

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BUSINESS PANEL		
Report Title	Decisions made by Mayor and Cabinet on 11 January 2017	
Key Decision		Item No. 5
Ward	All	
Contributors	Chief Executive/Head of Business and Committee	
Class	Part 1	Date: 31 January 2017

1. Recommendation

To consider key decisions made by the Mayor and Cabinet on 11 January 2017 which will come in to force on 1 February 2017.

2. Background

2.1 The Mayor and Cabinet considered the following key decisions on 11 January 2017.

2.2 The notice of decisions made in respect of the reports are attached as an Appendix. Under the provisions of Standing Orders Part IV E 14, members may call in an executive decision within 7 days. If these reports are not called in they will come into force on 1 February 2017.

- (i) New Homes, Better Places Programme Update
- (ii) Discretionary Rate Relief Policy Review
- (iii) Setting the Council Tax Base, the NNDR Tax Base & Discount for Second Homes and Empty Homes
- (iv) Budget Update
- (v) London Regional Adoption Agency



NOTICE OF DECISIONS MADE AT THE MAYOR & CABINET

The Mayor and Cabinet made the following decisions on 11 January 2017. These Decisions will become effective on 1 February 2017 unless called in by the Overview & Scrutiny Business Panel on 31 January 2017.

1. New Homes, Better Places Programme Update

Having considered an officer report and a tabled addendum, and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Damien Egan, the Mayor agreed that:

- (1) the progress made to date to deliver 500 new council homes by 2018 be noted;
- (2) statutory Section 105 consultation had been carried out for proposed infill development at Marnock Road and Crofton Park Road;
- (3) having considered the responses to the statutory Section 105 consultation, Lewisham Homes prepare and submit a planning application for Marnock Road; and
- (4) the proposal set out for officers to consider the potential of additional sites, at Burnt Ash Hill in Lee Green and at the former Home Park Office in Bellingham, for the provision of new homes for this programme be noted, and that further information in relation to these projects be brought back to Mayor & Cabinet as soon as possible.

2. Discretionary Rate Relief Policy Review

Having considered an officer report, and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for the Third Sector, Councillor Joan Millbank, the Mayor agreed that:

- (1) the contents of the review be noted;
- (2) the revised policy as set out be approved; and

(3) authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Community Services to award discretionary rate relief to organisations on the Cultural and Leisure sector list for the next 3 years.

3. Setting the Council Tax Base, the NNDR Tax Base & Discounts for Second Homes and Empty Homes

Having considered an officer report, and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for Resources, Councillor Kevin Bonavia, the Mayor agreed that:

- (1) the Council Tax Base calculation for 2016/17, as set out in the annual Council Tax Base government return, be noted;
- (2) Council be recommended to agree a Council Tax Base of 81,087.65 Band D equivalent properties for 2017/18;
- (3) Council be recommended to agree a budgeted Council Tax collection rate of 96.0%;
- (4) Council be recommended to agree that the existing policy of a 0% discount for second homes for 2016/17 be continued for 2017/18;
- (5) Council be recommended to agree that the existing policy of a 0% discount for empty homes Class A (an empty property undergoing structural alteration or major repair to make it habitable) be continued;
- (6) Council be recommended to agree that the existing policy of a 100% discount awarded for a period of four weeks and then a 0% discount thereafter, for empty homes – Class C (a substantially empty and unfurnished property) be continued;
- (7) Council be recommended to agree that the existing policy of an empty homes premium of 50% in respect of long term empty properties be continued, as set out in section six of this report;
- (8) Council be recommended to agree, consistent with the approach taken in 2016/17, to implement the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) to reflect reductions in the Settlement Funding Assessment, which for 2017/18 will mean 33% is passed onto working age CTRS recipients;
- (9) Council be recommended to note the proposed 2017/18 National Non Domestic Rate (NNDR) estimated net yield of £58.682m, based on current information available; and
- (10) Council be recommended to delegate the approval of the final 2017/18 NNDR1 form to the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration for submission by the deadline of 31st January 2017.

4. Budget Update

Having considered an officer report, and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for Resources, Councillor Kevin Bonavia, the Mayor agreed from the options available that:

- (1) the updates from the Autumn Statement and provisional Local Government Finance Settlement as presented be noted;
- (2) the current financial assumptions of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) assume an annual 2% Adult Social Care precept is applied to the Council Tax Base for the next three years (option 1 in section 7) and that the Local Government Finance Settlement introduced new alternative options (2 to six) on which the budget could be modelled and that Option 4 should be recommended to the Council;
- (3) the Council's budget be prepared with a reduced corporate risks and pressures budget of £6.5m (down from £7.5m in previous years) for the three years to 2019/20, thereby saving £1m in 2017/18 and £3m over the period.

5. London Regional Adoption Agency

Having considered an officer report, and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Councillor Paul Maslin, the Mayor agreed that:

- (1), in principle approval be given to join a London Regional Adoption Agency, subject to detailed financial analysis and business case; and
- (2) the Director Children's Social Care, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People, be authorised to progress arrangements relating to the development and Implementation of the London Regional Adoption Agency model.

Barry Quirk
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12 January 2017