

DRAFT UNRESTRICTED MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET

MONDAY, 24TH JANUARY 2022

Chair Mayor Phillip Glanville

Councillors Present: Cllr Anntoinette Bramble, Deputy Mayor (Statutory) and Cabinet Member for Education, Young People and Children's Social Care;
Cllr Robert Chapman, Cabinet Member for Finance;
Cllr Mete Coban, Cabinet Member for Energy, Waste, Transport and Public Realm;
Cllr Susan Fajana Thomas, Cabinet Member for Community Safety;
Cllr Chris Kennedy, Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Social Care and Leisure;
Cllr Clayeon McKenzie, Cabinet Member for Housing Services;
Cllr Guy Nicholson, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing Supply, Planning, Culture and Inclusive Economy;
Cllr Carole Williams, Cabinet Member for Employment, Skills & Human Resources.

Virtually Present

Cllr Sade Etti, Mayoral Adviser for Homelessness, Housing Needs and Rough Sleeping; Cllr Yvonne Maxwell, Mayoral Adviser for Older People;
Cllr Sem Moema, Mayoral Adviser for Private Renting and Housing Affordability;
Cllr Caroline Woodley, Cabinet Member for Families, Early Years Parks and Play.

Officers in Attendance Ajman Ali, Group Director, Neighbourhoods and Housing;
Mark Carroll, Chief Executive;
Dawn Carter-McDonald, Director of Legal and Governance Services;
Jessica Feeney, Governance Services Officer;
Ian Williams, Group Director of Finance and Corporate Resources;
Helen Woodland, Group Director Adults, Health and Integration.

The meeting was live-streamed here: <https://youtu.be/c5JfFJXrOkk>

1. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

3. Declarations of Interest - Members to declare as appropriate

There were no declarations of Interest.

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

There were no representations received.

5. To consider any deputations, questions or petitions referred to the Cabinet by the Council's Monitoring Officer

There were none.

6. To consider the unrestricted minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 29 November 2021 and 13 December 2021.

6.1 The minutes of the meetings of Cabinet held on 29 November 2021 and 13 December 2021 were approved as an accurate record.

7. Housing Revenue Account Budget 2022/23 Including Tenants Rents And Service Charges - Key Decision No. FCR S043

7.1 Councillor McKenzie introduced the report to the Cabinet.

7.2 Mayor Glanville asked members to note that there had been an amendment to the recommendations 3.4 and 3.5 detailed in the report, the wording had been amended as follows:

IV To agree the level of tenant service charges as set out in paragraph 12.4, except the Landlord Lighting charges; and the service charges for the Concierge service as set out in paragraph 12.5.

V To delegate to the Group Director of Finance and Corporate Resources in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Cabinet Member for Finance the setting of communal heating charges and Landlord Lighting service charge to reflect the unit costs of utilities.

RESOLVED

That Cabinet:

- I. **Approved the HRA budget proposals as set out in section 11 and Appendix A.**
- II. **Approved the increase in rent of 4.1% (CPI + 1%) in line with The Social Housing Regulator's rent standard and agreed that rents will increase on average by £4.17 from £103.42 per week to £107.59 per week with effect from Monday 4th April 2022.**
- III. **Approved the increase in HRA fees and charges as set out in Appendix B.**
- IV. **Agreed to the level of tenant service charges as set out in paragraph 12.4, except the Landlord Lighting charges; and the service charges for the Concierge service as set out in paragraph 12.5.**
- V. **Delegated to the Group Director of Finance and Corporate Resources, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing Services and Cabinet Member for Finance, the setting of communal heating charges and Landlord Lighting service charge to reflect the unit costs of utilities.**
- VI. **Delegated to the Group Director of Finance and Corporate Resources, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing Services and Cabinet Member for Finance, the setting of communal heating charges to reflect the unit costs of utilities.**
- VII. **Agreed to the Housing Capital Programme budget and spend approval as set out in Section 16 of the report.**

REASONS FOR DECISION

The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 Section 76 requires local authorities with a Housing Revenue Account (HRA) to set a budget for the account, which is based on best assumptions, that avoids a deficit and furthermore to keep the HRA under review.

Local authority rent setting powers are set out in section 24 of the Housing Act 1985, this provides that:

- (1) A local housing authority may make such reasonable charges as they may determine for the tenancy or occupation of their houses.
- (2) The authority shall from time to time review rents and make such changes, either of rents generally or of particular rents, as circumstances may require.

8. Early Help Review - Key Decision No. CE S032

- 8.1 Deputy Mayor Bramble introduced the report to the Cabinet, and thanked the relevant officers and Cabinet Members who had worked on the report.
- 8.2 The Mayor echoed Deputy Mayor Bramble's thanks to officers.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet noted:

- I. **The delivery of practice and process improvement changes to targeted Early Help services delivered by Hackney Council, as recommended as ‘priorities’ by the Early Help Review under Section 5 of the report.**
- II. **The commencement of a wider piece of Early Help system transformation in 2022; through the establishment of a Strategic Partnership Early Help group and the development of a partnership Early Help Strategy.**

REASONS FOR DECISION

It is the responsibility of all local organisations and agencies to:

- identify children and families who would benefit from Early Help
- undertake an assessment of the need for Early Help
- provide targeted Early Help services to address the assessed needs of a child and their family which focuses on activity to improve the outcomes for the child

Hackney Council, under section 10 of the Children Act 2004, has a responsibility to promote inter-agency cooperation to improve the welfare of all children.

Hackney Council should work with organisations and agencies to develop joined-up Early Help services based on a clear understanding of local needs.

9. 2020/21 Overall Financial Position - Key Decision No. FCR R81

- 9.1 Councillor Chapman outlined the report highlighting that there would be an overspend of £4.9 million in the next financial year, which was below the predicted spend reported in the August OFP. Reference was also made to the spending review and the new care grant, Councillor Chapman stated that the measures did not fix the current crisis Hackney faced in paying for social care and National Insurance increases.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet noted the update on the overall financial position for November covering the General Fund and HRA

REASONS FOR DECISION

To facilitate financial management and control of the Council's finances.

10. Capital Update And Property Disposals And Acquisitions Report - Key Decision No. FCR R88

10.1 Mayor Glanville introduced the report to Cabinet and highlighted the on-going investments in Englefield Road.

RESOLVED

I. That the scheme for Neighbourhood and Housing (Non) as set out in section 17.2 of the report be approved as follows:

Transport for London (TfL) Funded Local Implementation Plan (LIP) - Corridors, Quietways Cycle Route, Central London Grid, Streetspace and Local Transport Fund: Resource and spend approval of £3,857k in 2021/22 is requested to enable Council Officers to implement and facilitate the delivery of the TfL funded schemes to implement measures to reduce road traffic accidents and fund projects to encourage sustainable transport within the borough.

II. That the S106 capital scheme summarised below and set out in section 11.3 of the report be approved:

S106	2021/22	2022/23	Total
	£	£	
	0	0	
	0	0	
	0	0	
Capital	1	48	49
Total S106 Resource & Spend for Approval	1	48	49

III. That the S106 capital summarised below and set out in section 11.4 of the report be noted.

S106	2021/22	2022/23	Total
	£	£	
	0	0	
	0	0	
	0	0	
Capital	57	61	118
Total S106 Resource & Spend for Approval	57	61	118

IV. That the schemes outlined in section 11.5 of the report be noted.

V. That the capital programme adjustments as set out in paragraph 11.6 of the report be approved.

VI. That a lease be entered into with Hackney Chinese Community

Services Association Ltd - a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity, for a term of 10 years for the Property at 12-14 Englefield Rd, London, N1 4LS as is shown edged red on the plan attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

VII. The Cabinet agreed that the parties should enter a binding Agreement that prior to the grant of the lease the proposed tenant should:

- **Submit final construction plans to the Council as landlord for approval prior to commencement of works;**
- **Obtain all necessary planning and building consents as required for the works;**
- **Provide written confirmation from funders that all finance for the tenant works is available to proceed to a start on site;**
- **Submit relevant documents certifying the practical completion of construction works within 2 months of completion;**
- **Submit a viable business plan for the operation of the East and Southeast Asian Centre which includes provision for proper maintenance of the premises;**
- **Conclude a Community and Management Agreement with the Council that sets out the vision, services and approach to governance and operations of the East and Southeast Asian Centre.**

VIII. Authorisation be given to the Director of Strategic Property Services to make reasonable adjustments to the timing requirements of the above conditions if the proposed tenant is unable to meet the deadlines because of circumstances outside of its control.

