

# Public Document Pack

CABINET - 11.9.2019

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER 2019

### COUNCILLORS

#### PRESENT

Nesil Caliskan (Leader of the Council), Ian Barnes (Deputy Leader), Alev Cazimoglu (Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care), Guney Dogan (Cabinet Member for Environment and Sustainability), Rick Jewell (Cabinet Member for Children's Services), Nneka Keazor (Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion), Mary Maguire (Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement), Gina Needs (Cabinet Member for Social Housing), George Savva MBE (Cabinet Member for Licensing and Regulatory Services) and Mahtab Uddin (Cabinet Member for Public Health)

**Associate Cabinet Members (Non-Executive and Non-Voting):** Mustafa Cetinkaya (Enfield South East), Ahmet Hasan (Enfield North), Claire Stewart (Enfield West)

#### OFFICERS:

Ian Davis (Chief Executive), Tony Theodoulou (Executive Director People), Fay Hammond (Executive Director Resources), Doug Wilkinson (Director of Environment & Operational Services), Jayne Middleton-Albooye (Head of Legal Services), Nicky Fiedler (Acting Director Commercial), Joanne Drew (Director of Housing and Regeneration), Nick Martin (Head of Service Temporary Accommodation), Richard Sorenson (Project Manager, Housing Operations) and Andrea De Lucy (Press and New Media Officer) Jacqui Hurst (Secretary)

**Also Attending:** Councillor Glynis Vince  
Ian Guest (Energetik)

#### 1

#### APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for lateness was received from Councillor Mahtab Uddin (Cabinet Member for Public Health).

#### 2

#### DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest in respect of any items listed on the agenda.

#### 3

#### DEPUTATIONS

NOTED that no requests for deputations had been received for presentation to this Cabinet meeting.

**4  
SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2019/2020 AND UPDATE ON NEW  
STATUTORY SCRUTINY GUIDANCE**

Councillor Ian Barnes (Deputy Leader) introduced the report of the Director of Law and Governance (No.69) setting out the Scrutiny work programme and work streams for 2019/20 for the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Health and Crime Standing Panels.

NOTED

1. That comments were being invited on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee proposed work programme and work streams for 2019/20, prior to approval by Council.
2. The draft work programmes for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Health and Crime standing scrutiny panels as detailed in Appendix A of the report. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme included a Budget meeting in December 2019. The programme allowed for the flexibility to consider call-ins and, for pre-decision scrutiny.
3. The agreed workstreams for 2019/20, as set out in Appendix B of the report, were: Improving Enfield Shopping Areas (Lead Member: Cllr Tolga Aramaz) – this was a continuation of the workstream, to conclude the review and finalise recommendations; Review of Procurement (Lead Member: Cllr Edward Smith); Review of Exclusions (Lead Member: Cllr Bernadette Lappage); and, Meridian Water (Lead Member: Cllr Achilleas Georgiou).
4. That Councillor Susan Erbil (Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee) was invited to address her comments to the Cabinet. It was noted that the 4<sup>th</sup> listed work stream would begin when another one had been completed to allow for the required officer capacity in supporting this work. The date of the meeting to consider the Associate Cabinet Member work programmes was currently under consideration and would be advised in due course.
5. Councillor Susan Erbil outlined her views to Cabinet on the role of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the way in which the Council's scrutiny role would be conducted.
6. The new statutory guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities as detailed in section 6 and appended to the report.

**Alternative Options Considered:** The Overview and Scrutiny Committee was required, under the Council's Constitution, to present an annual scrutiny work programme to Council for adoption.

**DECISION:** The Cabinet recommended the Overview and Scrutiny Committee proposed work programme and workstreams for 2019/20 to Council for approval.

**Reason:** To comply with the requirements of the Council's Constitution, the work programme had to be formally adopted by Council. In addition, scrutiny was essential to good governance and enabled the voice and concerns of residents and communities to be heard, and provides positive challenge and accountability.

