



London Borough of Hackney – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday 22 April 2024

This document outlines the decisions taken by Cabinet on Monday, 22 April 2024.

Decisions listed below that are Key Decisions will come into force and may then be implemented on the expiry of 5 clear working days, unless called-in by at least 5 non-executive members in writing and submitted to the Monitoring Officer using the attached form;

[Executive Decision Call-in Request](#)

Date of Publication: 22 April 2024

Last Date for Call-In: 29 April 2024

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Items considered in public

3	Urgent Unrestricted Business	<p>With the permission of the Chair, pursuant to Regulation 11 of The Local Authority (Executive Authority) (Meeting and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 and under Special Urgency in accordance with the Council's Special Urgency Procedure Rules set out at Part 6C Paragraph 11.8 to 11.10 of the Council's Constitution, <i>F S349 Decarbonisation of Property Assets (Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme Phase 3c Grant)</i> was accepted to be considered as Urgent Unrestricted Business.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That the Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Authorised the Council to accept Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS3c) grants of up to £12.9m from Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) and sign the relevant and ancillary documentation for the
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		<p align="center">acceptance of the grant sums.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Approved undertaking Capital projects of £28.6m to decarbonise heating systems in 17 buildings, including 10 schools, to be implemented over 2 years. 3. Approve the investment of £15.7m from the Capital Programme in undertaking the projects in paragraph 2.2, of which £5.5m is repurposed from other works and £10.2m is additional Capital to be added to the Capital Programme. <p>REASONS FOR DECISION:</p> <p>The Council has declared a Climate Emergency and is committed to achieving net-zero carbon emissions in Council operations by 2030. An important part of achieving this commitment will be to decarbonise heat in Council operated buildings.</p> <p>The Climate Action Plan (CAP) adopted in 2023 included specific action on decarbonisation of heat which is partially fulfilled by the current PSDS3b project that will save 1,560t CO2e across 9 buildings including 3 leisure centres. Implementing a further PSDS project will represent a further step to implementing the CAP.</p> <p>The proposed PSDS3c project was split into two parts to target different funding availability within the 3c round of the PSDS grant offer. Three sectors were targeted with soft funding caps within the scheme, NHS, Schools and Other. The Council bid for £8.7m within the Corporate Sector and £4.25m within the Schools sector.</p> <p>CO2 heat pumps have been deployed effectively around the world for 20 years in applications that require higher temperature than other heat pumps. Successive improvements in performance has meant that they are now as efficient as other systems, whilst generating</p>

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		<p>higher temperatures with chilled water available from the same cycle. Using natural refrigerants also has the advantage of displacing CFCs which are recognised as more damaging to climate than CO2.</p> <p>Within the Corporate bid are several key buildings representing major consumers of gas where key equipment is also due for replacement:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hackney Service Centre (HSC) and Town Hall: The current chiller has reached end of life and currently requires significant maintenance each year. It is proposed to replace the chiller with an Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP) using CO2 as a refrigerant capable of producing high temperature heating water in the same cycle as chilled water for cooling. The ASHP will therefore replace both the chiller and the boilers. The installation will be sized to also support the Town Hall, connected using pipes under the road between the buildings, decarbonising heat in both. 2. Kings Hall Leisure Centre: The refurbishment of Kings Hall provides the opportunity to decarbonise the heat and improve the system which currently does not heat the building adequately. An ASHP will be used to replace all boilers using CO2 as refrigerant. As in the HSC, the system will be capable of providing heat and cooling from the same cycle. 3. Median Road Resource Centre: The end of life boilers will be replaced by a high temperature CO2 heat pump operating at 70°C, directly replacing the performance of the boilers. 4. Clissold House: A hybrid solution is planned using the best of the existing boilers, which are at end of life. An ASHP and Water Source Heat Pump (WSHP) cascade will be deployed to displace approximately 90% gas used on site. Space restrictions make it difficult to achieve 100% displacement. However, during detailed design performance of

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		<p>heat pumps will be reviewed as heat pump performance improves each year, and if 100% displacement is possible it will be deployed.</p> <p>5. Tomlinson Centre/Queensbridge School: Both of these sites occupy the same footprint and have complementary heating profiles, whilst the Tomlinson Centre also has a cooling requirement. Tomlinson boilers require replacement and Queensbridge are near to end of life. A CO2 ASHP will be deployed as primary plant generating heating and cooling with a WSHP used as step up plant to achieve 80°C to replicate the existing systems and facilitate the use of the existing pipework.</p> <p>Within the Schools bid, 10 schools with obsolete boilers aged up to 30 years will be replaced by ASHP displacing 100% of the gas. In 8 schools, the pipework is more than 50 years old and requires replacement - new pipework and radiators will be matched with a CO2 ASHP operating at 70°C. In the remaining 2 schools, a cascade of ASHP and WSHP will be deployed to match the current boiler performance at 80°C.</p> <p>Systems have been designed to achieve cost performance similar to or less than the existing boilers. Use of thermal storage will also be deployed to protect against the anticipated move of energy markets to adopt more direct time of day pricing, allowing separate management of heat demand and heat supply, thus allowing heat pumps to be turned off or slowed down at peak times when energy prices are expected to also peak. This will also facilitate targeting grid flexibility payments as a future revenue stream to offset energy costs. At current prices the operating cost impact will be neutral but as gas prices rise relative to electricity, savings compared with the business as usual position will be achieved.</p> <p>All systems will be designed and pre-plumbed with heat network connections to facilitate using any future heat network as plant replacement.</p> <p>Displacing 9.9GWh gas and replacing it with consumption of 2.25GWh electricity will save</p>

