

Minutes of a meeting of the Leadership Team (the Council's executive) held in the Committee Room 1, Kensington Town Hall, London W8 7NX at 6.30pm on 12 February 2020

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## **PRESENT**

### **Leadership Team Members**

Cllr. Elizabeth Campbell (Leader of the Council), Chair  
Cllr. Kim Taylor-Smith (Deputy Leader – Grenfell, Housing and Property)  
Cllr. Sarah Addenbrooke (Lead Member - Adult Social Care and Public Health)  
Cllr. Anne Cyron (Lead Member - Communities)  
Cllr. Catherine Faulks (Lead Member, Skills and Enterprise)  
Cllr. Gerard Hargreaves (Lead Member – Culture, Leisure and Community Safety)  
Cllr. Cem Kemahli (Lead Member – Environment)  
Cllr. David Lindsay (Lead Member – Family and Children's Services)  
Cllr. Johnny Thalassites (Lead Member – Planning and Transport)  
Cllr. Mary Weale (Lead Member – Finance)

### **Other Councillors**

Cllr. Marie-Therese Rossi (Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Committee)  
Cllr. Pat Mason

### **Officers**

Damian Atkinson (Head of Community Engagement)  
Mike Curtis (Executive Director, Resources and Assets)  
Taryn Eves (Director of Financial Management)  
Doug Goldring (Director of Housing Management)  
Mark Grant (Head of Investment and Development)  
Sue Harris (Executive Director, Environment and Communities)  
Lorna Hughes (Community Engagement)  
Steve Mellor (Head of Finance – Housing)  
LeVerne Parker (Chief Solicitor and Monitoring Officer)  
Barry Quirk (Chief Executive)  
Jon Wade (Head of Spatial Planning)  
Callum Wilson (Director of Grenfell Partnerships)  
Anna Geenty (Governance Services)

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

### **72 SECONDS SILENCE**

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

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

There were no apologies for absence.

**A2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**A3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEADERSHIP TEAM HELD ON 15 JANUARY 2020**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2020 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**A4. THE CURVE COMMUNITY CENTRE (Key Decision ref: 05567)**

Cllr. Anne Cyron welcomed members of the public attending for this item and thanked those who had contributed to the consultation on the future of the Curve Community Centre. She noted that the Centre had been set up in 2017 in response to the Grenfell tragedy and that there was a standing commitment to consult the community on what services they wanted as part of the wider recovery. She highlighted the action plan and the proposed savings for reinvestment in wider community projects agreed in the Grenfell Recovery Strategy.

Officers commented that the Curve's existence was dependent on the community wanting its services. Those services would change as community needs changed over time. Consultation feedback had been constructive and key points had been picked up in the action plan.

The Leadership Team welcomed the report. It questioned officers on a number of matters including effective evaluation of the impact of services, the detail of how savings could be achieved and links with the Grenfell Projects Fund.

In summary, Cllr. Elizabeth Campbell commended the strong contribution The Curve was making to supporting the community while recognising the need for change and development of services in response to wider community recovery.

RESOLVED, on the basis of the reasons set out at paragraphs 3.1-3.4 and elsewhere within the report –

That the recommendation at paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2 be adopted.

*Action by: Damian Atkinson, Head of Community Engagement*

**A5. ADOPTION OF STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (SCI) (Key Decision ref: 05529)**

Cllr. Johnny Thalassites provided a brief introduction. He explained that the draft SCI had evolved through extensive consultation and community engagement, which reached over 100,000 people and had a high response rate.

The Leadership Team discussed the proposals and questioned officers on several points including how large developments would be monitored, how pre-application work would be developed, and new ways of engagement with the community.

Cllr. Marie-Therese Rossi gave feedback from the Environment Select Committee (on behalf of its Chair, Cllr. Malcolm Spalding). The Committee was concerned that ward councillors should be involved at an early stage in neighbourhood planning and developments, a commitment accepted by the Leadership Team and, officers indicated, already included in the SCI document.

Cllr. Pat Mason asked how the plan would be resourced. Officers explained that the Planning Department was being re-structured to ensure that the service is re-orientated to support the new approaches.

RESOLVED, on the basis of the reasons set out at paragraphs 3.1-3.3 and elsewhere within the report –

That the recommendation at paragraph 2.1 be adopted.

*Action by: Sue Harris, Executive Director for Environment and Communities*

**A6. BUDGET 2020/21 – REVENUE BUDGET, CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND COUNCIL TAX** (Key Decision ref: 05562)

It was noted that the draft budget had already been brought to the Leadership Team several times as the detail developed through the year. Cllr. Mary Weale drew attention to the level of Council Tax for recommendation to the Council. She explained the commitment to keeping the Council Tax reduction scheme to provide maximum support for the least well-off and highlighted the wider consultation undertaken on the budget: she thanked the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for their input and noted it would keep the budget under review throughout the year.

Cllr. Marie-Therese Rossi indicated that the Budget Scrutiny Working Group meetings had been fruitful and it would start looking at the 2021-22 budget earlier in the year than previously.

The Leadership Team noted the Working Group's recommendations set out at Appendix 8.

Cllr. Elizabeth Campbell summed up, indicating that the financial position might be very difficult for future years, but that the Council was managing to continue with its investment programme.

RESOLVED, on the basis of the reasons set out at paragraph 3.1 and elsewhere within the report –

That the recommendations at paragraphs 2.1(1) – (11) and 2.2(1) – (7) be adopted.

*Action by: Mike Curtis, Executive Director, Resources and Assets*

**A6(i) BUDGET 2020/21 – HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT** (Key Decision ref: 05562)

Cllr. Kim Taylor-Smith introduced the report. He indicated that this was the first rent increase for four years and that, in line with the Council's declared intention to become carbon neutral, energy charges would reflect use rather than be

based on an overall average. The report needed to be considered in the context of the HRA business plan at item A6(ii) on the agenda.

The Leadership Team heard that the report had been considered at the Tenants Consultative Committee which had accepted that there would be rent increases this year, albeit with some concerns about how charges might be increased in future years.

RESOLVED, on the basis of the reasons set out at paragraph 3.1 and elsewhere within the report –

That the recommendations at paragraphs 2.1 (i) – (v) be adopted.

*Action by: Mike Curtis, Executive Director, Resources and Assets*

**A6(ii) BUDGET 2020/21 – HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUSINESS PLAN (Key Decision ref: 05562)**

Cllr. Kim Taylor-Smith introduced the report and Doug Goldring outlined the key points of the business plan.

RESOLVED, on the basis of the reasons set out at paragraphs 3.1 – 3.2 and elsewhere within the report –

That the recommendations at paragraph 2.1 be adopted.

*Action by: Mike Curtis, Executive Director, Resources and Assets, and Robyn Fairman, Executive Director, Grenfell*

**A6(iii) BUDGET 2020/21 – ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT 2020/21 (Key Decision ref: 05562)**

Cllr. Mary Weale introduced the report explaining that the strategy remained a prudent one.

RESOLVED, on the basis of the reasons set out at paragraph 3.1 and elsewhere within the report –

That the recommendations at paragraphs 2.1 be adopted.

*Action by: Mike Curtis, Executive Director, Resources and Assets*

**A7. 2019/20 REVENUE AND CAPITAL MONITORING POSITION – QUARTER 3 (Key Decision ref: 05575)**

Cllr. Mary Weale introduced the report and noted the overall underspend which was partly due to over-achievement of income in treasury management. Other Leadership Team members highlighted key factors that could affect the final outturn for service areas.

In response to questions from Cllr. Pat Mason, it was explained that an overspend in Planning was due to reduced income from fewer planning applications rather than higher expenditure on community engagement.

RESOLVED, on the basis of the reasons set out at paragraph 2.1 and elsewhere within the report –

That the recommendations at paragraphs 1.14 – 1.18 be adopted.

*Action by: Mike Curtis, Executive Director, Resources and Assets*

Cllr. Elizabeth Campbell noted that there was no need for the Leadership Team to resolve to go into private session as Members had no questions on the Part B (exempt) appendices to reports A8 and A9. The meeting continued in public session.

**A8. HOUSING SERVICES CONSULTANCY FRAMEWORK – APPOINTMENT OF CONSULTANTS** (Key Decision ref: 05476)

Doug Goldring indicated that whilst residents' representatives were included on the Procurement Panel, five members of the Panel had emailed to say they did not wish to be cited as having been consulted. A resident present at the meeting, who had been a Panel member, said that the procurement team had been very flexible and had done a fantastic job.

Officers acknowledged that the procurement had not run completely smoothly and more bidders would have been welcome. The lots for which there were no bids would be covered by the multi-disciplinary contracts for north and south of the Borough.

The Leadership Team noted the budget figures and that the Director of Housing Management would take the final decision on the contract awards once the formal leaseholder consultation was completed satisfactorily.

RESOLVED, on the basis of the reasons set out at paragraphs 3.1 – 3.3, elsewhere within the report and the Part B appendix –

That the recommendations at paragraph 2.1 be adopted.

*Action by: Doug Goldring, Director of Housing Management*

**A9. UNIT C, 50 SLOANE AVENUE, SW3 – NEW LETTING** (Key Decision ref: 05572)

RESOLVED, on the basis of the reasons set out at paragraph 3.1, elsewhere within the report and the Part B appendix –

That the recommendations at paragraphs 2.1 – 2.2 be adopted.

*Action by: Dave Thompson, Director of Social Investment and Property*

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

No further matters were considered under the public or private parts of the agenda.

The meeting ended at 7.40pm

Chair