(Non key)

## 5

### **TRANSITION OF CHILDREN LEAVING CARE SCRUTINY WORK STREAM**

Councillor Rick Jewell (Cabinet Member for Children's Services) introduced the report of the Director of Law and Governance (No.70) providing the report of the scrutiny work stream on the transition of children leaving care.

#### NOTED

1. The recommendations of the Scrutiny work stream together with the comments of the Cabinet Member and Executive Director, as detailed in the report.
2. The conclusion of the work stream set out in section 12 of the report.
3. That the work stream had been chaired by Councillor Susan Erbil.
4. The statutory duties of the Local Authority and its role as a Corporate Parent, as detailed in the report. Looked after children were some of the most vulnerable children in society and as such, they needed and deserved the best possible support from the services available. The work stream had raised awareness of this important area of responsibility and several recommendations had been made, as set out in the report.
5. Appendix A to the report set out the responses of the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Executive Director – People to the report and recommendations of the Transition of Children Leaving Care Scrutiny work stream. The recommendations were highlighted to Members.
6. Councillor Susan Erbil, as Chair of the work stream, was invited to address any comments to the Cabinet. It was noted that members of the work stream had met with a cross-section of both officers and young people. The importance of the role of the local authority as

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Corporate Parent was highlighted together with the need to raise awareness of the responsibilities and duties of this statutory role.

7. Members expressed their thanks and appreciation to all those who had been involved in supporting the work stream and, recognised the importance of this area of work. Councillor Ian Barnes thanked Claire Johnson in particular for the scrutiny report. The recommendations were welcomed. The need to provide effective support to care leavers was acknowledged.
8. A discussion took place on the recommendations set out in the report including issues such as apprenticeships and supported leisure activities.
9. Members took this opportunity to highlight and discuss the well-attended summer university programme which had been financially supported by the Council. Approximately 900 young people had taken part in this free programme. 85% of places had been taken up and completed. The Council expressed its commitment to continuing to support this programme in future years; and, would look at opportunities to expand and improve the training programmes on offer. Further consideration would also be given to the provision of free lunches to support those young people in need. The breadth of the courses which had been offered was praised and the resulting opportunities for young people in gaining such experience. It was noted that care leavers had also been targeted in the participation of the training on offer.

**Alternative Options Considered:** None, the Council had a legal duty as Corporate Parents to provide the best possible care to looked after children and care leavers.

**DECISION:** The Cabinet agreed to note the following recommendations and, the comments of the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Executive Director – People, as set out in Appendix A of the report:

1. Further to discussions at workstreams meetings and with the full support of the workstream members, it was agreed the Corporate Parenting Board would take forward immediately:
  - I. Total Respect Training (Corporate Parent Training for elected members) - it was agreed that this would be arranged through the Corporate Parent Board with training commencing as soon as possible. This was delivered in small groups by the children in Care Council, so it was agreed that it would not be possible to deliver this to all elected members, this would be targeted to elected members working with Children's Services who need a more in depth understanding of the issues
  - II. Free Gym passes/ membership of Leisure clubs - it was agreed that the Corporate Parenting Board would investigate this further and look at possibilities around this

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- III. Gap analysis on mental health to inform a business case for increasing capacity in the CAMHS/ HEART team - it was agreed that this would be provided to the Corporate Parenting Board for them to take forward.
2. Prior to 2010, information on Corporate Parenting to inform all elected members of their own and the council's responsibilities was previously provided as part of the induction pack given to Members. This information was to be included in future induction packs that Councillors receive when they were elected and to also be provided to all current councillors.
  3. To demonstrate a whole council approach towards care leavers and to ensure that corporate parenting was everyone's responsibility, exploration of online resources to take place for online awareness raising training purposes. This information should be made available for officers outside of Children's Services, so they could recognise their role as corporate parents and the support that they could provide.
  4. Under corporate parent responsibilities:
    - The Council creates a bespoke apprenticeship scheme specifically for Care Leavers.
    - Council departments consider where they might be able to provide work experience opportunities specifically to Looked after Children and Care Leavers.
    - When the council agrees new contracts consideration to be given to prioritising opportunities for care leavers where possible within corporate contracts.
  5. To further embed a strong corporate parenting ethos; the Council, explore the viability of developing a light touch mentoring scheme where council officers are linked to individual care leavers who had no strong family networks. Council officers taking part in the scheme would be provided with basic relevant training but ultimately such a scheme would be cost neutral.
  6. To note that further to a request from officers in the leaving care team and following discussions with colleagues in adult mental health services. A single point of contact number in adult mental health services had been provided to staff in the Leaving Care team to contact for advice and guidance.

