

## OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BUSINESS PANEL

<b>Report Title</b>	Decisions made by Mayor and Cabinet at the on 10 January 2018		
<b>Key Decision</b>			Item No. 5
<b>Ward</b>	All		
<b>Contributors</b>	Chief Executive/Head of Business and Committee		
<b>Class</b>	Part 1	Date: 23 January 2018	

### 1. Recommendation

To consider key decisions made by the Mayor and Cabinet on 10 January 2018 which will come in to force on 24 January 2018.

### 2. Background

2.1 The Mayor and Cabinet considered the following key decisions on 10 January 2018.

2.2 The notice of the decision made in respect of the report is 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 this report is not called in they will come into force on 24 January 2018

- i. Council Tax Base 2018-19
- ii. Annual Complaints Report
- iii. Local Development Scheme
- iv. Statement of Community Involvement
- v. Alterations and Extensions SPD
- vi. Working in the Private Rented Sector
- vii. Review of the NNDR discretionary discount scheme
- viii. Wide Horizons
- ix. London Business Rates Pilot Pool
- x. New Homes Programme Update Part 1



## NOTICE OF DECISIONS MADE AT THE MAYOR & CABINET

The Mayor made the following decisions 10 January 2018. These decisions will become effective on 24 January 2018 unless called in by the Overview & Scrutiny Business Panel on 23 January 2018.

### **1. 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 2018/19, as set out in the annual Council Tax Base government return be noted;
- (2) Council be recommended to agree a Council Tax Base of 86,456.6 Band D equivalent properties for 2018/19;
- (3) Council be recommended to agree a budgeted Council Tax collection rate of 96.0%;
- (4) Council be recommended to agree the introduction of a discretionary Council Tax discount of 100% for care leavers up to the age of 25;
- (5) Council be recommended to agree that the existing policy of a 0% discount for second homes for 2017/18 be continued for 2018/19;
- (6) 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;
- (7) 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;
- (8) 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;

(9) Council be recommended to agree consistent with the approach taken in 2017/18, to implement the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) to reflect reductions in the Council's funding, but simplify the process by replacing the reduction in the Settlement Funding Assessment with:

- Setting a fixed percentage for the scheme (to avoid large increases and decreases as have happened to date)
- Agreeing the percentage as part of the budget setting process
- And considering on an annual basis any savings the Council might want to make to the budget by changing the percentage alongside other savings being considered.

(10) Council be recommended to agree that a 25% liability is passed onto working age CTRS recipients in 2018/19 as detailed in section 11 of this report.

(11) Council be recommended to agree to note the proposed 2018/19 National Non Domestic Rate (NNDR) estimated net yield of £66.3m, based on current information available.

(12) Council be recommended to agree to delegate the approval of the final 2018/19 NNDR1 form to the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration for submission by the deadline of 31st January 2018.

## **2. Annual Complaints Report 2016-17**

Having considered an officer report and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for Policy and Performance, Councillor Joe Dromey, the Mayor agreed that the report be noted.

## **3. Local Development Scheme (LDS) 2018**

Having considered an officer report and a presentation by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Alan Smith, the Mayor agreed that:

(1) the revised content and timetable of the Local Development Scheme in Annex 1 be approved and subject to confirmation that it is not intended to direct any changes, publication and placement on the Council's website be approved;

(2) the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration be authorised to make any minor changes to the text and format of the documents prior to publication.

(3) the report be referred to Council for information.

**4. Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) 2018**

Having considered an officer report and a presentation by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Alan Smith, the Mayor agreed that:

(1) the revised content (Appendix 1) and timetable of the SCI (Section 9) be approved and subject to confirmation that it is not intended to direct any changes, the draft SCI go out to public consultation.

(2) the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration be authorised to make any minor changes to the text and format of the documents prior to publication; and

(3) the report be referred to Council for information.

**5. Alterations and Extensions Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)**

Having considered an officer report and a presentation by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Alan Smith, the Mayor agreed that:

(1) the content of the draft Alterations and Extensions SPD be approved and subject to confirmation that it is not intended to direct any changes, recommend that the draft Extensions and Alterations SPD go out to formal public consultation in accordance with the Statement of Community Involvement.

(2) the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration be authorised to make any minor changes to the text and format of the documents prior to publication; and

(3) the report be referred to Council for information.