IX. Authorisation be given to the Director of Legal and Governance Services and the Director of Strategic Property Services to agree the Heads of Terms of such an agreement on the basis of these conditions and to incorporate a covenant that a lease will be granted upon the full performance of these conditions.

X. Authority be delegated to the Group Director of Finance and Corporate Resources to enter into a lease of 10 years, and to agree all other terms of the lease provided that the requirements of S123 Local Government Act 1972 are met.

REASONS FOR DECISION

The decisions required are necessary in order that the schemes within the Council's approved Capital programme can be delivered and to approve the property proposal 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.

11. 2022-23 Council Taxbase And Local Business Rates Income Report - Key Decision No. FCR R90

- 11.1 Mayor Glanville reminded Members that the calculation of the Council Tax Base is covered by s.106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. Which provided that if a Member owes two or more months' arrears of Council Tax, they were obliged to disclose this fact to the meeting and not vote on the matter. Failure to comply is a criminal offence punishable by a fine.
- 11.2 Councillor Chapman introduced the report, it was explained that the proposed collection rate would be 93% which was an increase from last year.
- 11.3 The Governance Services Officer carried out a recorded vote on the recommendations set out in the report:

<u>Cabinet Member</u>	<u>For, Against or Abstain</u>
Mayor Phillip Glanville	For
Cllr Anntoinette Bramble	For
Cllr Robert Chapman	For
Cllr Mete Coban	For
Cllr Susan Fajana Thomas	For
Cllr Chris Kennedy	For
Cllr Clayeon McKenzie	For
Cllr Guy Nicholson	For
Cllr Carole Williams	For

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet unanimously:

- I. **Recommend to Council that, in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, the amount calculated by Hackney Council as its Council Tax Base for 2022/23 shall be 73,981 Band D equivalent properties adjusted for non-collection. This represents an estimated collection rate of 93%.**
- II. **Recommend to Council that in accordance with The Non-Domestic Rating (Rates Retention) Regulations 2013 Hackney's non-domestic rating income for 2022/23 is £117,771,466, This comprises three elements.**

- £43,355,953 which is payable in agreed instalments to the Greater London Authority
 - £35,746,691 which is retained by Hackney Council and included as part of its resources when calculating the 2022/23 Council Tax requirement.
 - £38,668,822 which is payable in agreed instalments to Central Government
- III. The localised pooling recommendations set out in Appendix 2 to the report, be approved.
- IV. Note that no changes are proposed to the current CTRS scheme in 2022/23.

REASONS FOR DECISION

Council Tax Base

The rules for calculating the Council Tax Base are set out in the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012. The calculation is based on the valuation list and other information available on 15th December 2021.

Firstly, the authority must estimate the number of properties in each band after allowing for exempt properties. These figures are also adjusted to allow for discounts (e.g. single person discount and Council Tax Reduction Scheme) and the impact of changes in discounts and exemptions which allow the Council to charge additional Council Tax to the owners of empty homes and second homes. A formula is then used to calculate the total number of Band D equivalent properties. This gives a higher weighting to properties in Bands above Band D and a lower weighting to properties in bands below Band D. This can therefore be thought of as the average number of properties liable to pay Council Tax. The calculation is set out at **Appendix 1**.

The Authority then must estimate what percentage of the total Council Tax due for the year it will be able to collect. This is usually referred to as the collection rate. This percentage is then applied to the total number of Band D equivalent properties to give the tax base to be used for setting the Council Tax. Another way of considering the tax base is that it represents the amount of Council Tax income that will be received from setting a Band D Council Tax of £1.

There are a number of factors to be considered when assessing the likely ultimate collection rate for 2022/23. 2013/14 marked the first year of the new Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme and significant changes in the level of discounts allowed for second homes and empty properties, which in turn led to increased volatility regarding the eventual collection rate to be achieved, particularly as the Council was often issuing bills for monies it has not had to previously collect. Despite this, collection rates have held up very well since this time but in 2020/21, they were adversely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and the cyber attack to fall to an estimated 92% and in 2021/22 the ongoing impact of the cyber attack on billing and recovery and covid19 is likely to reduce it to 90%. We expect collection rates to recover in 2022/23, albeit at a

reduced level compared to pre covid19 and cyber rates, and expect it to reach 93%. It is very difficult to estimate what the actual rate will be in 2022/23 given the uncertainties resulting from the ongoing impact of the cyber attack, Covid-19 and Brexit. We are also mindful of the wider cost of living pressures, and the impact this will have on residents ability to pay and it is ever more important that we continue to provide and signpost to support where it is needed in a timely manner to prevent arrears positions escalating for council taxpayers. Notwithstanding this we believe that the assumed rate of 93% is a prudent estimate.