**Reason:** to enhance the services available and raise awareness of the Corporate Parenting duties and responsibilities with elected members and officers and further embed a strong ethos across the whole Council.

(Non key)

**REVENUE MONITORING 2019/20: QUARTER 1 (JUNE 2019)**

Councillor Mary Maguire (Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement) introduced the report of the Executive Director – Resources (No.71) setting out the Council's revenue budget monitoring position based on information to the end of June 2019.

NOTED

1. That after the application of capital receipts for transformation purposes of £2.6m; the revenue budget forecast reflected an outturn position of £3.9m overspend for 2019/20 which would be funded using the Council's reserves, as detailed in the report.
2. The forecast position for the Dedicated Schools Grant as detailed in the report (paragraph 1.4 and section 5 of the report referred).
3. That the Housing Revenue Account was forecasting no variance to budget.
4. The departmental monitoring information, budget pressures and mitigating actions as set out in the report and its appendices.
5. The proposed flexible use of capital receipts as detailed in section 5 and Appendix I of the report.
6. The background as set out in section 3 of the report. The continuing budget pressures being experienced; the areas most affected and the actions being taken as detailed in the report. Members' continued to express their concern over inadequate Government funding to meet growing demand and pressures experienced by local government.
7. That £0.6m of income generation was considered at high risk of not being realised, Appendix G, Table 7 of the report referred.
8. That management actions were ongoing to continue to address these budget pressures and seek to improve budget forecasting. The Pressures Challenge Board had been reconvened.
9. In response to questions raised, Members discussed the pressures being experienced in the area of Adult Social Care and in particular the highlighted budget pressures of Independence and Wellbeing Enfield (IWE) as set out in the report. The complex needs and high cost of provision in relation to the Learning Disabilities Service was noted. The pressures experienced and the impact of cases transitioning from child to adult support provision were explained. The range of issues experienced around the projection of the number of individual cases requiring support, and related costs were discussed in detail.

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10. The rising number of older people in the Borough, their long-term health conditions, and support required was noted. The Council's investment in the provision of additional supported living opportunities in the Borough, including at the Reardon Court development was discussed. Long-term solutions were required to this area of growing need. It was noted that the provision of Adult Social Care was underfunded nationally, however, Enfield continued to provide good quality services to its residents.
11. Members were reminded of the Council's investment in Adult Social Care as part of this year's budget process. Whilst an overspend was still forecast, the budget position for this area was a significant improvement from the previous year.
12. In response to questions raised, Members discussed the provision and cost of Home to School/SEN transport in the Borough and the reasons for the projected overspend, as set out in paragraph 5.22 of the report. It was noted that the provision of an additional 300 SEN pupil places in the Borough would have a positive impact on future expenditure. Members were advised that this provision had also reduced the level of potential overspend on the Dedicated Schools Grant. The Local Authority was currently awaiting details of the funding to be provided for the next financial year.
13. That work was currently being undertaken on a new travel assistance policy which would be brought to Cabinet in due course for consideration together with a further report on SEN provision in the Borough.
14. Members expressed concern at the continued lack of clarity regarding the Government's funding settlement. In particular; it was noted that a 75% London Pilot Pool for 2019/20 had been announced as part of the Local Government Finance Settlement in December 2018 and Budget included this within its assumptions. There was no clarity yet regarding future pooling.
15. Members whilst acknowledging that the budget position had improved from the previous year, were not complacent and would continue to seek mitigating actions to address the forecast overspends as set out in the report. It was noted the recommendations for full Council would be addressed within the February Budget outturn report.
16. Members discussed and noted the reasons for the projected overspend in relation to the Dry Recycling Contract as set out in paragraph 5.23 of the report. The mitigating actions being taken, including the changes to the Council's waste recycling arrangements; and, the employment of dedicated recycling officers to engage with residents and improve communication in this area were explained in detail. Members highlighted the need to remind residents of the issues around the contamination of recycling waste.

