

Decision Notice 3 December 2020

Published 7 December 2020

This document lists the decisions taken by Cabinet at a meeting held on Thursday, 3 December 2020. The list covers key and non-key decisions. A decision may be implemented with immediate effect, unless it is eligible for call-in as identified below, whereupon a decision will not be implemented until five working days have elapsed.

Agenda Item No	Decision	Reasons for Decision	Any Options Rejected?	Declared Conflict of Interest	Eligible for call in?
A10	<p><u>Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2020/21: Mid-Year Review</u></p> <p>Key decision? Yes</p> <p>The Mid-Year Review of the Treasury Management Strategy, attached as Appendix A to the report, be noted and referred to Council for consideration.</p>	<p>Compliance with the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice, requires that Council is presented with a mid-year report on The Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS).</p>	None	None	No
A11	<p><u>Joint Finance and Performance Report, Quarter 2 2020/21</u></p> <p>Key decision? No</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet:</p> <p>A Noted the projected outturn</p>	<p>To ensure that Cabinet reviews performance against the Council's approved General Fund Budget and Corporate Plan for 2020/21 and acknowledges the small variation to the forecast outturn position.</p>	None	None	No

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	<p>position set out in sections three and four of Appendix A to this report for the second quarter (July – Sept) of 2020/21 as follow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) An adverse variation on controllable budgets of £1,455,000 representing 2.5 per cent of the gross General Fund Budget. ii) A total projected overspend of £345,000 representing -0.6 per cent of the gross General Fund Budget. iii) The Council performed on or above target for 41 out of 49 (84 per cent) of its monthly and quarterly performance indicators. iv) The Council also successfully completed 19 (11 per cent) of its revised service milestones. 				

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A12	<p><u>Housing Revenue Account, Quarter 2 Finance Report 2020/21</u></p> <p>Key decision? No</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet noted:</p> <p>A The contents of the report and appendices A and B.</p> <p>B That the forecast HRA general working balance as at 31 March 2021 will be £13.308 million and the balance on the Major Repairs Reserve will be fully utilised to finance the 2020/21 capital programme.</p> <p>C The balance of £9.8 million of retained Right to Buy (RTB) receipts held as at 30 September 2020 in order to finance the new build capital programme and house purchase scheme.</p>	<p>A The report compares the Quarter 2 profiled budget with actual income and expenditure. This is to identify operational variations and provide explanations for those differences.</p> <p>B The report also provides details of the HRA capital receipts available as at 30 September 2020. This information will be used in conjunction with the new build capital monitoring report in order to identify any risks of having to repay retained RTB receipts back to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) plus interest compounded quarterly.</p>	None	None	No

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A13	<p><u>Capital Programmes, Quarter 2 Finance Report 2020/21</u></p> <p>Key decision? No</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet:</p> <p>A Noted the progress in the delivery of the Council's Housing and Non Housing Capital Programmes as at Quarter 2 as follows:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">i) The Housing Capital Programme (HCP) current budget is £48.642 million following the amendments approved by Cabinet in September 2020. The projected outturn is currently £31.968 million.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">ii) The Non-Housing Capital Programme (NHCP) current budget is £15.175 million following the</p>	<p>To enable Cabinet to review the actual performance against the approved current budget and amend the capital programme in the light of the latest operational developments, profiling and funding changes.</p>	None	None	No

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	<p>amendments approved by Cabinet in September 2020. The projected outturn is currently £15,124 million.</p> <p>B Approved the inclusion in the 2020/21 HCP an additional £1.8 million to finance newly required cladding at Joyners Field Towers (61-88) and (95–122) to meet updated fire safety advice and obtain the latest fire safety certificates. This capital expenditure is to be financed from HRA making a direct revenue contribution.</p> <p>C Approved the removal from the HCP the £1.305 million Readings new build project because it is no longer affordable and reallocate the resources to other new build projects which are being developed and submitted for approval in the future.</p> <p>D Approved the inclusion in the</p>				

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	<p>2020/21 NHCP an additional provision of £1.5 million to finance the equity shareholding and loan to HTS Ltd previously approved under delegated authority by the Chief Executive on the 24 April 2020 and reported to Cabinet on the 10 September 2020. The purpose of this expenditure being for HTS Ltd to purchase five properties for which the Council has nomination rights.</p> <p>E Approved the inclusion in the 2020/21 NHCP an additional provision of £1 million to finance the East Gate project. This project is funded by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government Towns Fund accelerated Funding grant.</p> <p>F Approved the inclusion in the 2020/21 NHCP an additional provision of £122,000 to finance the upgrading of the existing IT equipment which is</p>				

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	<p>essential to cope with the Covid-19 pandemic.</p> <p>G Approved the inclusion in the 2020/21 NHCP an additional provision of £1.25 million to support the Future High Streets Fund bid as set out in the report.</p> <p>H Approved the proposed re-profiling of capital budgets as set out in the report.</p>				
<p>A14</p>	<p><u>Paddling Pool Health and Safety Works Business Case Award</u></p> <p>Key decision? Yes</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet:</p> <p>A Awarded the following Business Case to HTS (Property and Environment) Ltd subject to clarification and agreement on the terms and conditions, and a contract are entered into not exceeding the</p>	<p>A Scrutiny Committee on 18 February 2020 (and subsequently approved under emergency delegated powers by the Chief Executive Officer on 14 May 2020) resolved that:</p> <p>i) Health and safety issues including staff access to the pump rooms at Norman Booth and Town Park be addressed.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>Yes</p>

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	<p>values set out below:</p> <p>i) Bush Fair Sumners Norman Booth Town Park</p> <p>Total: £333,053.26</p> <p>B Noted that works at Staple Tye will be addressed through separate contract connected to agreed installation of a new Splash Park.</p>	<p>ii) Perimeter railings be installed at the Town Park paddling pool to prevent water contamination mainly from domestic and wild animals particularly at times when the pool is 'closed' and not supervised.</p> <p>iii) Internal railings to separate play park equipment from water play at Sumners, Norman Booth and Staple Tye would be installed.</p>			
A15	<p><u>Selection of a Contractor for Building New Council Homes at Bushey Croft</u></p> <p>Key decision? Yes</p> <p>Cabinet approved (subject to</p>	<p>Proceeding on this basis will enable the Council to deliver its commitment to delivering new council homes for residents of Harlow who are on the Housing Needs Register.</p>	None	None	Yes

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	<p>formal contract) the appointment of Contractor A for Council new build works at Bushey Croft for the sum of £2,601,141 plus provision for contingency sums as contained in this report.</p>				
<p>A16</p>	<p><u>Development of Options for a Harlow Metro system</u></p> <p>Key decision? Yes</p> <p>RESOLVED that Cabinet:</p> <p>A Endorsed the principle of establishing a sustainable transport system to meet the modal shift and climate change aspirations to support the future growth of the town.</p> <p>B Approved, subject to C below, the commissioning of a first stage feasibility study to explore different innovative transport technologies that a ‘Harlow Metro’ might bring and to advise the Council on</p>	<p>A As a core partner in the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town, Harlow Council is committed to developing sustainable transport solutions to serve both the existing population of Harlow and also to support the future growth of the town, including settlements that will lie beyond the town’s boundary. The Vision for the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town, and also its Transport Strategy, identify a requirement for a significant modal shift in the use of transport mechanisms so that 60% of journeys from the new housing sites, and 50% of</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>Yes</p>

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	<p>operational and business models.</p> <p>C Delegated authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with Leader of the Council, and Portfolio Holder for the Environment to identify a budget and scope for the first stage feasibility study to be commissioned in conjunction with the Council's external partners.</p>	<p>those within the existing town, are undertaken by sustainable means.</p> <p>B It is unlikely that such a modal shift, which would be an achievement of national significance, can be attained through an expectation that there will be a greater use of existing public transport systems. Particularly in a post-Covid world, there will be additional challenges in persuading people to use an alternative to private cars. To achieve this is likely to require the development of a transport system that also has national significance and provide the opportunity for Harlow to develop an aspirational network that is genuinely seen to be a better alternative.</p> <p>C To achieve the objectives and vision that the Council has set in its forthcoming</p>			