If actual collection in the forthcoming year exceeds the budgeted collection rate this is likely to generate a surplus in the Collection Fund which would provide additional one-off resources available for use in 2023/24 and beyond, either for one-off revenue spending or the Capital Programme. If on the other hand, the collection rate set is over-optimistic, this may result in a deficit on the collection fund at the end of 2022/23, the major part of which would need to be met from Hackney's 2023/24 Budget.

A collection rate of 93% will result in a tax base of £73,981 Band D equivalents, as shown in the table below.

2022/23 TAX BASE/COLLECTION RATE	
	2022/23
Aggregate of Band D Equivalents	79,549
Estimate of Collection Rate	93%
Tax Base (Band D Equivalents)	73,981

This compares to a tax base of 72,039 Band D equivalents used in the 2021/22 budget setting. The increase is primarily due to an increase in the number of properties in Hackney.

12. Lease To The Council Of 51-63 Ridley Road, London E8 - Key Decision No. FCR S052

12.1 Mayor Glanville introduced the report and thanked the various officers who had worked on the report. Deputy Mayor Nicholson echoed the Mayor's comments and reflected on the market's success and safety throughout the pandemic.

RESOLVED

That Cabinet:

- I. Authorised the acquisition, (entering into) of a 15 year lease, subject to a break clause at the end of the 7th year, at an initial rent of £306,000 p.a. in the property known as 51-63 Ridley Road, London E8 2ND, as shown edged in red, from Larochette Real Estate Inc.**

- II. **Delegated to the Group Director of Finance and Corporate Resources authority to determine the most cost effective options in terms of financing the acquisition of the lease in ways that represent best value on the part of the Council.**
- III. **Authorised the Director of Legal and Governance Services to prepare, agree, settle and sign the necessary legal documentation to effect the proposals contained in this report and to enter into any other ancillary legal documentation as required.**

REASONS FOR DECISION

The market has been heavily relied upon by Dalston's community throughout the pandemic being the only daily market in London to continue trading in lockdown and in particular supporting an increased number of low income families accessing fresh fruit and vegetables via the Alexander Rose charity voucher scheme.

The Dalston Plan and specifically Ridley Rd Market Good Growth Fund project will enrich and invigorate this much needed and used community asset that serves some of the most vulnerable in our local community. A change of approach in designing out criminality is needed at this hot spot and is also an opportunity to implement a number of strategies that will support local businesses, the community and wider area with a permanent presence of council offices in the heart of Ridley Road market.

With the Markets Service managing the retail units within the building it is able to offer traders more permanent premises allowing them to graduate from a stall to a building and support the growth of their business at affordable prices and in so doing, supports delivery of the Council's inclusive economy objective.

Negotiations with the landlord have resulted in agreed floor layouts, costings and provisional heads of terms with an initial six month rent free period for all floors to help the service achieve maximum retail occupancy. As well as increasing the volume of retail and storage units at affordable prices for traders, the proposals will provide enough workspace for the Markets team whose daily presence and visible active management of the building will reduce criminality and make Ridley Road safer and more attractive to customers.

If undertaken, these proposals will further demonstrate the Council's long term commitment to the success and growth of Ridley Road following the £1.m Good Growth Fund investment and development of the market during 2019-2022.

It is estimated by Market Services that the letting of the retail and storage facilities will deliver a small surplus over the lease rent and service charge leaving the occupancy of the office space on the first floor to be at no cost to the Council once the lease of the current offices expires in 2023.

The benefits from entering into this lease are significant and with an opportunity to generate surplus income to the Council from rents and fees, whilst playing a significant role in working with the landlord to design out crime and ASB hotspots as part of the development.