**Alternative Options Considered:** Not applicable to this report.

**DECISION:** The Cabinet agreed to:

1. Note the financial backdrop to the Council's budget position (described in paragraphs 3.1 to 3.11 of the report).
2. Note the £3.9m overspend revenue outturn projection and the use of £2.6m of capital receipts to support organisation transformation.
3. Note that Cabinet Members would continue to work with Executive Directors to implement action plans to reduce the forecast overspend in 2019/20 and implement savings.
4. Note that the Pressures Challenge Board would be reconvened for 2019/20.
5. Note the position of the Dedicated schools Grant (DSG) as set out in section 5.37 of the report.
6. Note the position of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) as set out in section 7 of the report.
7. Recommend £1.5m of the overspend in respect of IWE being met from Contingency as set out in paragraphs 5.8 and 5.32 of the report.
8. Recommend that Council approve the update to the planned flexible use of capital receipts for 2019/20 (paragraph 5.36 and Appendix I of the report).

**Reason:** To ensure that Members were aware of the projected budgetary position, including all major budget pressures and underspends which had contributed to the present monthly position and that were likely to affect the final outturn.

**(Key decision – reference number 4944)**

## **7**

### **CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITOR FIRST QUARTER (JUNE) 2019**

Councillor Mary Maguire (Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement) introduced the report of the Executive Director – Resources (No.72) informing Members of the current position up to the end of June 2019 regarding the Council's Capital Programme (2019/20 to 2022/23) considering the latest information for all capital schemes including the funding arrangements.

NOTED



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1. That the overall expenditure for the approved programme was projected to be £144m for the General Fund, £117m for HRA and £24m for Enfield Companies for 2019/20.
2. The successful Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) award of £156m as set out in the report. The significance of this funding was highlighted and would enable the necessary infrastructure to be implemented at Meridian Water and unlock the potential for the next phase of housing development. It was essential for well-connected neighbourhoods to be developed to support positive growth and transform the lives of residents. Particular thanks were expressed to Sarah Cary (Executive Director – Place) and Peter George (Meridian Water Programme Director) together with the Meridian Water team for this significant achievement.
3. That the report set out the estimated capital spending plans for 2019/20 to 2022/23 including the proposed arrangements for funding and confirmed that the revenue capital financing costs for the approved 2019/20 to 2022/23 programme were provided for in the budget.
4. The information set out in the tables included within the report including the proposed additional items (table 3) and reductions (table 4). Appendix A set out the approved capital programme in detail. With regard to the additional funding required for Extra Care Housing at Reardon Court, it was noted that this had followed the increased funding contribution from the GLA and the resulting positive increase in the number of units to be provided. This increase in capital funding would be recommended to full Council for approval.
5. In particular, the capital expenditure in relation to housing provision as highlighted in the report.

**Alternative Options Considered:** No alternative options had been considered.

**DECISION:** The Cabinet agreed to recommend to Council to

1. Note the additions to the Capital Programme set out in Table 3 in paragraph 4.9 of the report and approved the addition of the following to the approved Capital Programme:
  - i. Reardon Court and,
  - ii. Corporate Capital Condition Programme (CCCP)
2. The proposed reductions set out in Table 4 in paragraph 4.11 of the report.
3. Note the £156m Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) award.

4. The revised four-year approved programme totalling £562m as set out in Appendix A of the report.

**Reason:** To update the programme for carry forwards from 2018/19 along with amendments to the Programme for additions and deletions since Council approval in February and also to inform members of the current forecast position at the end of the first quarter of the financial year. Additionally to bring to the attention of members for significant award of £156m of HIF grant.