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		<p>Local Plan will require some bold thinking and transportation will be very high within that. The Council should set its aspirations at a high level and ask questions as to what can be achieved.</p> <p>D The report set out a proposal to endorse the principle and embark on a first stage feasibility study to explore what a Harlow Metro system might look like, how it would operate, initial engineering issues and what business models could be employed. Depending upon the outcome of this, further work will be required to look at engineering details, to market test the concept as well as more detailed business planning. However, this work will not be commissioned until the first stage feasibility work has been undertaken and</p>			

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		the outcome of this and proposals for any additional work will be the subject of a future Cabinet report.			
A17	<p><u>1-15 Altham Grove - External Refurbishment of Flat</u></p> <p>Key decision? Yes</p> <p>The most advantageous tender in consideration of price and quality combined as submitted by Contractor A be accepted in the sum of £269,996.47 for the delivery of this external refurbishment works programme subject to contract and Leaseholder consultation.</p>	To enable the Council to enter into a contract for these works in compliance with Contracts Standing Orders, and to deliver the Council's priorities as part of its decent homes delivery and Housing Investment Programme (HIP).	None	None	Yes
A18	<p><u>Corner Blocks Fullers Mead Estate - External Refurbishment of the Corner Flat Blocks</u></p> <p>Key decision? Yes</p> <p>The most advantageous tender in consideration of price and quality</p>	To enable the Council to enter into a contract for these works in compliance with Contracts Standing Order and to deliver the Council's priorities as part of its decent homes delivery and Housing Investment Programme (HIP).	None	None	Yes

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	<p>combined as submitted by Contractor C be accepted in the sum of £379,000.00 for the delivery of this external refurbishment works programme subject to contract and Leaseholder consultation.</p>				
<p>A19</p>	<p><u>Fire Safety Works - Willowfield Tower, Nicholls Tower and Moor Tower</u></p> <p>Key decision? Yes</p> <p>The most advantageous tender in consideration of price and quality combined as submitted by Contractor D be accepted in the sum of £1,468,271.00 for the delivery of updated Fire Compartmentation between floors, in service duct and ventilation system, internal and front entrance fire doors programme, subject to contract and Leaseholder consultation.</p>	<p>To enable the Council to enter into a contract for these works in compliance with Contracts Standing Orders for fire stopping, compartmentation and the decommissioning of SE Ducts.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>Yes</p>

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<p>A20</p>	<p><u>Referral from Covid-19 Recovery Working Group - Funding Allocations: Recovery Budget</u></p> <p>Key decision? No</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <p>A The process for the approval of the allocated funding for Recovery measures be approved as set out in Appendix A to the report.</p> <p>B That the proposed allocation criteria, set out in Appendix B to the report, be approved.</p> <p>C Final allocation of the recovery budget is delegated to Work Stream lead officers in consultation with Workstream appointed Councillors and the relevant Portfolio Holder.</p>	<p>At its meeting on 22 October 2020, the Covid-19 Recovery Working Group made recommendations on the process for the approval of allocated funding for recovery measures.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>Yes</p>

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A20	<p><u>Referral from Cabinet Policy Development Working Group - Local Council Tax Support Scheme Proposals</u></p> <p>Key decision? Yes</p> <p>Cabinet recommended to Full Council that the Local Council Tax Support Scheme remains unchanged for 2021/22.</p>	<p>The Working Group considered the Local Council Tax Support Scheme and made a recommendation to Cabinet.</p>	None	None	No
A20	<p><u>Referral from Cabinet Policy Development Working Group - Treasury Management Review</u></p> <p>Key decision? No</p> <p>The impact of the Covid-19 virus, and changes to interest rates be considered in the development of the Treasury Management Strategy.</p>	<p>The Cabinet Policy Development Working Group considered a report on its annual Treasury Management review and made some recommendations on areas which should be considered in its development.</p>	None	None	Yes