13. Contract Award Report For Appointing A New Main Contractor For The Provision Of Statutory Testing, Inspection, Repair & Maintenance Services (Corporate) - Key Decision No. FCR 053

13.1 Mayor Glanville outlined the report and gave thanks to the relevant officer's who had worked on the report.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet:

- I. **Award the contract for provision of statutory testing, inspection, repair and maintenance services to the Preferred Bidder (Contractor B) from the Crown Commercial Services Framework for Hard FM Services (Facilities Management Marketplace RM3830 Lot 1b).**
- II. **Allow the existing 18 month interim contract arrangement currently in place, to be extended by three months to bridge the period needed to mobilise the new contract for a seamless transition and handover without a break in Hard FM Services.**

REASON FOR DECISION

Following on from the Cabinet Procurement & Insourcing Committee (CPIC) Report dated 10th May 2021, and authority given to proceed with the new procurement, this report seeks approval to appoint the Preferred Bidder as a single Contractor to provide Hard FM Services.

Hard FM Services are broadly defined as maintenance of mechanical, electrical, and building fabric elements of buildings, that cannot be removed from the premises without compromising public health and safety of users, or without causing business interruption. These services tend to be specialist and delivered by accredited companies to ensure maintenance regimes meet with the requirements set out for each statutory header under various Approved Codes of Practice (ACoP).

Ensuring compliance certification and remedial works completion records are maintained for each site is at the core of Hard FM Services in order to meet with statutory and legal requirements under the Health and Safety at Work Act (HSaWA) and ACoPs. The Council therefore has a statutory duty to keep its estate compliant to ensure the health and safety of building users and the public.

The interim 18 month contract is due to expire in December 2021, before the new arrangement will be in place. The procurement timetable slipped as explained at para 5.2.1. and now does not allow the incoming Contractor the opportunity to mobilise the new contract while the incumbent Contractor is still in place.

A mobilisation period is important for hand-over to an incoming Contractor and is the period during which the incoming contractor validates the current

arrangement and highlights any gaps in compliance records before the incumbent Contractor hands the estate over. It is also during this period that new systems are set-up, and the new service provider confirms local operating procedures and finer details of their service delivery proposal content with stakeholders to ensure the transition is seamless and managed properly.

The incumbent Contractor agreed to extend the current arrangement on the terms already agreed for the interim 18 month contract, to allow for mobilisation and TUPE consultation to take place while there is continuity of Hard FM Services, to maintain safe and compliant buildings.

Without prejudice to inflationary uplift and reasonable costs associated with the extension, the fixed cost for maintaining a safe and compliant estate for the three-month period remains the same as under the interim contract. In terms of variable elements of works, we expect only critical or priority remedial works to be undertaken, any works that are not critical or are not causing a health & safety risk will be held back and deferred to be dealt with by the new Contractor.

14. Gender And Ethnicity Pay Gap (Non Key Decision) - Key Decision No. FCR S058

- 14.1 Councillor Williams introduced the report setting out the figures for 2021. Councillor Coban thanked Councillor Williams for her leadership and drew reference to, and welcomed the definition of Black Asian and Ethnic Minorities within the report.

RESOLVED:

That the Cabinet noted the Gender and Ethnicity Pay Gap reports

REASONS FOR DECISION

N/A

15. Adoption Of The North London Waste Plan - Key Decision No. NH R71

15.1 Deputy Mayor Nicholson introduced the report.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet:

- I. **Recommended to Full Council the adoption of the North London Waste Plan (Appendix 1) in accordance with the Planning Inspector's Report and Schedule of Main Modifications (Appendix 2).**
- II. **Delegated authority to the Strategic Director for Sustainability and Public Realm to approve administrative alterations, typographical amendments, to improve cross referencing (e.g para numbering, page numbering) and typographical errors prior to the publication of the final plan.**

REASONS FOR DECISION

The North London boroughs, as the Waste Planning Authorities, are required to prepare a waste local plan by the EU Waste Framework Directive, by the National Waste Management Plan, the National Planning Policy for Waste (NPPW) and by the Mayor's London Plan. It forms part of the suite of documents that make up the 'Local Plan' for each of the boroughs. It sets out how the waste management needs for North London, and provides the planning framework for the management of North London's waste up to 2035.

16. Article 4 Direction To Remove Permitted Development Rights For Change Of Use From Use Class E (Commercial, Business And Services) To Residential In The District Centres And Local Shopping Centres - Key Decision No. NH S030

16.1 Deputy Mayor Nicholson introduced the report.

16.2 Councillor Williams drew reference to section 1.6 within the report, which detailed how the council would protect employment within the borough and potentially save 1000's of jobs.