**(Key decision – reference number 4943)**

## 8

### HOMELESSNESS IN ENFIELD

Councillor Gina Needs (Cabinet Member for Social Housing) introduced the report of the Executive Director – Place (No.73) outlining the Council's response to homelessness in Enfield.

#### NOTED

1. That the report of the Smith Institute was appended to the report. The report made it clear that the solutions to the rise of homelessness in the borough lie in the private rented sector. The scale of the challenge identified required a radical change of direction in how the Council addresses the needs of households in crisis.
2. That the Council was currently consulting on its draft Homelessness Prevention Strategy. This report focused on the Council's proposed response to the recommendations of the Smith Institute, alongside a vision for preventing and reducing homelessness with the aim of eliminating the use of temporary accommodation. Detailed proposals on a new service model for homelessness and temporary accommodation, an ethical lettings agency, and a revised allocation scheme would be brought to Cabinet following public consultation.
3. The high number of poorer households living in the private rented sector in Enfield, as set out in the report together with the number in temporary accommodation.
4. The key areas of focus as set out in section 4 of the report including homelessness prevention; scheme of allocation; cost effective supply; joining capital letters; establishing an ethical lettings and property management agency; engaging with landlords and agents to enhance and promote the supply of private rented homes; and, the establishment of additional and selective licensing to drive up the quality of homes.
5. In response to questions raised, the role and purpose of Capital Letters (the Pan London Housing procurement agency) was explained in detail. The need for effective cross-borough working was highlighted.

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Councillors asked the questions on the appended sheet which also contains a note of the responses.

6. That preventing homelessness was the key driver. The shortage of supply in suitable housing provision was acknowledged.
7. The development of the Council's Housing and Growth Strategy and Homelessness Prevention Strategy which would seek to prevent crisis points by getting involved at an early stage. The importance of prioritising homelessness prevention was highlighted.
8. Members noted the revisions required to the scheme of allocation for social housing, a report would be presented to Cabinet in due course following a period of public consultation, as outlined in the report. The current and proposed points allocation was explained together with the impact on those residents in the private rented sector.
9. The need to intervene and review the current model of social housing provision in the Borough to meet identified needs and effectively address the areas of concern as set out in the report. The role of Housing Gateway was outlined to Members.
10. The importance of good quality housing on the health and wellbeing of residents. This would have long-term benefits on future service provision.
11. Members praised the work of the Smith Institute and the clarity which had been provided by their report. The findings of the study were highlighted, in particular, the role of the private rented sector and, the main causes for homelessness in the Borough. The need for intervention was explained in detail. A range of housing provision would continue to be required to meet the demand for housing.

**Alternative Options Considered:** The primary option considered was to continue with the current approach. This was focused on prevention and relief of homelessness through the provision of temporary accommodation. Our projections suggest that if the number of requests for assistance remain at their current level the number of households in temporary accommodation and the associated costs would continue to rise.

**DECISION:** The Cabinet agreed to

1. Endorse the direction of travel outlined in the report to put greater emphasis on homelessness prevention.
2. Authorise the following actions prior to bringing back further reports to Cabinet:

- 2.1 Negotiate terms to join Capital Letters (the Pan London Housing procurement agency) to access Government funding for the procurement of private rented accommodation.
- 2.2 Develop a business case for a lettings and property management agency.
- 2.3 Delegate to the Director of Housing and Regeneration, after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Social Housing, to go to public consultation on a revised scheme of allocation for social housing.

**Reason:** The human cost of homelessness and households spending years in temporary accommodation was enormous. At the same time the financial cost to the council of an ever-increasing number of households in temporary accommodation was growing. The proposals outlined in the report represented a shift in focus and investment in the prevention of homelessness and support for residents to proactively reduce the number of households reaching crisis point.

**(Key decision – reference number 4959)**

## **9**

### **ENERGETIK - TRANCHE 2 INVESTMENT DECISION**

Councillor Nesil Caliskan (Leader of the Council) introduced the report of the Executive Director – Resources (No.74) seeking the second tranche of funding to deliver the remainder of its business plan which included building the heating infrastructure required to serve Meridian Water.

