

***Please note:*** This was a fully remote meeting held using Microsoft Teams software and 'livestreamed' via a weblink publicised on the Council website in accordance with The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

## **PRESENT**

### **Leadership Team Members in remote attendance**

Cllr. Elizabeth Campbell (Chair) – Leader of the Council  
Cllr. Anne Cyron – Communities  
Cllr. Catherine Faulks - Economy, Employment & Innovation  
Cllr. Cem Kemahli – Adult Social Care & Public Health  
Cllr. Josh Rendall – Family & Children's Services  
Cllr. Kim Taylor-Smith – Grenfell, Housing & Social Investment  
Cllr. Johnny Thalassites – Planning, Place & Environment  
Cllr. Mary Weale – Finance & Customer Delivery  
Cllr. Emma Will – Community Safety, Culture & Leisure

### **Other Councillors in remote attendance**

Cllr. Judith Blakeman  
Cllr. Pat Mason  
Cllr. Marie-Therese Rossi - Chair, Overview & Scrutiny Committee

### **Officers in remote attendance**

Mike Curtis, Executive Director for Resources  
Taryn Eves, Director of Financial Management  
Iago Griffith, Head of Resident Engagement and Partners  
Doug Goldring, Director of Housing Management  
Dan Hawthorn, Executive Director for Housing and Social Investment  
Tom McColgan, Senior Governance CoOrdinator  
LeVerne Parker, Chief Solicitor & Monitoring Officer  
Barry Quirk, Chief Executive  
Caroline Scott, Head of Service Improvement, Housing Management

## **PART A (PUBLIC) MINUTES**

### **CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION**

Cllr. Elizabeth Campbell welcomed everyone to the meeting and summarised the way she would manage this remote meeting.

### **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.

#### **A1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies for absence were received.

#### **A2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

#### **A3. MINUTES OF THE LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING HELD ON 13 JANUARY 2021**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2021 were confirmed as a correct record.

#### **A4. REVENUE BUDGET, CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND COUNCIL TAX 2021/22 (KD05827)**

Cllr. Weale introduced the report which set out a balanced budget for the forthcoming financial year. She stated that she was reluctantly recommending that both Council Tax and the Adult Social Care Precept be increased by the full amount allowed without a referendum, 1.99% and 3% respectively. An increase in Council Tax was necessary to maintain a balanced budget during challenging circumstances but a robust council tax reduction scheme remained in place to support the most vulnerable in the community. Cllr Weale also gave her thanks to the Finance Team whose hard work meant that, despite the challenging circumstances of the budget, there would only be a limited impact on frontline services in 2021/22.

Cllr. Rossi introduced the report of the Budget Working Group, thanking Cllr. Weale and officers for engaging with the working group. She stated that she hoped the Group looking at the 2022/23 budget could begin earlier in the year and include more input from residents. Cllr. Weale welcomed the Working Group report stating that she felt all its recommendations should be accepted.

The Leadership Team **RESOLVED**, for the reasons set out at paragraph 3.1 and elsewhere within the report, that the recommendations at 2.1 and 2.2 be adopted.

**A4. (i) HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUDGET 2021-22 AND (ii) HRA BUSINESS PLAN 2021-22 (KD05827)**

Cllr. Taylor-Smith presented the two reports covering the HRA budget and highlighted the challenges facing the HRA over the coming year including a significant increase in the projected cost of the Capital Programme. In order to meet these challenges and deliver high quality homes it was recommended that rents be increased by 1% while heating and hot water charges increased by 8%. The rent increase would not affect former Grenfell Tower and Grenfell Walkways residents whose rent was protected. Cllr. Taylor-Smith thanked residents and the Tenants Consultancy Committee for engaging in the budget-setting process and emphasised the importance of having open and transparent conversations about the budget and the financial challenges facing the HRA.

The Leadership Team RESOLVED, for the reasons set out at paragraph 3.1 and elsewhere within the reports, that the recommendations at 2.1 in A4(i) and A4(ii) be adopted.

*Action by: Executive Director for Resources*

**A5. ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT 2021/22 (KD05802)**

Cllr. Weale introduced the report, which outlined a similar Strategy to the current one with the addition of two types of investment: fixed income funds and enhanced money market funds. She emphasised that the Strategy remained on the very prudent end of the spectrum and noted that the Council had employed experts from an established firm to advise on potential investments. Mike Curtis added that the Council had to be mindful of the potential to over-borrow as both interest rates and returns were likely to remain low.

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

*Action by: Executive Director for Resources*

**A6. 2020/21 REVENUE & CAPITAL MONITORING POSITION – QUARTER 3 (KD05711)**

Cllr. Weale introduced the report, which showed that after Government funding and the Council's contingency had been accounted for, an additional £1.6 million would need to be drawn down from reserves to balance the 2020/21 budget.

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

*Action by: Executive Director for Resources*

## **A7. HOUSING MANAGEMENT – RESIDENT INVOLVEMENT STRATEGY (KD05687)**

Cllr. Taylor-Smith introduced the report stating that the Resident Involvement Strategy highlighted the journey the Council had been on to improve the way it listened to and worked with residents. He highlighted the importance of resident meetings particularly the Tenants' Consultative Committee and the Housing Summit and thanked residents for being so generous in giving their time to improve Council services and policies. Dan Hawthorn stated that the Council was moving to being among the best of the London in terms of its approach to engagement, and he felt that the Council's internal culture and relationship with residents had seen significant improvements – though he emphasised that the Council could not afford to be complacent as there was still work to be done.

In response to questions, Councillor Taylor-Smith reflected on the change in tone of meetings over the last two years and the implications of wider and more involved consultation which resulted in slower progress on projects but a greater sense of ownership by residents. Doug Goldring spoke to the extensive consultation that had gone into producing the Strategy which had been steered by residents.

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

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

## **A8. SUSTAINABILITY & FUEL POVERTY STRATEGY (KD05713)**

Cllr. Taylor-Smith introduced the report which provided a positive and ambitious roadmap towards the Council's target of being carbon neutral by 2030. He highlighted the work already in progress across the Council's housing stock and the grant funding the Council had successfully bid for. Doug Goldring stated that, if the Leadership Team approved the strategy, a detailed action plan would be produced to cover around 50 deliverable elements of the strategy including regular reviews of the housing stock's carbon emissions.

Cllr. Taylor-Smith drew attention to the reference paper which had been submitted to the Leadership Team by the Environment Select Committee and the Vice-Chair of the Housing & Communities Select Committee.

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

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

**A9. WATER RATES COMMISSION REFUND (KD05818)**

Cllr. Taylor-Smith and Doug Goldring introduced the report stating that several Local Authorities had received commission for collecting water rates including the former RBKC Tenant Management Organisation. Following the outcome of two recent court cases, involving other London Boroughs, the legal advice received by the Council was that it should refund the commission to residents. They confirmed that the report would be brought to the Tenants' Consultative Committee and that the estates of Council residents who died in the Grenfell Tragedy would also be entitled to refunds.

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

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

**A10. ANY OTHER ORAL OR WRITTEN PUBLIC ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

No further matters were raised.

The meeting ended at 8.20pm

Chair