RESOLVED

That Cabinet:

- I. **Approved the making of a non-immediate Article 4 Direction (A4D) (Appendix 1) to withdraw the permitted development ("PD") rights granted by Schedule 2, Part 3, Class MA of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) ('the GPDO') for changes of use from Class E to a dwellinghouse (Class C3) in Hackney's District Centres and Local**

Shopping Centres (as shown in Appendix 2).

- II. **Delegated authority to the Director of Legal and Governance Services to carry out all publicity/consultation arrangements set out in paragraph 10.1-10.2 of this report and to disapply paragraph 1(1)(c) of Schedule 3 of the GPDO (not to serve individual owner or occupier notice of the A4D because their number makes individual service impracticable).**

REASONS FOR DECISION

The Council considers that the PD right allowing change of use from Use Class E (commercial, business and services) to Use Class C3 (dwellinghouse) without planning permission may constitute a threat to the economy, jobs and amenities of the Borough and would be prejudicial to the proper planning of the Borough, in particular the Council's ability to prevent the loss of uses which contribute to the wider strategic aims for the area.

This A4D is considered necessary because the Council's employment and retail planning policies are based on robust evidence which establishes a need to protect employment and commercial uses to ensure the vitality and viability of Hackney's economy. The permitted development rights would undermine the operation of these policies and may impact negatively on the provision of employment spaces, commercial spaces and jobs in the borough.

17. **Article 4 Direction To Remove Permitted Development Rights For Change Of Use From Use Class E (Commercial, Business And Services) To Residential In The Hackney CAZ, City Fringe And Major Town Centres - Key Decision No. NH S031**

- 17.1 Deputy Mayor Nicholson introduced the report.

RESOLVED

That Cabinet:

- I. **Approved the making of a non-immediate Article 4 Direction (A4D) (Appendix 1) to withdraw the permitted development ("PD") rights granted by Schedule 2, Part 3, Class MA of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) ("the GPDO") for changes of use from Class E to a dwellinghouse (Class C3) in Hackney's CAZ, City Fringe, and Major Town Centres area (as shown in Appendix 2).**
- II. **Delegated authority to the Director of Legal and Governance Services to carry out all publicity/consultation arrangements set out in paragraph 10.1-10.2 of this report and to disapply paragraph 1(1)(c) of Schedule 3 of the GPDO (not to serve individual owner or occupier notice of the A4D because their number makes individual service impracticable).**

REASONS FOR DECISION

The Council considers that the PD right allowing change of use from Use Class E (commercial, business and services) to C3 (dwellinghouse) without planning permission may constitute a threat to the economy, jobs and amenities of the Borough and would be prejudicial to the proper planning of the Borough, in particular the Council's ability to prevent the loss of uses which contribute to the wider strategic aims for the area.

This A4D is considered necessary because the Council's employment and retail planning policies are based on robust evidence which establishes a need to protect employment and commercial uses to ensure the vitality and viability of Hackney's economy. The permitted development rights would undermine the operation of these policies and may impact negatively on the provision of employment spaces, commercial spaces and jobs in the Borough.

18. Children And Families Service Full And Mid Year Update Report To Members 2020-21 (Updated September 2021) - Key Decision No. CE S038

- 18.1 Deputy Mayor Bramble introduced the report, staff and elected members were thanked for their hard work.

RESOLVED

That Cabinet noted the content of the Children and Families Annual Report 2020/202 (appendix 1), endorsed the report and recommend it to Full Council.

REASONS FOR DECISION

The report is for information and endorsement only

19. A Place for Everyone Hackney Voluntary and Community Sector Grants - implementing the new programme in 2022 - Key Decision No. CE S007

- 19.1 Councillor Kennedy introduced the report.

RESOLVED

That Cabinet:

- I. Agreed the timetable for the Hackney Voluntary and Community Sector Open Grants Programme for 2022/23.**
- II. Agreed that the following funding streams can be launched through the programme:**
 - Community infrastructure core grants of up to £45,000 for one year with allocation of these grants subject to Cabinet approval in June 2022**