#### **NOTED**

1. That Report No.78 also referred as detailed in Minute No.15 below.
2. That Energetik had previously received approval of its business plan and initial funding in January 2017, as detailed in the report. The company was now seeking its second tranche of funding to deliver the remainder of its business plan which included the heating infrastructure required to serve Meridian Water.
3. The work which had been undertaken and progressed as set out in detail in the report. In October 2018 the Cabinet had asked Energetik to review alternative funding sources; and, in March 2019 a further update report on progress had been provided. The business plan had been thoroughly reviewed to ensure its viability going forward. The issue of addressing fuel poverty had now been incorporated, as noted in paragraph 1.3.3 of the report. The Business Plan had been independently reviewed by KPMG.
4. The aims and benefits of Energetik as set out in the report. Appendix A to the report outlined the heat network update summary.

**Alternative Options Considered:** As detailed in Minute No.15 below.

**DECISION:** The decisions of Cabinet were set out in Minute No.15 below, Report No.78 referred.

**Reason:** Energetik had already had a positive impact on the customers living on its heat networks, with fair pricing and a high quality of service. The second investment in Energetik would allow the company to realise the remainder of its business plan, to serve over 10,000 homes and businesses in Enfield and beyond. The company's aims and objectives were aligned with the Council's key strategic goals, and would contribute significantly to the Council's carbon reduction targets, improve air quality in the area and provide environmentally friendly energy to Enfield residents at a fair price.

**(Key decision – reference number 4642)**

## 10

### **BREXIT PANEL UPDATE**

Councillor Ian Barnes (Deputy Leader) provided the Cabinet with a verbal update on the work being undertaken by the Council's Brexit Panel of which he was Chair. Councillor Ian Barnes also tabled the risk register. He updated Cabinet that the Brexit Panel was originally chaired by the previous Deputy Leader. The risk register previously was only 7 pages long. Over the past few weeks Councillor Barnes had worked with officers to update the risk register department by department. Current risk register is 47 pages and now comprehensive.

NOTED the following points raised in discussion:

1. The continued uncertainty around Brexit including the actions of the current Government and the negative impact on the economy and EU citizens.
2. The work being undertaken in safeguarding the future of EU residents living in Enfield by the Council in conjunction with the Citizens Advice Service. Outreach sessions were being held to reach EU residents in their own communities to raise awareness of their need to apply for settled status. Advice and assistance was being provided in completing the necessary registration applications so that they can continue to remain in Enfield post Brexit. Such residents were required to register by the Government deadline of 31 December 2020 but were being encouraged to register as soon as possible.
3. That as part of the increased communications campaign in the Borough, Councillor Nesil Caliskan as Leader of the Council and Councillor Ian Barnes as Deputy Leader, had written to approximately 21,000 EU residents in the Borough to encourage the required registration to take place.
4. The Council had prepared a comprehensive risk register. The need for a glossary of terms of abbreviations used was noted.

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5. There would be additional emergency Gold Commands in place the week before and after 31 October 2019.
6. The close work being undertaken with the Citizens Advice Bureau, particular thanks and appreciation were expressed to the Enfield Chief Executive, Jill Harrison for her considerable efforts. The Council was supporting the CAB with additional resources as and when necessary.
7. That the Home Office would not currently release the figures to the Council of the number of EU residents in Enfield who had already registered for settled status.
8. The potential negative impact of Brexit on the supply of goods, on the provision of social care, and on businesses in general.
9. In conclusion, Councillor Caliskan, reiterated the significance of Brexit and its potential effects on the Borough and its residents. Thanks were expressed to the Brexit Panel, under the leadership of Councillor Barnes, for their valuable and detailed work which would continue. The potential risks of a no deal Brexit were highlighted, including the potential impact on the work force delivering adult social care. The Council would continue to seek to mitigate the risks to the Borough's residents. Communications would continue with hard to reach EU residents and communities and the Council would work closely with its partners. The work being undertaken by London Councils was highlighted.
10. Members expressed their concern at the poor communications from Central Government and the apparent disregard of the impact on London and its residents. The Cabinet condemned the appalling conduct of the Prime Minister and the actions which he had taken to suspend Parliament which had been ruled unlawful by Scotland's highest civil court. Members reiterated their concerns at the potential harmful impact on Brexit.

