision – reference number 3095)

9

LADDERSWOOD PLACE SHAPING REPORT: DELEGATED AUTHORITY TO SHORT-LIST AT DETAILED SOLUTIONS STAGE AND EXTENSION TO THE LEASEHOLD BUYBACK PROGRAMME

Councillor Del Goddard (Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Improving Localities) introduced the report of the Director of Place Shaping and Enterprise (No.82) progressing the Ladderswood Place Shaping programme.

NOTED

1. that the report sought delegated authority to short-list the Ladderswood Bidders from 3 to 2 as detailed in full in the report. This approach would enable the procurement process to run to timetable and maintain Bidder confidence in the Council's ability to deliver a fair, transparent and effective procurement;
2. that Members' attention was drawn to the timetable and project stages as detailed in the report, and the consultation processes.

Alternative Options Considered: NOTED the three alternative options which had been considered as set out in section 4 of the report.

DECISION: The Cabinet agreed

1. that authority to short-list the Ladderswood Bidders from 3 to 2 be delegated to the Leader of the Council, the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Improving Localities and the Cabinet Member for Finance, Facilities and Human Resources; the recommendation to short-list would be based on the evaluation results of the Detailed Solutions;
2. that a report be taken to 24 November 2010 Cabinet with information on the outcome of the short-listing at Detailed Solutions stage;
3. to authorise an additional allocation of £2,703,000 funding to enable Property Services to continue to buyback leasehold interests on the Ladderswood Estate and to refurbish voids to facilitate the decant of Secure Tenants;
4. to authorise Property Services to acquire beyond the original scope of the 24 November 2009 Cabinet report and to now include the buybacks of leasehold interests in Betspath House.

Reason: By delegating authority to short-list from 3 Bidders to 2 Bidders at the Detailed Solution stage the Council was able to deliver the procurement to timetable, section 5 of the report referred.

(Non key)

10

2009-11 WORKING NEIGHBOURHOODS FUND PROGRAMME REPORT

Councillor Del Goddard (Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Improving Localities) introduced the report of the Director of Place Shaping and Enterprise (No.83) detailing the financial position of the Working Neighbourhoods Fund programme for the period 2009-2011.

NOTED

1. the current financial position of the Working Neighbourhoods Fund Programme as set out in the report and appendix;
2. the proposal to review and re-profile interventions as necessary during 2010/11 and 2011/12, as detailed in the report and decision 2 below;
3. the four Local Area Agreement Phase 2 projects that had been recommended for inclusion in the Working Neighbourhoods Fund programme as set out in paragraph 3.2.8 of the report.

Alternative Options Considered: Alternative options had been considered during the commissioning of the programme agreed by Cabinet on 17 June 2009 and following the recession review which informed the delegated authority report of 20 November 2009. This report recommends an option to carry forward resources into 2011-2012 in order to maximise the positive impact of the programme on deprived communities in Enfield as opposed to adopting an approach to make expenditure deadlines.

DECISION: The Cabinet agreed

1. to note the current financial position of the Working Neighbourhoods Fund Programme 2009-2011.
2. to delegate, to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Improving Localities, the responsibility to review the re-profile interventions as necessary to maximise the impact of the Working Neighbourhoods Fund programme funds during 2010/11 and 2011/12.
3. to approve the funding of four Local Area Agreement Phase 2 projects in the sum of £125,560 as set out in paragraph 3.2.8 of the report (due to the reduction of expected Government funding).
4. the re-profiling of £472,731 into 2011-2012 to support enterprise and address unemployment by the continuance of existing successful projects in 2010-2011.

Reason: To achieve full expenditure of the government grant and deliver the outcomes to address the issues of unemployment, improving skills and supporting existing businesses as well as enabling start-up enterprises.

(Key decision – reference number 3074)

11

ISSUES ARISING FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL/SCRUTINY PANELS

There were no issues arising.

12

ITEMS TO BE REFERRED TO THE COUNCIL

AGREED that the following item be referred to the Council:

1. Report No.81 – Temporary Accommodation – Housing Benefit Subsidy

13

CABINET AGENDA PLANNING - FUTURE ITEMS

NOTED the list of provisional items scheduled for future Cabinet meetings.

14

KEY DECISIONS FOR INCLUSION ON THE COUNCIL'S FORWARD PLAN

NOTED that the next Forward Plan was due to be published on 15 October 2010, this would cover the period from 1 November to 28 February 2011.

15

MINUTES

AGREED that the minutes of the previous meeting of the Cabinet held on 15 September 2010 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

16

MINUTES OF LBE/EREC - 20 JULY 2010

NOTED, for information, the minutes of a meeting of LBE/EREC held on 20 July 2010.

Councillor Don McGowan highlighted for Members' consideration the issues which EREC had raised for the attention of the Cabinet.

17

ENFIELD STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FEEDBACK

Councillor Doug Taylor (Leader of the Council) advised Members that the Enfield Strategic Partnership had received for consultation the Council's draft Food Strategy and Biodiversity Action Plan.

18

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

NOTED that the next meeting of the Cabinet was scheduled to take place on Wednesday 3 November 2010 at 8.00pm at the Civic Centre.