

CABINET

Thursday, 3 March 2016 (6:30 pm – 7:30 pm)

PRESENT:

Councillor House (Chair); Councillors Winstanley, Airey, A Broadhurst, Craig, Kyrle and Sollitt

Also in attendance: Councillors Atkinson, Bicknell, Grajewski, Holden-Brown and Holes

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2016 be agreed as a correct record.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest in relation to items of business on the agenda.

RECOMMENDED ITEMS (REQUIRING A DECISION)

3. CIP SCHEMES APPROVAL

Issues:

To consider the Community Investment Strategy on 9 April 2015 which updated the programme for 2015/16 to 2018/19. (Paper 5)

Considerations:

The Strategy is a rolling programme and reports are submitted to Cabinet on a regular basis, seeking individual scheme approval. The Strategy will be revised and reported to Cabinet in April 2016.

RECOMMENDED –

That Council approves the changes to the Prudential Indicators (Appendix B).

RESOLVED –

- (1) **That expenditure of £32,000 in 2015/16 for Audio/Visual (A/V) equipment to replace deficient and borrowed stock**

be approved, financed by a one-off revenue contribution to capital;

- (2) That an additional budget of up to £41,100 to complete the new Guides' Building in Ramalley Lane funded from the New Homes Bonus be approved;
- (3) That an additional £100,000 expenditure for Dutton Lane to complete the additional groundworks due to contaminated land issues be approved, financed by borrowing with the revenue costs being met from existing service budgets;
- (4) That the approvals given since the last revised Community Investment Programme report (CIP Appendix A) be noted and;

RESOLVED ITEMS (SUBJECT TO QUESTIONS ONLY)

4. CORPORATE FINANCIAL MONITORING AND BUDGET MANAGEMENT 2015-2016

Issues:

To consider the report presenting the Council's overall financial position for the period from 1 April 2015 to 31 December 2015. (Paper 4)

Considerations:

The forecast to the end of the financial year is a favourable variance of £136,520. The Community Investment Programme budget for 2015/16 is £43,999,750 of which £37,096,250 had been spent as at 31 December 2015 with the forecast being that all budgets will be spent by the year end.

Budget Management proposals total £49,750. Commitment to approval is subject to the availability of resources once the final outturn position for 2015/16 is known.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That General Fund Revenue position as at 31 December 2015 be noted;
- (2) That Community Investment Programme as at 31 December 2015 be noted;
- (3) That Budget Management items totalling £49,750 as detailed in Appendix C of this report subject to the availability of resources be approved; and

- (4) That the transfer of £100,000 to the Vehicle Maintenance Reserve (paragraph 9) be approved.**

5. FUTURE OF WESSEX HOUSE BUSINESS CENTRE

Issues:

Following an internal review of Wessex House Business Centre in 2015 changes in business practices and staffing requirements have been identified. (Paper 6)

Considerations:

In addition, a review of other business centres in the area highlighted the need to refurbish the interior of Wessex House if it is to remain competitive. In order to achieve these aims some changes to the finance and processes for Wessex House need to be made.

RESOLVED –

- 1. To remove the two part time administrative posts in Wessex House and replace with a full time Assistant Business Centre Manager post. The additional £10,000 cost to be funded by a rental increase.**
- 2. That a £60,000 capital investment to be funded from borrowing implement a programme of internal refurbishment over the next five years at a revenue cost of £3,100 (to cover borrowing costs) to be funded by increase rental income be approved;**
- 3. That delegated authority be granted to the Cabinet member responsible for Wessex House to set the annual rental increase; and**
- 4. That delegated authority be granted to the management of Wessex House to negotiate individual rental levels for new lease/licences based on an agreed price list.**

(NOTE: Councillor Grajewski spoke on this item)

6. SPORT AND ACTIVE LIFESTYLES STRATEGY

Issues:

To consider the report concerning the Sport and Active Lifestyles Strategy. (Paper 7)

Considerations:

The Strategy sets out the council's strategic direction regarding sport and provision to promote active lifestyles in the borough.

RESOLVED –

That the Sport and Active Lifestyles Strategy be approved.

7. FUTURE EASTLEIGH PROGRAMME - SERVICE REDESIGN AND DIGITAL

Issues:

To consider the Future Eastleigh Programme – Service Redesign and Digital report. (Paper 8)

Considerations:

As part of its Future Eastleigh Programme, Eastleigh Borough Council has been considering how it can utilise service redesign and digital technology to meet its ambitions to become a more efficient and effective organisation and meet the needs and aspirations of its communities in the context of increasing pressures to reduce costs.

This document provides the conclusions of work to redesign the Council's services supported by Cabinet at the meeting in November 2015. It includes a business case and an organisational design. A high level implementation plan is also set out.

The report outlines that by making an investment in digital technology and changing its business operations:

- it can achieve improvements in services for residents
- it will deliver a genuine efficiency of £1.75 million per year ongoing, without cutting services
- it will support the Council in becoming more commercial and achieving its remaining efficiency target up to 2020

RESOLVED –

- (1) **That implementation of the redesign of the Council's services and new 'operating model' based on the business case outlined in the report be approved ; and**
- (2) **That a capital expenditure of £3,372,000 and one-off revenue expenditure of £3,500,000 spread over two years and ongoing revenue expenditure increase £200,000 per year from year three, to produce a net efficiency saving of £1,750,000 per year be approved, as set out in paragraphs 16 to 18 of the report.**

(NOTE: Councillors Atkinson and Grajewski spoke on this item.)

8. EXEMPT BUSINESS

RESOLVED -

1) That, in pursuance of Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they are likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act; and

2) That, in pursuance of the public interest test, the public interest in disclosing the information contained in the following item of business was outweighed by the public interest in maintaining the exemption.

9. PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS

Issues:

To consider issues relating to property transactions (Paper 10).

Considerations

It is recommended that Cabinet approve expenditure of up to £1,022,000 to cover the property transactions outlined in the report.

RESOLVED -

That the recommendations set out in the report be approved.

(NOTE: Councillors Atkinson and Grajewski spoke on this item.)

10. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

The Chair advised those present that this would be Karin James' last Cabinet meeting prior to her retirement in May, and thanked her for her support to Cabinet.

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