## 11

### **CABINET AGENDA PLANNING - FUTURE ITEMS**

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

## 12

### **MINUTES**

**AGREED**, that the minutes of the previous meetings of the Cabinet held on 8 July and 17 July 2019 be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

## 13

## **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

NOTED, that the next meeting of the Cabinet was scheduled to take place on Wednesday 16 October 2019 at 7.15pm.

## **14**

### **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED**, in accordance with Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the press and public from the meeting for the item of business listed on part two of the agenda on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006).

## **15**

### **ENERGETIK - TRANCHE 2 INVESTMENT DECISION**

Councillor Nesil Caliskan (Leader of the Council) introduced the report of the Executive Director – Resources (No.78).

NOTED

1. That Report No.74 also referred as detailed in Minute No.9 above.
2. The financial implications of the proposed investment decision as set out in detail in the report and the approvals required by full Council. The work which had been undertaken to date and the confirmation awaited regarding the external funding sources. The business plan had been refreshed and scrutinised as outlined in the report.
3. That approval was being sought for further investment to fund phase 2a of the Energetik business plan up to 2024. Further reports would be presented to future Cabinet meetings as and when required for consideration and approval.
4. Members were provided with an update on the existing programmes of work and those proposed in the future, as outlined in the report. All potential opportunities would continue to be explored covering both Council and private developments. The viability and costs involvement in further network expansions were outlined in detail. The long-term aims and aspirations of Energetik were discussed and, the issues to be taken into consideration in moving forward were noted.
5. The progress in the development of Meridian Water and the phased approach that was now being taken which reduced the potential risks, and increased flexibility.

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6. Members acknowledged the issues which had been raised for discussion. The Business Plan had been scrutinised in detail and the external funding sources sought as required. The positive environmental impact that Energetik could continue to develop in the Borough was noted together with the aim of tackling fuel poverty.
7. That any impact from Brexit would be addressed as appropriate and necessary.

**Alternative Options Considered:** NOTED, the alternative options that had been considered as detailed in full in section 4 of the report.

**DECISION:** The Cabinet agreed to recommend to Council to

1. Approve a further investment of £30m, to fund phase 2a of Energetik business plan up to 2024 which was contingent on the Council securing HNIP and MEEF funding as set out in the table in paragraph 3.50 of the report. For the avoidance of doubt, the execution of the Heat Supply Agreement with the NLWA was a condition precedent on the Council releasing the approved funding being sought, as detailed in paragraph 3.4.4 of the report.
2. Should the Council not be able to demonstrate the need for HNIP gap funding by January 2020 as set out in the table at paragraph 3.50 of the report, the decision on an updated investment strategy would be brought back to Cabinet.
3. Approve the forecast £7.25m, allocation to be added to the Council's "Projects in the Pipeline". Addition to the approved programme would require relevant Council and Cabinet approval. Tranche 2b was the remaining investment required to deliver the full Energetik business case on the current assumptions and timelines.
4. Approve the revisions to the company's 40-year Business Plan as outlined within the company's Business Plan Addendum and the revised financial projections as identified within paragraphs 3.47 to 3.49 of the report.
5. Approve the delegation to the Executive Director – Resources (in consultation with the Director of Commercial) to agree and approve any items arising out of the due diligence exercise being conducted by KPMG, and from the legal and financial state aid advice.
6. Approve the Executive Director – Resources (in consultation with the Director of Commercial) to work with the company to agree and execute an on-lending agreement to cover Tranche 2 expenditure and to implement any arrangement involving equity by the Council. As per paragraph 3.33 of the report and the percentages set out in recommendation 2.6 of the report, above the blended rate, whichever was higher.



