

## **PRESENT**

### **MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE**

Cllr Elizabeth Campbell, Leader of the Council (Chair)  
Cllr Kim Taylor-Smith, Deputy Leader, Lead Member for Employment, Culture & Economy (Vice Chair)  
Cllr Sarah Addenbrooke, Lead Member for Communities & Community Safety  
Cllr Catherine Faulks, Lead Member for Family & Children's Services  
Cllr Cem Kemahli, Lead Member for Planning & Public Realm  
Cllr Sof McVeigh, Lead Member for Housing Management, Housing Safety & Building New Homes  
Cllr Josh Rendall, Lead Member for Adult Social Care & Public Health  
Cllr Johnny Thalassites, Lead Member for Finance, Customer Services & Net Zero Council

### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Cllr Mary Weale, Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Committee

#### **Council Officers**

Amanda Anerville, Head of Financial Management  
Douglas Campbell, Governance Manager  
Mike Curtis, Executive Director of Resources  
Sophie Evans, Director of Customer Delivery  
Joyce Golder, Principal Solicitor and Deputy Monitoring Officer  
Doug Goldring, Director of Housing Management  
Sue Harris, Executive Director for Environment and Communities  
Dan Hawthorn, Exec Dir Housing and Social Investment  
David Hughes, Director of Audit, Fraud, Risk and Insurance  
Maxine Holdsworth, Chief Executive  
LeVerne Parker, Chief Solicitor & Monitoring Officer  
Joe Philp, Head of Partnerships Liaison and Development  
Toyin Shobowale, Senior Governance Coordinator  
Lisa Taylor, Director of Financial Management  
Moira Ugoji, Director of Communities

### **72 SECONDS' SILENCE**

The Leadership Team and all others present observed 72 seconds' silence to remember those who lost their lives in the Grenfell tragedy.

### **1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Emma Will

### **2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

### 3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2023 were confirmed as a correct record.

### 4 GRENFELL ASSISTED HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME KD1006963

Cllr. Sof McVeigh - Housing Management, Housing Safety, and Building New Homes, introduced the report setting out the background to the proposed decision. She explained that the Government scheme allowed for eligible households from the Grenfell Tower and Grenfell Walk to buy their homes under a shared equity scheme.

In response to a question, Officers explained that this was a Government scheme and that the report set out the steps the Council needed to take to implement the scheme and the implications for the Council and other Registered Provider landlords. Officers emphasised that the Council would ensure that survivors whose homes were destroyed in the tragedy were not worse off.

The Leadership Team RESOLVED, for the reasons set out in paragraphs 3.1 – 3.3 and elsewhere within the report, that the recommendations at paragraphs 2.1 - 2.3 be adopted.

The Leadership Team:

1.
  - i. Approved the Council's involvement in the Government's Grenfell Assisted Home Ownership Scheme for eligible households, as set out in the report.
  - ii. Agreed the financial and other implications of the scheme for the Council, as set out in Sections 6 and 9 of the report.
  - iii. Agreed that capital receipts and grant income from the scheme are reinvested in social housing, as set out at paragraphs 6.4-6.5 and at Section 9, in line with the Government guidance.
- 2 Delegated authority to the Executive Director for Housing and Social Investment, following consultation with the Lead Member for Housing Management, Housing Safety, and Building New Homes, to:
  - i. Obtain Secretary of State consent for properties held in the Housing Revenue Account which are to be disposed of by way of a shared ownership lease in line with the terms of the scheme.
  - ii. Subject to any consent and legal due diligence, approve the terms of disposal of a shared ownership lease in line with the scheme (irrespective of value), to a Grenfell eligible resident; and
  - iii. subject to any consent and legal due diligence, approve the terms of disposal of the Council's legal interest (irrespective of value) in properties to Network Homes, where eligible Grenfell residents successfully applies for Network Homes to be their landlord under the scheme.
- 3 Approved the payment of the statutory Right to Buy discount to eligible households living in properties owned by Registered Providers, who successfully apply to enter into the scheme with their current landlord (as envisaged in the agreements with existing Registered Providers and in line with the Enhanced Portable Discount scheme).

**Action by:** Executive Director for Housing & Social Investment

## 5 VOLUNTARY SECTOR SUPPORT FUND - AWARD OF GRANTS 2024-27 KD06492

Cllr. Sarah Addenbrooke, Lead Member for Communities and Community Safety introduced report, setting out the background to the proposed decision.

The Director of Communities explained that the Voluntary Sector Support Fund programme was a three-year discretionary grant that helped fund core costs to Voluntary and Community Sector organisations. She explained that the programme was oversubscribed by 300%, with 74 applications received. The selected organisations would aim at providing beneficial services to the most vulnerable residents boroughwide e.g., residents affected by poor mental health, disability, long term economic inactivity, and other limiting factors.

Officers would respond to Cllr Faulks outside the meeting about what percentage of funding was voluntary and what was statutory.

**Action by:** Executive Director for Environment and Communities

Cllr. Elizabeth Campbell - Leader of the Council (Chair), emphasised that just because some organisations were unsuccessful during this funding circle, it doesn't undermine the important work/ services they provided.

The Leadership Team noted minor changes to the recommendation in section 2.1, paragraph 2 of the main report. It should read 'Delegate authority to the senior appropriate officer' and not 'Delegate authority to the Executive Director for Environment and Communities' as printed.

The Leadership Team heard representations on behalf of organisations who were not successful in their bids for funding. They explained their organisational ethos, what they did for the community, the services they provided, their struggles during Covid, the effect of not getting enough volunteers and their disappointment at not being awarded the grant as it would have made a positive impact on their organisation and allowed capacity for growth, development and helping more vulnerable people.

Cllr. Elizabeth Campbell - Leader of the Council (Chair) reaffirmed the Council's ongoing commitment with working with the organisations that weren't successful this time around to better improve their future chances.

The Leadership Team **RESOLVED**, for the reasons set out in paragraphs 3.1 and elsewhere within the report, that the recommendations at paragraphs 2.1 be adopted.

The Leadership Team:

- Agree the funding of £1,139,613 to be awarded to organisations listed in **Table 4**, subject to the grants being lawful subsidies;
- Delegate authority to the Executive Director for Environment and Communities, following consultation with the Lead Member for Communities and Community Safety, to confirm year 2 and year 3 awards according to performance management expectations throughout the life of the grant programme; and
- Delegate authority to the Director for Communities to approve small grants following recommendations from the K&C Foundation which will assess the small grants in accordance with its established processes.

**Action by:** Executive Director for Environment and Communities

## 6 Q2 FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT 2023/24 KD1004416

Cllr. Johnny Thalassites, Lead Member for Finance, Customer Services & Net Zero Council, introduced the report setting out the background to the proposed decision. He highlighted the financial position for the second quarter and cautioned that there was still a lot of uncertainty. He drew the Leadership Team's attention to the current forecast overspend of £2.680m against a revised net budget of £187.369m and emphasised the need to monitor the Council's finances closely. He added that there was a £2.1m cost pressure from homelessness, and that temporary accommodation was proving to be the greatest expense.

Cllr. Mary Weale, Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Committee expressed concern over the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) but noted the reduced cost of the school travel budget. She questioned why Section 106 and NCIL funding was not making the desired progress and asked that more transparency and attention be paid to these in the future.

In response to a question, officers confirmed that the announced increase in local housing allowance would not have any material effect on the Council but would affect private landlords.

The Leadership Team RESOLVED, for the reasons set out in paragraphs 3.1 and elsewhere within the report, that the recommendations at paragraphs 2.1 - 2.12 be adopted.

The Leadership Team:

- i. Noted the General Fund revenue budget forecast overspend of £2.680m, which includes a forecast overspend of £1.687m across service budgets, and a £992k pressure against the Treasury budget. Further details by directorate are set out in the main section of the report.
- ii. Noted the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) forecast underspend of £519k in section 20.
- iii. Noted the General Fund Capital Programme forecast underspend of £12.515m set out in section 21;
- iv. Agreed the proposed rephasing of budget slippage future years in the General Fund Capital Programme, as set out in table 14;
- v. Agreed the new funding requests in the General Fund Capital Programme, as set out in table 15 and
- vi. Agreed the virements within directorates in the General Fund Capital Programme, as set out in table 16, and the corresponding amendment of 2023/24 budgets that will result.
- vii. Noted the HRA Capital Programme forecast underspend of £2.995m set out in section 22.
- viii. Noted the savings position in the HRA Capital Programme as set out in section 25 and detailed further in appendix 2.
- ix. Noted the reserves position in the HRA Capital Programme set out in section 26 and
- x. Agreed the movements between the HRA Capital Programme reserves,

- xi. Noted the new requests for HRA Capital Programme under £250k in table 22, and
- xii. Agreed those new requests for the HRA Capital Programme above £250k in table 23.