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		<p>1,802t CO2e each year. In terms of energy costs, this is expected to be cost neutral in the short term but that it will save money over time as gas prices rise relative to electricity costs.</p> <p>The Council has been awarded £12.9m grants from PDSD3c to part fund this project. In assessing the project, Salix have reviewed the proposed solutions for technical and economic viability using both their own Technical Team and their supporting consultants Atkins Realis.</p> <p>DETAILS OF ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED:</p> <p>Alternative options considered included:</p> <p>Do nothing. This is not an option as most of the buildings targeted have end of life heating/cooling systems and therefore will require investment in plant replacement. This option would also result in zero carbon savings.</p> <p>Replace with boilers and chillers to replicate current practice. This option will cost a similar amount as the proposed low carbon solution but will result in loss of grant and loss of carbon savings.</p> <p>Replace heating with low temperature heat pumps with upgraded fabric. The costs of this option would be very high as fabric measures are expensive while the carbon displaced would be similar. Some sites could not have fabric improved due to listing or construction, whilst others would simply incur high costs. Electricity usage would be lowered through this option but paybacks would be excessive and could not be justified economically. This option would be the Grant providers preferred option, but by accepting the proposed solution, Salix are endorsing this economic judgement.</p>
8	F S219 2023/24 Overall Financial Position Report - February 2024	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That Cabinet noted the overall financial position of the Council as at February 2024 as</p>

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		<p>set out in this report.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION:</p> <p>To facilitate financial management and control of the Council's finances</p> <p>DETAILS OF ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED:</p> <p>This budget monitoring report is primarily an update on the Council's financial position.</p>
9	AHI S289 Introduction of a Policy on Public Health Funerals (Hackney Public Dignity Funerals)	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed to the adoption of the policy to cover when and how a public health funeral will be provided. • Agreed to the name of the policy and provision of such funerals to be called Public Dignity Funerals. <p>REASONS FOR DECISION:</p> <p>The government guidance on public health funerals recommends a local policy be implemented to cover when and how these funerals will be provided. Although Hackney council provided these funerals there was no written policy to provide guidance as to when and how these will be provided.</p> <p>DETAILS OF ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED:</p> <p>Not to have a local policy- this will continue to lead to potential delays in determining when a</p>

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		<p>funeral should be provided by the council which is contrary to the legal requirement for the deceased to be treated with dignity and respect.</p> <p>To maintain the name public health funerals - although these funerals are provided in order to comply with the Public Health Act it was felt that the term Public Dignity Funeral better described the nature of the arrangements being made and the council's commitment that all residents be treated with dignity and respect irrespective of their circumstances.</p>
10	CED S317 Amending the Council's Allocation Policy for Social Rented Homes	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That Cabinet agreed to alter the Council's Allocations Policy in line with the recommendations contained within the report, and as set out in Appendix 1, with effect from 1 May 2024.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION:</p> <p>Hackney Council is statutorily required to have in place a published allocation scheme as set out in Part VI of the Housing Act 1996 as amended by the Homelessness Act 2002 and the Localism Act 2011.</p> <p>The context in which the allocations policy operates is increasingly complex and the allocations of properties are inevitably about distributing scarce resources against huge demand. The proposed changes set out in this report seek to address the potential for misunderstanding and misinterpretation of the Council's allocation policy, and to restore the clear policy intent.</p> <p>In accordance with legal advice the policy is amended at paragraphs 2.1, 2.5.4, 2.7.4, 2.7.8 & 3.2.3 to reflect compliance with the Housing Act 1996.</p> <p>The Children and Social Work Act 2017 defined for the first time in law the responsibility of corporate parents to ensure, as far as possible, secure, nurturing and positive experiences for</p>

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		<p>looked-after children and young people, and care leavers. This means the Council has a responsibility to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and wellbeing, of those children and young people • encourage them to express their views, wishes and feelings, and take them into account, while promoting high aspirations and trying to secure the best outcomes for them • make sure they have access to services • make sure that they are safe, with stable home lives, relationships and education or work • prepare them for adulthood and independent living. <p>The Living in Hackney & Children and Young People Scrutiny Commission 2022 review of the housing needs of care leavers in Hackney made a detailed report setting out its recommendations.</p> <p>The Allocations Policy is changed at paragraphs 2.1 and 2.7.6 to reflect the Scrutiny Commission’s recommendations regarding care leavers.</p> <p>DETAILS OF ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED:</p> <p>Care Leavers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not amend policy: This would undermine the Council’s corporate parenting role to Care Leavers and limit the options available. This has the effect of shifting the focus for housing outcomes for this cohort from the Care Leavers Team to the Benefits and Housing Needs Service. However, this support will almost certainly be to relieve homelessness rather than prevent it, as without earlier engagement with care leavers,

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		<p>the service will not have had the opportunity to work with them on the options available prior to the critical need for a resolution arising. As the housing crisis continues and potentially deepens, the Benefits and Housing Needs service are already finding immediate sustainable solutions extremely difficult to source, and the potential for a placement in temporary accommodation increases.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the quota - The paucity of social housing lets becoming available, means that increasing the number of quota properties would not necessarily result in an increase in care leavers achieving a social tenancy. Fulfilling the quota relies on the properties becoming available as we do not have a stock of suitable properties awaiting occupation. There is also the potential to reduce or remove the quota places for the other groups of residents leaving supported pathways and add them to the care leavers quota. Instead, the Care Leaving Service must react to opportunities as they arise, which places them in an invidious position where it must choose which care leavers are nominated without a clear assessment process with potential inconsistencies of allocation. <p>Homeless applicants - The allocations policy as currently worded does not fully meet the legislative intent as defined within the Housing Act 1996. Consequently, the Council is open to challenge from advocates. Failing to address this presents a reputational risk to the Council.</p>