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7. Subject to investment being secured from HNIP, approve in principle the ring-fencing of an amount of the received interest payments from Energetik, to be used on Enfield fuel poverty projects, to be reviewed annually, noting that a further paper would be required in due course detailing the intervention options available.

**Reason:** As detailed in Report No.74, Minute No.9 above referred.  
**(Key decision – reference number 4642)**

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## **Cabinet – 11<sup>th</sup> September**

### **Homelessness in Enfield**

#### **Questions**

#### **How important is prevention given the priority is on supply?**

Yes we have a shortage of supply and yes we are building more homes as a priority. The reality is though that these will take years to develop and so this does nothing to help residents becoming homeless now. The trauma of losing your home and the insecurity of temporary accommodation cannot be overstated. We believe that preventing homelessness should be our aim and that this will always be better for residents than temporary accommodation.

With 84% of the households currently approaching us as homeless, it is too late for us to carry out any prevention work. This means that they move into temporary accommodation, often for many years. In the first half of last year this was true for 1221 households. We know from the pilot work carried out in Enfield by the North London Housing Partnership that early intervention can prevent homelessness in around 80% of cases.

#### **When was the last agreed revision of the Allocations Policy scheme?**

The last full Allocations Scheme was agreed in 2012 and amended in 2015 to reflect changes in legislation.

#### **What debt prevention and financial resilience support do we give?**

Residents have had their incomes eroded as a result of Welfare Reform changes. Our support is therefore vital - we do this on three ways:

1. Proactively supporting residents to promptly make claims for UC
2. Supporting residents to maximise benefits
3. Providing a money advice service when residents have wider financial issues

#### **How much are we investing in prevention services (what do we want in the future)?**

The current cost of the Housing Option and Advice Service is approximately £2.9M per year. The net cost of providing temporary accommodation is approximately £6M per year. Any investment in prevention should reduce the ongoing cost to the Council through a reduction in using temporary accommodation.

We are still in the process of quantifying what resources will be needed for the new service and this will be the subject of a further Cabinet report in December. We know that there are 4850 households in the private rented sector whose income is less than their expenditure. Some residents will only need information to assist them whereas others will need help with negotiating with their landlord or help with budgeting and income maximisation.

There are two key elements to the proposals:

- Training and going support for residents to assist them in sustaining a tenancy
- 'Upstream' prevention to stop residents reaching a crisis

### **Why would we use the Gateway for the lettings agenda?**

There is not enough social housing to meet the needs of our residents. The private rented sector is really the only option for many people. As a Council we are limited in what accommodation and tenancies we can offer. Although Gateway is owned by the Council these restrictions do not apply. This means that Gateway is able to offer residents a long-term tenancy where the Council is only able to offer a licence for shared accommodation.

### **Para 4.7.1 – why and how would we work with other boroughs on Capital Letters?**

The thirteen participating boroughs are: Tower Hamlets, Haringey, Waltham Forest, Brent, Ealing, Bexley, Lewisham, Croydon, Redbridge, Southwark, Barking & Dagenham, Westminster and Hammersmith & Fulham.

The aim of Capital Letters is to procure private rented accommodation that can then be used to house residents becoming homeless. With our involvement we will be able to help ensure the strategic direction is to ensure boroughs first look to acquire homes in their own areas – as is the key priority for this Council. There are two further reasons why it is in our interest to join:

1. Capital Letters will be procuring properties in Enfield regardless of whether we join. If we are not part of this partnership we will lose access to these properties and be competing against Capital Letters to secure accommodation for Enfield residents.
2. Capital Letters has secured £38M from MHCLG. This will be used in part to provide incentives to landlords. If we join the partnership part of the £38M will be used to help Enfield residents.

### **Para 4.12.1 – how significant is the lack of bidding and how much does this cost. What is the comms strategy behind this plan?**

There are 3757 live cases on the Housing Register. Of these there are 1270 households who are in Group 4 (homeless applicants) and have not bid on a property in the last 3 months. These applicants are mainly in temporary accommodation.

All of the non-bidders for one and two bedroom properties have been contacted by the allocations team and where applicants continue not to bid the team will make them a direct offer.