**Action by:** Executive Director for Resources

## **7 UPDATE ON FINANCIAL PLANS INCLUDING FEES AND CHARGES (UPDATE ON NEW SAVINGS IF REQUIRED TO BALANCE THE BUDGET, UPDATE ON GOVERNMENT FUNDING) KD1007170**

Cllr. Johnny Thalassites, Lead Member for Finance, Customer Services & Net Zero Council, introduced the report setting out the background to the proposed decision. There would be an overall increase of 4% in the Council's Fees and Charges from April 2024. The anticipated increase in fees and charges are as a result of increased costs in providing services next year in areas such as staffing, building and facilities expenses and contracted out resources.

The Leadership Team RESOLVED, for the reasons set out in paragraphs 3.1 – 3.2 and elsewhere within the report, that the recommendations at paragraphs 2.1 - 2.3 be adopted.

The Leadership Team:

- i. Reviewed the proposed fees and charges set out in Appendix A.
- ii. Agreed for the proposed fees and charges set out in Appendix A to be launched for consultation in line with the approach set out in Section 6 of the report.
- iii. Noted the exceptions to the fees and charges as set out in Appendix B.

**Action by:** Executive Director for Resources

## **8 ANNUAL COMPLAINTS REPORT 2022/2023 KD06582**

Cllr. Johnny Thalassites, Lead Member for Finance, Customer Services & Net Zero Council, introduced the report highlighting the data contained in the report.

The Leadership Team noted that there had been a considerable increase in the number of complaints recorded. However, it was hard to ascertain if it was due to the quality of the Council's services or to the Council becoming more receptive to complaints and more efficient about recording them.

Cllr. Mary Weale, Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Committee, expressed concern over the high-level number of complaints received in 2022/23. This could be because of the Council not responding effectively to stage one complaints as data showed over 66% of the complaints received go on to stage 2. She urged the Leadership team to closely monitor the complaints performance information on a monthly basis to support the aspiration 'to be the best Council'.

The Leadership Team RESOLVED, for the reasons set out in paragraphs 3.1 – 3.5 and elsewhere within the report, that the recommendations at paragraphs 2: (1 -3) be adopted.

The Leadership Team:

- i. noted and comment on the Council's performance on complaint handling during 2022/23 in the Complaints Report 2022/23 (Appendix 1);
- ii. agreed the proposed action plan to improve further complaint management across the Council and the priorities set for 2023/24 as set out in Appendix 1, Section 7).
- iii. noted the recommendation of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Appendix 2).

Regarding the Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommendation the Leadership Team:

- i. Agreed to monitor complaints performance information on monthly basis to support the aspiration 'to be the best Council'.

**Action by:** Executive Director for Resources

## **9 SETTLEMENT OF EMERGENCY RESPONDERS CLAIMS - FIRE FIGHTERS KD1007505**

Cllr. Elizabeth Campbell - Leader of the Council (Chair), introduced the report setting out the background to the proposed decision. She reaffirmed the Council's ongoing commitment to Grenfell and explained that the report detailed the Council's negotiated agreement to resolve the firefighters' civil claims.

Cllr. Elizabeth Campbell said that the Council had worked with other defendants to ensure that valid claims are resolved and compensated, in a way that mitigates the financial impact on the public purse.

Prior to reaching its decision, the Leadership Team RESOLVED to exclude the press and public by virtue of paragraphs 3, Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 to consider and discuss information contained in the Part B appendix relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information. The Leadership Team duly went into private session before returning to public session to take its decision.

The Leadership Team RESOLVED, for the reasons set out in paragraphs 3.1 – 3.3 and elsewhere within the report, that the recommendations at paragraphs 2 (i-iii) be adopted.

The Leadership Team:

- i. Approved the Council entering into a global settlement agreement, as described in the exempt appendix, which will provide full and final settlement of those claims in the current alternative dispute resolution process.
- iii. Approved the Council entering into an apportionment agreement, as set out in the exempt Appendix.
- iv. Delegated authority to the Chief Executive following consultation with the Leader of the Council and following advice from the Monitoring Officer and Executive Director of Resources to agree and sign off the detailed terms of the settlement agreement and an apportionment agreement between defendants in the alternative dispute resolution process.

**Action by:** Executive Director for Resources

**10 ANY OTHER ORAL OR WRITTEN PUBLIC ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

In bringing the meeting to a conclusion, the Leader of the Council announced that this would be Sue Harris, Executive Director for Environment and Communities last Leadership Team meeting and thanked her on behalf of the Leadership team for her outstanding service and contribution to the Council over the years.

**11 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The Leadership Team went into private session to discuss Item 9, the Settlement of Emergency Responders Claims - Fire Fighters KD1007505.

The meeting ended at 7.45 pm

Chair

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