

**London Borough of Brent**  
**Summary of decisions taken by the online meeting of Cabinet held on Monday 8 February 2021**

PRESENT(in remote attendance): Councillor , Councillor and Councillors .

Also Present: Councillor Mashari - Chair of Resources & Public Realm Scrutiny Committee & Budget Scrutiny Task Group (for Agenda Item 7)

Agenda Item No	Item	Decision
1	Apologies for Absence	None.
2	Declarations of Interest	It was reported that Peter Gadsdon (Strategic Director Customer & Digital Services) and Gail Tolley (Strategic Director Children & Young People) both had personal (non pecuniary) interests in relation to Agenda Items 9 (i4b Business Plan 2021-22) and 10 (FWH Business Plan 2021-22) as Council appointed representatives on the i4B and FWH Ltd Boards.
3	Minutes of the Previous Meeting	Cabinet <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 12 January 2021 as an accurate record.
4	Matters Arising (if any)	None.
5	Petitions (if any)	None.
6	Reference of item considered by Scrutiny Committees (if any)	There were no references from Scrutiny submitted for consideration at the meeting.
7	Budget and Council Tax 2021/22	<p>NOTED</p> <p>1. The comments made by Councillor Mashari in summarising the key themes from the Budget Scrutiny Task Group report. In introducing the Task Group report, Councillor Mashari highlighted that whilst supportive of the overall budget proposals and grateful for the support of everyone engaged in the review process,</p>

**London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the on Cabinet on Monday 8 February 2021**

Agenda Item No	Item	Decision
		<p>the Task Group had made a number of key recommendations which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The need to more clearly demonstrate within the budget how funding followed the democratically agreed strategic priorities for the borough;</li> <li>• The need to outline how the £1m funding allocated for implementation of the Borough Plan objectives would be spent;</li> <li>• The need to ensure a cumulative equality impact assessment of the final decisions made within the budget was undertaken reflecting the severe impact of the pandemic;</li> <li>• The need for an in depth analysis and modelling to be undertaken in order to identify the impact of the UK leaving the EU on residents, funding streams and the local economy;</li> <li>• The need to undertake a full and independent economic analysis of the borough ahead of future budget setting processes in order to better inform decisions.</li> </ul> <p>The Task Group report was therefore commended to Cabinet to take account as part of the final decision making process.</p> <p>2. The comments made by a member of the public, Paul Lorber, who had also requested to speak on the budget report. In recognising the various elements that contributed to the budget and different elements of the Council Tax, Mr Lorber was concerned to ensure there was no duplication in the way certain proposals contained within the budget were funded in order to protect residents as far as possible from the impact of any Council Tax increase. As specific examples he referred to the proposals contained within the budget for an additional payment to staff, to pursue the London Living Wage as standard within Council contracts and to provide £1m as an additional growth pressure identified as an allowance for uncertainty. Referring to the overall level of reserves being held by the Council, he urged the Council to consider funding these as one off</p>

**London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the on Cabinet on Monday 8 February 2021**

Agenda Item No	Item	Decision
		<p>funding elements from reserves rather than as an additional charge against the base budget in order to mitigate any increase in costs residents would need to cover as part of the Council's element of the Council Tax.</p> <p>Having noted the comments provided, Cabinet RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) To recommend to full Council an overall 4.99% increase in the Council's element of Council Tax for 2021/22, with 3% as a precept for Adult Social Care and a 1.99% general increase.</li> <li>(2) To recommend to full Council the General Fund revenue budget for 2021/22, as summarised in Appendix A of the report.</li> <li>(3) To recommend to full Council the cost pressures and technical adjustments detailed in Appendix B of the report.</li> <li>(4) To recommend to full Council the budget savings proposals detailed in Appendix C of the report.</li> <li>(5) To note the report from the Budget Scrutiny Panel, as set out in Appendix D of the report.</li> <li>(6) To recommend to full Council the HRA budget for 2021/22, as set out in Section 7 of the report.</li> <li>(7) To agree the HRA rents for council dwellings, tenant service charges and garages, as set out in Section 7 of the report.</li> </ol>

