

Cabinet  
6 December 2016

## WELWYN HATFIELD COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the CABINET held on Tuesday 6 December 2016 at 7.30pm in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, The Campus, Welwyn Garden City, Herts, AL8 6AE.

PRESENT: Councillors J.W.Dean (Leader of the Council) (Chairman)  
A.L.Perkins (Deputy Leader and Executive Member,  
Planning, Housing and Community)  
(Vice-Chairman)

D.Bell (Executive Member, Resources)  
H.Bromley (Executive Member, Environment)  
T.Kingsbury (Executive Member, Policy and Culture)  
B.Sarson (Executive Member, Business, Partnerships  
and Public Health)  
R.Trigg (Executive Member, Governance, Community  
Safety, Police and Crime Commissioner  
and Corporate Property)

OFFICIALS Executive Director (N.Long)  
PRESENT: Executive Director (S.Russell)  
Executive Director (K.Ng)  
Head of Law and Administration (M.Martinus)  
Governance Services Manager (G.R.Seal)  
Senior Communications Officer (L.Bertram)

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98. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 1 November 2016 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

99. ACTIONS STATUS REPORT

The status of actions agreed at the Cabinet meeting on 1 November 2016 in the report of the Director (Governance) was noted.

100. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

Councillor R.Trigg declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 7 - Re-Integration of the Housing Service into Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council as a Council appointed representative on the Trust Board and took no part in the discussion of the item (Minute 102 refers).

Councillor A.Perkins declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 8(a) Award of Large Annual Grants as a Trustee on the Women's Refuge

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Management Committee and took no part in the discussion of the item (Minute 103.1).

101. ITEMS REQUIRING KEY DECISION

The following item not in the current Forward Plan was considered:-

101.1. Re-Integration of the Housing Service into Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council

Report of the Executive Director seeking formal approval to proceed with the proposed integration project.

(1) The Decision Taken

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the outcome of the tenant and leaseholder consultation exercise be noted.
- (2) That approval be given for Welwyn Hatfield Community Housing Trust to be wound-up.
- (3) That approval be given for the housing service as currently delivered by the Trust to be brought back into the Council and thereafter operate as a Council department.
- (4) That the proposed project timetable for bringing the housing service back into the Council and winding up the Trust be noted.
- (5) That delegated authority be given to the Executive Director, in consultation with the Chief Executive and Deputy Leader, to proceed with the various elements of the project, as outlined in the report, including the appointment of a registered insolvency practitioner and ensuring that legal requirements were in place as necessary to wind-up the Trust and transfer all assets and liabilities to the Council.
- (6) That the Cabinet agrees that future governance arrangements relating to the housing service might include tenant and independent representatives, in addition to Members and Officers, within a model to be explored further by the Executive Director and reported back to the Cabinet for consideration and approval in the New Year 2017.
- (7) That approval be given for the quorum of the Trust's Management Board to be revised to a minimum of five Board Members.

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(2) Reasons for the Decision

In the recent consultation which ended on 11 November 2016, 106 tenants and leaseholders responded to the question of whether the housing service should be brought back into the Council. Of these, 67% stated that they did not object, 12% of tenants did not agree that the service should be brought back in-house and the remainder stated that they did not mind either way.

Information was also provided on the key tasks involved in the re-integration process and reassurance that the measures were being taken in accordance with legal advice provided to the Council.

(Note: The Chairman of the Social Overview and Scrutiny Committee had been given notice that it was impracticable to comply with the requirement that at least twenty eight days notice must be given of the intention to make a key decision on the Forward Plan in accordance with Regulation 10 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 because it was urgent and could not reasonably be deferred for the reason specified).

The reason for this item was to be able to proceed with the proposed timetable for bringing the housing service into the Council and winding up the Housing Trust.

(Note: Councillor R.Trigg declared an interest in this item – Minute 101 refers).

102. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

102.1. Grants Board - 19 October 2016

Recommendations from the meeting of the Grants Board on 19 October 2016 on the award of larger annual grants to local organisations in 2016/17 were considered.

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations of the Grants Board to pay larger annual grants which were in line with the proposed grants budget for 2017/18 as follows be approved with final confirmation subject to adoption of the budget at the Special Council meeting on 6 February 2017:-

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Amount Sought</b>	<b>Amount Granted</b>
Age UK Douglas Tilbe	£47,008	£20,000
Hatfield and District Age Concern	£14,000	£11,000
Mind in Mid Herts	£26,632	£22,000

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Resolve	£15,000	£4,500
Saint John of God Hospitaller Services	£25,566	£6,000
Welwyn Hatfield Community and Voluntary Service	£13,9 45	£4,700
Women's Refuge	£34,000	£31,070
<b>Community Grants Total Amount</b>		<b>£99,270.00</b>
<b>CAB</b>		<b>£75,000</b>
<b>Small Grant Budget 17/18</b>		<b>£24,000</b>
<b>Annual and Small Community Grants Budget 17/18</b>		<b>£198,270</b>

(Note: Councillor H.Bromley declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item as a user of Age UK – Douglas Tilbe House and took no part in the discussion of the item).

102.2. Cabinet Housing and Planning Panel - 3 November 2016

A recommendation from the meeting of the Cabinet Housing and Planning Panel on 3 November 2016 on a Traffic Regulation Order for resident permit parking and restriction of waiting in various roads, Welham Green was considered.

It was noted that the Panel had considered the results of the formal consultation, the informal consultation and the recommended course of action for the proposed resident parking permit scheme and double yellow lines in various roads in Welham Green. Residents and businesses at 952 addresses had been consulted about the proposals to prevent drivers from parking too close to junctions and on resident only parking. One objection letter from three residents living at the same address had been received.

RESOLVED:

That following consideration of the objection received, in particular the issues raised around equalities and diversity and all of the detailed issues, including the reasons for the proposal and any proposed mitigating actions, the Panel's recommendation to proceed with the creation of a Traffic Regulation Order for the resident parking permit scheme and double yellow lines in various roads in Welham Green be approved.

103. APPOINTMENTS TO CABINET PANEL AND OUTSIDE BODIES

103.1. Cabinet Housing and Planning Panel

The Cabinet appointed Councillor N.Chapman as a Member of the Panel in place of Councillor S.Johnston.

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103.2. Finesse Leisure Trust

The Cabinet appointed Councillor J.Boulton to serve as a Council representative on the Finesse Leisure Trust in place of Councillor D.Bell.

103.3. Welwyn Garden City Business Improvement District (BID) Company Board

The Cabinet appointed Councillor B.Sarson as Council representative to serve on the Welwyn Garden City Business Improvement District Company Board following consideration of this item at the Cabinet meeting on 6 September 2016 (Minute 61 refers).

104. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That under Section 100(A)(2) and (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be now excluded from the meeting for Agenda item 12 (Minute 105 refers) on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of confidential or exempt information as defined in Section 100A(3) and paragraph 3 (private financial or business information) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the said Act (as amended).

In resolving to exclude the public in respect of the exempt information, it was considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

105. REPORT FROM CABINET PANEL

Exempt report of the meeting of the Campus West Cabinet Panel on 22 September 2016 providing an update on the current operation of the Campus West Entertainment complex.

RESOLVED:

That the exempt Minutes of the meeting of the Campus West Cabinet Panel held on 22 September 2016 reviewing the current operation of the Campus West Entertainment complex be noted.

Meeting ended at 7.50pm  
GS