

### UNRESTRICTED MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE REMOTE CABINET

HELD ON MONDAY, 18TH MAY, 2020 AT 18:00HRS

Present: Mayor Philip Glanville in the Chair

Councillors

**Deputy Mayor Anntoinette Bramble (Vice-Chair)** 

Cllr Jon Burke

Cllr Christopher Kennedy
Cllr Clayeon McKenzie
Cllr Guy Nicholson
Cllr Rebecca Rennison
Cllr Caroline Selman
Cllr Carole Williams
Cllr Caroline Woodley
Cllr Sem Moema
Cllr Yvonne Maxwell

#### Also in Attendance:

Officers: Tim Shields, Chief Executive

lan Williams, Group Director of Finance & Corporate Resources Ajman Ali - Interim Group Director of Neighbourhoods &

Housing

Anne Canning, Group Director of Children and Adults and

**Community Health** 

Dawn Carter-McDonald - Interim Director of Legal &

Governance

Clifford Hart, Senior Governance Services

Apologies: Nil.

# 1. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

#### **NOTED**

At this point in the proceedings the Mayor thanked all present for joining the meeting. The Mayor reminded the meeting of his pledge at the Special Cabinet meeting of 22 April that his administration would continue to be open and transparent despite these difficult times. He referred to meeting such as this one along with those of Scrutiny, Planning, Licensing and Audit Committee which would continue, so that the administration could make decisions transparently and with opportunity for scrutiny. The

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Mayor thanked legal and governance officers for making this happen.

The Mayor reported that since the last meeting of Cabinet on 22 April the Council had completely transformed the way in which it delivered services, and created entirely new ones. It had made sure its vital frontline services could continue to operate while making sure Council staff were kept safe with good supplies of PPE. The Council had set-up a food delivery and emergency support service for people who were unable to leave their homes or were not able to access vital supplies.

The Mayor reported that from a standing start, the Council was now delivering food packages to more than 1,500 households – most of them not on the Government's shielding list. It had also stepped in to top up the Government's initial food packages for NHS shielding residents, which simply were not good enough and did not cater at all for dietary, allergy or religious requirements. The Council had paid-out £50 million to over 3,300 businesses in business rate grants to help Hackney businesses survive during lockdown. It had worked in cooperation with its local communities and mutual aid groups, setting up a pool of volunteers that were helping it's services and local charities respond. The Mayor advised that it was impossible to name every Council Officer that had made all of this possible, so he stated he thanks to every Hackney Council staff member for their hard work over the past couple of months.

The Mayor stressed that on top of these new services, his administration wanted the Government to work hand-in-hand with councils with the next testing strategy. As local authorities knew its communities best and it also already had local, experienced public health teams. The Council believed that testing, tracking and tracing would be most effective at a local level, and the Council was ready to step-up to that role.

The Mayor stated that the administration had done all that it had because it was the right thing to do. The Mayor commented that from the outset he had pledged that Hackney Council would do everything it could to help residents through this pandemic. But this had all come at great cost to the Council — costs that the Government told Councils would be covered — as the papers at this meeting reported. This crisis had revealed the jobs and services most important to the country, and that nurses, doctors, as well as Hackney Council's care and social workers, waste and recycling teams, and many more, would see the Borough through this crisis. But in order to make sure that the teams had the resources they needed to keep Hackney's communities safe and respond to their needs had created gaps in budgets.

The Mayor advised that as Deputy Mayor Rennison would no doubt go into greater detail later, the Cabinet report revealed that responding to this crisis would leave Hackney with a £19 million funding gap from the first three months alone. Throughout the year, the budget gap could be as high as £71 million, yet so far Hackney Council had only received £17.7 million from the Government. This gap was one-half of the £140m in government grant cuts Hackney had faced since 2010 — in just one-year. The Mayor commented that after a decade of austerity, the Government needed to step-in and support frontline services, or Hackney risked having to cut those very services that were getting the Council through the crisis. The Council would continue to keep standing up for its key workers to see this continue, so its key workers could keep looking after the residents of Hackney.

The Mayor then referred to the Prime Minister update of the Government's advice of 10 May which had caused much confusion. The Mayor stressed that he wanted it to be made absolutely clear to anyone watching the meeting that lockdown had not been lifted. The Mayor asked that residents stay at home as much as possible, be considerate of others and keep a social distance from other people at all times.

The Mayor stated that at the last Cabinet meeting in April he had read out the names of just 12 local people out of, what was then, a total of 94 residents that had died as a result

of the coronavirus. The Mayor reported that since then, the total deaths of Hackney residents as a result of the virus had gone up to 153 people. Each death was its own tragedy, and every person that had died had their own stories, connections and contributions to the borough. In particular The Mayor referred to Jermain Wright — London FA Club Council Member, Secretary of the North East Division, Referee and Secretary of the Hackney & Leyton Sunday Football League. All 153 people left behind grieving friends and family, and they were in the thoughts of everyone at this difficult time.

The Mayor further stated that although he could not go through every story at this meeting, he advised that there would now be a one minute's silence to remember those lost as a result of coronavirus.

The meeting then observed a one minute silence.

The Mayor thanked everyone for their observance.

#### **NOTED**

(N.B Governance Officer's note – the remote meeting of Cabinet was live streamed and the recorded contributions of Cabinet Members in respect of the items under consideration can be found on the Council's webpage for the meeting and will therefore not be recorded in the minutes).

# There were no items of urgent business. The Mayor advised that there was a TO FOLLOW report and reasons for lateness would be given when the meeting reached that item. NOTED

Declarations of interest - Members to declare as appropriate

There were no declarations of interests.

NOTED

Notice of intention to conduct business in private, any representations received and the response to any such representations

There were no representations received.

NOTED

# 5. Questions/Deputations/Petitions

There were no questions, deputations or petitions.
NOTED

6. Unrestricted minutes of the previous meeting of Cabinet held on 16 March, and special Cabinet held on 22 April 2020.

# RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meetings of Cabinet held on 16 March 2020, and 22 April 2020 (special) be confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

7. Capital Update report - Key Decision No. FCR Q9

The Mayor introduced the report.

There being no points of clarification on a MOTION by the Mayor it was:

#### **RESOLVED**

i. That the schemes for Children, Adults and Community Health as set out in section 9.2 of the be approved as follows:

Lifecycle Works Programme 2020/21: Virement and spend approval of £1,492k in 2020/21 is requested to fund the lifecycle maintenance work at 10 schools (secondary and specialist schools).

ii. that the schemes for Finance Corporate and Resources as set out in section 9.3 of the report be approved as follows:

40-43 St Andrews Road: Resource and spend approval of £450k in 2020/21 to reconfigure this former car pound site into a site for the Council's SEND Travel Assistance Service (SEND TAS).

iii. that the schemes for Neighbourhood and Housing (Non) as set out in section 9.3 of the report be approved as follows:

The Old Baths 80-80a Eastway: Resource and spend approval of £116k in 2020/21 to increase the existing budget to fund the Council's project to transform The Old Baths at 80-80a Eastway into affordable work and community space, which will provide low cost workspace, new sports opportunities, culture and training opportunities for local people.

Street Winter Gritter Vehicles and A Gully Cleansing Vehicle: Virement and spend approval of £580k in 2020/21 to purchase two winter gritters, a gully cleansing vehicle and a crash cushion attachment.

Street Cleansing 7.5 Tonne Tipper Vehicles: Virement and spend approval of £694k in 2020/21 and resource and spend approval of £72k in 2020/21 is required to purchase eleven 7.5 tonne cage bodied vehicles for the provision of an integrated Estates and Street Cleansing service.

Abney Park Restoration Project: Resource and spend approval of £4,411k (£1,020k in 2020/21, £2,385k in 2021/22 and £1,006k in 2022/23) is requested to increase the existing fund for the restoration project at Abney Park.

#### REASONS FOR DECISION

The decisions required are necessary in order that the schemes within the Council's approved Capital programme can be delivered as set out in this report.

In most cases, resources have already been allocated to the schemes as part of the budget setting exercise but spending approval is required in order for the scheme to proceed. Where however resources have not previously been allocated, resource approval is requested in this report.

**DETAILS OF ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED** 

None.

8. 2019/20 Overall financial position, property disposals and acquisitions report - Key Decision No. FCR Q10 - TO FOLLOW

Deputy Mayor Rennison, in advising of the report's contents as detailed her stated introduction therein, advised that the reason for the lateness of the report was because in order to give the most accurate assessment of the council's financial position, it needed to include the financial data included in a financial survey data returned to the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), which had not been completed until 15th May 2020.

There being no points of clarification or questions, on a **MOTION** by the Chair it was:

# **RESOLVED**

- i. That the updated potential financial implications of Covid-19 as set out in this report be noted; and
- ii. That recommendation 3.1 approved at the meeting of 22nd April 2020 be reconfirmed, namely that "that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive and the Group Director of Finance and Corporate Resources to allocate COVID-19 Grant Funding to the Council service areas as required in consultation with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor (Finance)", and will again be reviewed at the next cabinet meeting.

# **REASONS FOR DECISION**

To facilitate efficient financial management and control of the Council's finances with special regard to the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

**DETAILS OF ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED** 

This report is primarily an update on the Council's financial position and the implications of the Covid-19 crisis. No alternative options are available.

# 9. Restricting Residual Waste - Key Decision No. NH Q47

Councillor Burke introduced the report.

There being no points of clarification or questions, on a **MOTION** by the Mayor it was:

#### **RESOLVED**

- i. That approval be given to the Waste Enforcement Strategy and Waste & Recycling Collection Policy as detailed in appendices 4 & 5 of the report; and .
- ii. that approval be given to the proposals to introduce fortnightly collections for residual waste to street level properties, using black 180l wheeled bins.

#### **REASONS FOR DECISION**

The recommendation to introduce fortnightly collections for residual waste is predicated on a number of factors. The body of the report updates on the status of the RRP, and then focuses on the results of the consultation exercise. It further proceeds to outline the progress of the different work streams in developing the proposal to restrict residual waste to street level properties.

Reduction & Recycling Plan

The Mayor of London's Environment Strategy requires London authorities to write a Reduction & Recycling Plan. The RRP was submitted to the Greater London Authority (GLA) in June 2019, and set out actions on restricting residual waste and to consult on such.

Following amendments based on more up to date analysis of data, notably a slight reduction in the recycling rate, the RRP was 'signed-off' in December by the Mayor of London, and has been approved as being in general conformity with the London Environment Strategy. The confirmation letter noted that the GLA were particularly pleased to see food waste remaining weekly and that we had committed to meeting a stretching recycling target of 31%. The updated RRP is attached in Appendix 1 of the report.

#### **DETAILS OF ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

London boroughs are required to produce a Reduction and Recycling Plan (RRP) to set out how they each will make a contribution to the Mayor of London's Environment Strategy targets and demonstrate general conformity with his Strategy.

Failure to produce a RRP may lead to the Mayor using his powers to direct a Waste Authority in London where he considers that it is necessary for the purposes of the implementation of the municipal waste elements of the Environment Strategy.

The RRP has now been approved by the Mayor of London, which included the consideration to introduce fortnightly collections to restrict residual waste. This action has the largest impact on increasing the recycling rate, thereby contributing to the London wide targets; it is unlikely that the RRP would have been approved without commitments to restrict residual waste.

10.	Schedule of Local Authority School Governor appointments			
	RESOLVED			
	That approval be given to the following new school governing body nomination a follows:			
	Governing Body	Name	Date Effective	
	Cardinal Pole Catholic School	Mr Simeon Marriott-Dixon - new nomination	18 May 2020	

11.	Appointments to Outside Bodies
	There were no appointments to outside bodies.
	NOTED

12.	2. New items of unrestricted urgent business			
	There were no other unrestricted items of urgent business to consider.			
	NOTED			
13.	Exclusion of the press and public			
	There were no exempt items of either an ordinary urgent nature to consider therefore the resolution to exclude the public and press was not required to be moved.			
	NOTED			

Duration of the meeting: 18:00 -18:30hrs

Mayor Philip Glanville Chair at the meeting on Monday, 18 May 2020