- **Project based grants for up to £20,000 for one year from May 2022**
 - **Community Chest grants for up to £1,000 for one year for short term projects or one-off activities from May 2022**
 - **Children and Young people activity based grants of up to £10,000 over one year totalling £200,000.**
- III. Agreed the continued funding of advice services in the borough for one year and an increase in awards for organisations as set out in appendix one from April 2022, totalling £1,000,326.**
- IV. Agreed one year funding for Specialist grants totalling £747,333 as set out in appendix one.**
- V. Contributed to the London borough’s grant scheme administered by London Councils 2022/23 and noted that the contribution will be in the region of £208,093.**
- VI. Noted that proposals for the future grant programme from 2023/24 onwards will be presented to Cabinet in June 2022.**
- VII. Delegated authority to approve the interim project based grants 2022/ 23 including community chest and children and young people’s grants to the Director of Inclusive Economy, Policy and New Homes in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Health, adult social care, voluntary sector and leisure, and the Portfolio Holder for education, young people and children’s social care.**
- VIII. Note that there will be an exploration of grant governance as part of an upcoming internal audit of the Council’s grant programme and that recommendations arising from this may be brought back to Cabinet in June 2022.**

REASONS FOR DECISION

Cabinet agreed the details of the proposals for the launch of the Hackney Voluntary and Community Sector Open Grants Programme for 2022/23. This included the funding criteria and timetable, approval of the extension of the Advice and Specialist Grant funding streams within the programme, and proposals for future decisions in respect of the allocation of grants. The delivery of the Hackney Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Programme for 2022/23 is a key decision of the Council as it affects two or more wards and is related to Council spend. The timetable is set out below:

	Project grants	Community Infrastructure grants
Applications open	7 February 2022	7 February 2022
Applications close	25 April 2022	25 April 2022
Delegated authority	16 May 2022	

decisions		
Recommendations to Cabinet		20 June 2022

A grants review was planned for 2020, and the intention was to build on continuous learning about best ways to make grant investments in a complex environment, learning in particular from the work with advice providers. The direction of travel for this grants review had already been summarised in the Council’s Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy 2019. So whilst the formal review was delayed following the onset of the pandemic because of the need to focus on grant making that responded to the immediate crisis, the Council was able to put the learning into practice in the way we funded organisations during this period, when we had to accelerate plans to change the way we understood grant funding.

The crisis unmasked a level of vulnerability in communities that could not be met by the statutory sector working in isolation. We had to ensure we were working with communities and organisations that had the best reach, seeing them as assets in a more integrated, collaborative, cross sector partnership. By moving away from funding from a single service perspective or a command and control style of agreement, we were able to respond effectively in an environment where much was unpredictable and needs were changing quickly. Some of our key learning includes;

- Trust - officers had permission to fully collaborate with VCS partners and work relationally leading to increased levels of good will, reciprocal trust, and more collaboration and sharing of resources between VCS organisations
- We need to place greater value on reach and expertise within organisations that are working with residents that are furthest from our services and are able to ‘scaffold’ a resident’s relationships with public services
- Traditional power relationships were challenged enabling partners to take leadership roles and reducing expectations on the Council
- The Council was able to really take an enabler role, making use of assets and resources beyond grants. This included providing access to our Community Halls when they were closed for general use, using logistical expertise and skills of staff to help the sector improve the storage and distribution of food, and facilitating ongoing communication and collaboration by hosting meetings.

From this learning we know that there are much more effective and impactful ways to invest in the voluntary and community sector than the traditional approaches to grant making and to commissioning. This traditional approach is transactional and arms length and assumes complex challenges can be addressed through simple projects and measurable outputs.

20. Any Other Unrestricted Business the Chair Considers To Be Urgent

There was no other unrestricted business to be considered.

21. Dates Of Future Meetings

Meetings of the Cabinet for the remainder of the municipal year 2021/22:

28 February 2022

14 March 2022

25 April 2022

22. Exclusion Of The Public & Press

22.1 Items 23 and 24 allowed for the consideration of exempt information in relation to Item 12 and 13. Members did not wish to discuss the exempt appendices therefore the meeting did not move into an exempt session.

23. Lease To The Council Of 51-63 Ridley Road, London E8 - Key Decision No. FCR S052

23.1 The Cabinet noted the exempt appendix in relation to item 12.

24. Contract Award Report For Appointing A New Main Contractor For The Provision Of Statutory Testing, Inspection, Repair & Maintenance Services (Corporate) - Key Decision No. FCR 053

24.1 The Cabinet noted the exempt appendix in relation to item 13.

25. Any other exempt business the Chair considers to be urgent

End of Meeting

Duration of the meeting: 6pm – 7.20pm

Contact:

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