**London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the on Cabinet on Monday 8 February 2021**

Agenda Item No	Item	Decision
		<p>(8) To agree the rents set under the Housing General Fund for Brent Housing PFI and traveller’s site pitches and to note the rents for Hillside dwellings as set out in Section 7 of the report.</p> <p>(9) To note the Dedicated Schools Grant as set out in Section 8 of the report.</p> <p>(10) To agree to refinance the loan for First Wave Housing, as set out in Section 10 of the report.</p> <p>(11) To agree to recommend to full Council the Capital Programme as set out in Appendix E of the report.</p> <p>(12) To agree to recommend to full Council the Capital Strategy, the Investment Strategy, the Treasury Management Strategy and the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement as set out in Appendices G, H, I and J of the report.</p> <p>(13) To agree to recommend to full Council the schedule of reserves, as set out in Appendix K of the report.</p> <p>(14) To agree, and where relevant agree to recommend to full Council, the schedule of fees and charges set out at in Appendix L of the report.</p> <p>(15) To note the results of the budget consultation as set out in Section 6 and detailed in Appendix M of the report.</p> <p>(16) To note the advice of the Director of Legal, HR, Audit and Investigations as set out in Appendix N of the report.</p>

**London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the on Cabinet on Monday 8 February 2021**

Agenda Item No	Item	Decision
		(17) To note and approve the specific recommendations identified for consideration by Full Council as detailed in section 2.17 – 2.36 of the report.
8	Borough Plan 2021-2022	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED:</p> <p>(1) To agree the draft Borough Plan, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report and draft equality strategy action plan, as set out in Appendix 2 of the report, and to refer them to Full Council for adoption on 22 February 2021.</p> <p>(2) To agree that Cabinet will continue to monitor implementation of the Borough Plan.</p>
9	i4B Business Plan 2021-22	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED:</p> <p>(1) To approve the proposals within the 2021/22 Business Plan.</p> <p>(2) To approve the content and proposed strategic priorities of i4B's 2021/22 Business Plan.</p> <p>(3) To approve the updated financial model contained within the 2021/22 Business Plan.</p>
10	FWH Business Plan 2021-22	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED</p> <p>(1) To approve the proposals within the 2021/22 Business Plan.</p> <p>(2) To approve the content and proposed strategic priorities of FWH's 2021/22 Business Plan.</p>

**London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the on Cabinet on Monday 8 February 2021**

Agenda Item No	Item	Decision
		(3) To approve the updated financial model contained within the 2021/22 Business Plan.
11	Meanwhile Use Strategy & Action Plan	Cabinet RESOLVED to approve the Meanwhile Use Strategy & Action Plan.
12	Recommissioning of Housing Related Support (HRS) Services	<p>Cabinet RESOLVED</p> <p>(1) To approve inviting tenders for Housing Related Support (HRS) for Homelessness services (including ex-offenders); Mental Health services; Young Persons Services; Domestic Abuse Refuges and Complex Women’s service; Generic Floating Support service, Older Persons Floating Support service and Handy Person service to be procured as seven separate contracts on the basis of the pre - tender considerations set out in paragraph 3.19 of the report for initial contract term of three years with two plus 1 year options to extend (5 years in total). The anticipated commencement date would be 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021 and a total contract value of £15,189,940.</p> <p>(2) To approve Officers evaluating the tenders referred to in (1) on the basis of the evaluation criteria set out in paragraph 3.19 of the report.</p> <p>(3) To agree that contracts are tendered at London Living Wage (LLW) levels under the new proposed HRS service contracts as set out in Section 4 of the report.</p> <p>(4) To delegate authority to the Strategic Director of Community and Wellbeing in consultation with the Lead Member for Adult Social Care to award the contract for HRS services as detailed in the report.</p>
13	Exclusion of Press and Public	There were no items that required the exclusion of the press or public.

**London Borough of Brent – Summary of Decisions taken by the on Cabinet on Monday 8 February 2021**

<b>Agenda Item No</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Decision</b>
14	Any other urgent business	None.