**6. Working in the Private Rented Sector.**

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

(1) the proposal, supported by Housing Select Committee, to develop a business case that considers the extension of the existing licensing schemes to include a targeted selected licensing scheme be approved;

(2) the introduction of the Civil Penalty Notices as an additional tool to tackle poor practice in the Private Rented Sector as supported by Housing Select Committee and as per the details set out in paragraph 5.3 and charges in Appendix 2, be approved;

(3) the Housing Select Committees recommendation for the PSHA to further promote the work of the team and engage with landlords and tenants to help eradicate bad practice in the sector be approved.

**7. Review of the National Non Domestic Rates – discretionary discount scheme for businesses accredited to Living Wage Foundation.**

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

(1) a one off discount in NNDR be offered based on the cost of accreditation in 2018/19 to businesses that become accredited by the Living Wage Foundation during 2018/19 and who meet the criteria set out in appendix 1

(2) the discount be offered on a 'first come first served' basis until the Council's overall contribution equals £20,000 within the financial period 2016 to 2019. Once the Council's £20,000 contribution has been reached no further discounts will be offered.

(3) the scheme be reviewed in 2018/19 to determine whether it should be offered in future years.

**8. Wide Horizons Refinancing**

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

(1) the business case for offering a refinancing facility to Wide Horizons, the conditions and offer proposed, and the State Aid considerations that apply be noted;

(2) the Council offer an interest bearing re-financing facility of up to £700,000 to Wide Horizons to be paid back over a period of no more than 25 years, subject to Wide Horizons obtaining an equal amount of re-financing from the Royal Borough of Greenwich; and

(3) authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration to finalise the terms of the re-financing agreement with Wide Horizons, working with the Royal Borough of Greenwich.

**9. London Business Rates Pilot Pool 2018-19**

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

(1) Council be recommended to approve and accept the designation by the Secretary of State as an authority within the London Business

Rates Pilot Pool pursuant to 34(7)(1) of Schedule 7B Local Government Finance Act 1988;

(2) Council be recommended to participate in the London Business Rates Pilot Pool with effect from 1 April 2018

(3) Council be recommended to delegate the authority's administrative functions as a billing authority pursuant to the Non-Domestic Rating (Rates Retention) Regulations 2013, to the City of London Corporation ("COLC") acting as the Lead Authority;

(4) Council be recommended to authorise the Lead Authority to sub-contract certain ancillary administrative functions [regarding the financial transactions [payment of tariffs and top-ups] within the Pool to the GLA as it considers expedient];

(5) Council be recommended to delegate authority to the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration to agree the operational details of the pooling arrangements with the participating authorities;

(6) Council be recommended to delegate authority to the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration, in consultation with the Head of Legal Services, to enter into such Memorandum of Understanding with the 'participating authorities' as may be necessary, (including if and where appropriate) amending, finalising and executing the same on behalf of the authority;

(7) Council be recommended to authorise the Mayor to represent the authority in relation to consultations regarding the London Business Rates Pilot Pool consultative as may be undertaken by the Lead Authority pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding;

(8) Council be recommended to delegate to Mayor and Cabinet the authority to consider such consultative reports as the Lead Authority may circulate and to respond on behalf of the authority with regard to any recommendations and in particular, proposals for projects to be approved for funding from the Strategic Investment Pot.

(9) Council be recommended to delegate to the Lead Authority the functions of assessment, due consultation and approval of projects eligible for funding from the Pool's Strategic Investment Pot following consultation with the participating authorities (provided that at least two thirds of such participating London Boroughs are (including the City of London Corporation) in favour of the relevant recommendation as well as the Mayor of London, and that no entire sub-region is in disagreement with the decision) on such terms and conditions as shall ensure value for money and compliance with the law.

## **10. New Homes Programme Update**

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

(1) the progress update on the New Homes, Better Places Programme be noted;

(2) the design development and consultation which has been carried out on the proposed development at Edward Street, be noted;

(3) having considered the responses to the consultation on the proposed development at Edward Street, the Council should proceed to submit a planning application to deliver 34 new homes for temporary accommodation;

(4) the business case for providing new homes for temporary accommodation, as set out in the confidential report, be noted;

(5) an application be made to the Secretary of State for Education under Schedule 1 of the Academies Act 2010 for the disposal of the site on a lease to provide temporary accommodation, as set out in the confidential report

(6) the capital budget required to deliver the new homes at Edward Street be approved as set out in the confidential report

**Janet Senior**  
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**11 January 2018**