

Decisions taken by the Mayor and Cabinet on Wednesday, 13 May 2020

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
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Part A – Items considered in public

A1	Declaration of Interests	None were made.
A2	Minutes	Approved.
A3	Matters Raised by Scrutiny and other Constitutional Bodies	The Clerk reported on the approval of the Single Equalities Framework.
A4	Covid-19 Recovery: Business Rates, Business & Resident Support	<p>Having considered an officer report, and a presentation by the jobshare Cabinet Member for Culture, Jobs & Skills, Councillor Joe Dromey, the Mayor and Cabinet agreed that:</p> <p>(1) the broad package of support to business and residents set out together with the specific recommendations indicated below be approved;</p> <p>(2) Across all areas of income collection for the next three months note the Council's general approach be noted and endorse the following be endorsed:</p> <p>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Generate invoices based on existing agreements and charges unless specifically waived; b. Hold the sending of any reminders for payments due on bills raised; with communications emphasising payment flexibility for business those struggling to pay and not referencing enforcement action; c. Invite all customers, businesses or residents, to contact the Council early to discuss any financial difficulties they may be facing as a result of Covid 19; d. Offer flexibility to vary payment schedules to waive charges for

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		<p>up to three months and reset future payments to recover the monies due thereafter.</p> <p>d. Delegate authority to the Executive Director for Housing, Regeneration and Environment in consultation with the Acting Chief Finance Officer to scope the recommended options, implement processes and eligible accessibility criteria.</p> <p>(3) the Executive Director for Housing, Regeneration and Environment in consultation with the Acting Chief Finance Officer be authorised to introduce temporary top-up to emergency loans to support families with unexpected Covid-19 bereavement costs, to bridge the circa 7 week delay in obtaining the £1,000 DWP ‘funeral expenses payment’; this is subject to the outcome of the current all Borough’s representation to DWP to reduce delays in processing applications.</p> <p>(4) the Executive Director for Housing, Regeneration and Environment in consultation with the Acting Chief Finance Officer be authorised to implement the following proposals as part of a comprehensive package of support to help protect Lewisham business and jobs:</p> <p>(5) For Council commercial tenants - if requested by the tenant and having checked on a case by case basis that they have availed themselves of other available government support, to:</p> <p>a. At least defer all commercial rents due up to a 3-month period - essentially terms would be agreed to recover the rent over a longer period.</p>

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		<p>b. Allow flexibility for officers to discount or forego commercial rents due for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs with fewer than 250 employees, and a turnover of less than £50 million) who have not received business rates relief or grants, voluntary groups and charities – initially - up to a 3-month period,</p> <p>c. Consider in June on whether to defer or forego rent for a further quarter for businesses that - still remain vulnerable to imminent closure.</p> <p>At an estimated cost to the Council from loss of income of up to £800k.</p> <p>(6) For commercial waste customers - where appropriate for those not trading (e.g. excluding supermarkets), agree an initial three-month free-period on annual waste collection charges from the 1 April 2020; and if requested, defer payments for 3-months for SMEs who are still trading (e.g. shops) at an expected cost to the Council from loss of income of up to £500k.</p> <p>(7) For Licenced premises - provide leniency on when the statutory premises licencing fee is paid, not to suspend premises for non-payment of license fees, not to chase on non-payment – but continue to invoice premises for their annual fees as normal. Council will provide a 3 month grace period after the Covid-19 lockdown regulations cease before chasing payments and suspending premises.</p> <p>(8) For Commercial tenants paying service charges - If requested, defer charges due from Forest Hill Business Centre and Bow Arts Trust for up to a 3-month period, with consideration in June for a further quarter deferral – essentially terms would be agreed to recover the full service charge over a</p>

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		<p>later or longer period.</p> <p>(9) For Market Traders - endorse the agreed blanket approach to cease all fees and charges to support Lewisham Markets & Traders without charge penalty or loss of pitch for the first quarter at an expected cost to the Council from loss of income from all markets across Lewisham of £225k.</p> <p>(10) For Business parking - endorse the four month blanket reduction on annual business parking permits from the 1 April 2020 at an expected cost to the Council from loss of income of £130k.</p> <p>(11) For Shop Forecourt licences - cease all fees and charges to support Lewisham business owners without charge, penalty, or loss of shop forecourt licence for the first quarter at an expected cost to the Council from loss of income from all licensed shops of £35k.</p> <p>(12) a 'Lewisham backs Business' Task Force, comprising lead Members, representatives from the local business community, industry, and officers be established to develop and coordinate a whole Council response to supporting business and jobs recovery quickly and inclusively from the disruption of Covid 19.</p>
A5	Exclusion of Press and Public	Agreed.
A6	Home Park Allocation of S106 monies as part of the Council's Precision Manufactured Homes Programme	Having considered a confidential officer report, and a presentation by the Mayor, the Mayor and Cabinet agreed that the allocation of a stated of Section 106 contributions received by the Council from the Planning agreements set out be approved to provide affordable and wheelchair housing delivery in the borough at Home Park.

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A7	Smarter Technology Phase 2 Project Equipment Rollout	<p>Having considered a confidential officer report, and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for Democracy, Refugees and Accountability, Councillor Kevin Bonavia, the Mayor and Cabinet agreed that:</p> <p>(1) a stated spend be approved on the Laptops, PC, Monitors and supporting items necessary for Smarter Tech Phase 2</p> <p>(2) the order be placed with Shared Services using existing arrangements as set out.</p>
A8	Permission to extend Youth Services contract	<p>Having considered a confidential officer report, and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for School Performance and Children's Services, Councillor Chris Barnham, the Mayor and Cabinet agreed that:</p> <p>(1) an additional extension to the current Youth Service contract with Youth First from 01/08/2020 to 31/03/21 at a stated maximum cost be approved;</p> <p>(2) the provisions around pensions and redundancy liability provided by the Council for the existing contract are maintained for the period of the extension be approved; and</p> <p>(3) authority be delegated to the Executive Director for CYP to agree appropriate terms in particular any changes to the existing terms and conditions for the extension relevant to Covid 19, such as open book accounting, the right for the Council to clawback unspent monies and ability to bring the extension period to an end early</p>
A9	Permission to extend current Specialist Short Breaks contract -	<p>Having considered a confidential officer report, and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for School Performance and Children's Services, Councillor</p>

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	Ravensbourne Project	Chris Barnham, the Mayor and Cabinet agreed that the contract with Ravensbourne Project be extended to provide overnight, holiday and weekend provision of specialist short breaks from 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 at a total stated cost of overnight, holiday and weekends.
A1		
A2		