

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING - MINUTES**FRIDAY 15 JANUARY 2021 - PART 1 PUBLIC ITEMS: - (8:00 AM–8.25 AM)**Present:

Councillor John Howard (Chair / Redbridge), Councillor James Asser (Vice Chair / Newham), Councillor Syed Ghani (Barking & Dagenham), Councillor Osman Dervish and Councillor Robert Benham (Havering), and Councillor Jo Blackman (Redbridge)

1. Apologies for Absence

Councillor Dorothy Akwaboah, (Barking & Dagenham), Councillor Genevieve Kitchen (Newham)

2. Declaration of Members' Interests

There were none declared.

The Chair introduced Cllr Blackman and proposed a vote of thanks to the departing Cllr Bain to which the Members concurred.

3. Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021/22 – 2025/26

Members received the report from the Finance Director who highlighted that this report forms an introduction to the Budget and Levy Setting report to be presented at the February 2021 meeting where final figures will be confirmed. Discussion at the meeting focussed on the impact of releasing reserves of £21.059m to allow for a one-off reduction in the draft levy in 2021/22 of 30.53%, as well as the creation of a capital budget of £6.000m in 2021/22 for fire improvement works at Jenkins Lane and some new revenue expenditure for activities previously funded by the Strategy Reserve. Consequentially there is a significant forecast increase in the levy in 2022/23 (current forecast of 53.20%) and annual increases over the remainder of the five-year period of up to 4.81%.

The Finance Director highlighted that table 6.1 (elements of the Levy) and table 10.5 (Levy breakdowns by Constituent Council) have yet to be finalised and will be confirmed in the February 2021 Levy report.

Cllr Ghani raised a question relating to the increase in insurance premiums of 25% year-on-year. The Finance Director confirmed that to secure full insurance cover some elements resulted in significant increases in the insurance costs. The Managing Director noted that officers expected less uncertainty in the insurance arrangements in the next MTFS, given that the insurers were now content with the ongoing implementation of the Fire Improvement Works, but the insurance renewal cycle would always create some budget uncertainty.

The Chair and Members expressed their appreciation to the Officers for the work carried out and particularly for the addition of the table at 6.1 in the report.

Members Agreed the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021/22 – 2025/26.

4. Any other public items which the Chair decides are urgent

None.

5. Date of next meeting: 08 February 2021

It was agreed that the next meeting would be on 8 February 2021. An update was shared regarding the Programme of meetings for 2021/22 which will be brought to the February meeting; Cllr Ghani asked officers to ensure the meetings did not clash with the London Councils meetings of its Transport & Environment Committee on which half of the ELWA Members sit.

Chair:

Date: