

CABINET

Wednesday, 16 March 2016 (8:46 pm – 9:30 pm)

PRESENT:

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

Also in attendance: Councillors Holes, Van Niekerk, Tennent, Olson and Grajewski
Righton, Grajewski, Holes, Olson, Van Niekerk and Tennent

RECOMMENDED ITEMS (REQUIRING A DECISION)1. CIP SCHEMES APPROVALIssue

Cabinet approved the Community Investment Strategy on 9 April 2015 which updated the programme for 2015/16 to 2018/19 (Paper 4).

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 the changes to the Prudential Indicators (Appendix B) be recommended.

RESOLVED -

- (1) That expenditure of £300,000 in 2016/17 for the car park drainage and resurfacing repairs at Fleming Park Leisure Centre be approved. This will be financed from revenue resources from the Leisure Centre income share and maintenance savings:**
- (2) That expenditure of £70,000 in 2016/17 for feasibility surveys and drawings to construct a Combined Heat & Power District Energy Centre be approved. This will be financed from revenue savings previously identified in 2015/16. Standing orders will need to be waived to enable the Council to appoint Engie to carry out this work - standing order 4.3(c); and**
- (3) That the approvals given since the last revised Community Investment Programme report (CIP Appendix A) be noted.**

(NOTE: Councillor Grajewski spoke on this item regarding the Fleming Park Leisure Centre car park and the Combined Heat and Power District Energy Centre requesting clarity on the costings.)

RESOLVED ITEMS (SUBJECT TO QUESTIONS ONLY)

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2016 be agreed as a correct record.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

4. FLEMING PARK LEISURE CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Issue

This report outlines the progress made for the redevelopment of Fleming Park Leisure Centre and requests Cabinet approve the award of the Construction contract for the new Fleming Park Leisure Centre to Interserve Construction and approve a construction budget as well as a budget for other project costs. (Paper 6)

Considerations

The report also requests approval of the extension to the centre operating contract for Places for People Leisure. The current contract is due to end in 2020, however, in order to be able to construct and operate the new centre effectively and at best value to the Council it is proposed to extend the contract to twenty years from the opening of the new centre (an extension of seventeen and a half years).

The report sets out how the proposed new centre meets the Council's objectives and how value for money has been achieved for the Council and residents. It outlines how a commercial approach has been taken to the design of the new centre, to maximise revenue generation and minimise costs, in order that new income generated will pay for the costs of the centre. The building of a new state of the art leisure centre at Fleming Park will therefore be at no revenue cost to the Council.

This was a fantastic project and thanks were proffered to the architects AHR; the Quantity Surveyor, Gardiner and Theobald; Places for People Leisure; Interserve; the Corporate Director, the Chief Financial Officer, and all other staff and historic partners involved in the process.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the award of the contract to construct the new Fleming Park Leisure Centre to Interserve Construction Ltd be approved;**
- (2) That a construction budget of £25,070,000 be approved;**
- (3) That expenditure on other project costs of £650,000 be approved;**
- (4) That the use of £3,751,640 of New Homes Bonus monies, £2,000,000 Sport England Grant, £90,000 Netball England grant and £22,378,360 of prudential borrowing to fund the construction and other project costs be approved; and**
- (5) That the extension of the operating contract with Places for People Leisure for 20 years from the opening of the new leisure centre and an extension to the lease of the site for a corresponding period be approved.**

5. **EASTLEIGH BOROUGH INTERIM HOUSING REQUIREMENT***Issue*

The Council is in the process of preparing a new Local Plan to provide a framework for guiding development in the Borough for the next twenty years. That document, when finalised, will set out the level of development required in the Borough, including the level of housing. (Paper 5)

Considerations

The Council is also continuing to work with other authorities in south Hampshire on the emerging PUSH Spatial Strategy. In the meantime, the Council must consider the basis for an appropriate interim housing target for calculating its five year housing land supply position and for the consideration of planning applications. In April 2015, the Council's Cabinet adopted an interim housing requirement figure of 615 dwellings per annum, on the basis of the Inspector's report to the 2011-29 Local Plan and the assessment of objectively assessed housing need as set out in the 2014 Strategic Housing Market Assessment published by PUSH.

Since that time, new national population and household projections have been published. Planning Practice Guidance states that the starting point for determining housing need is the most recent household projections.

GL Hearn has been commissioned to look at the most recent national projections and consider the Borough's overall housing need. Their advice, set out in the document 'Review of Housing Needs in Eastleigh

Borough' as Appendix 1 to this report, is that the best assessment of objectively assessed housing need, based on the most recent information, is 590 dwellings per annum.

The report recommended that Cabinet adopt an interim housing requirement of 590 dwellings per annum as the basis for calculating the Borough's five year housing land supply position. This will be used by Development Management in considering planning applications and for monitoring purposes until the Borough's housing requirement is finalised through further work, including the PUSH Spatial Strategy and the Local Plan.

In addition, it was recommended Cabinet agree that future publications of the Council's five year housing land supply position would be published in line with the needs and timetable of upcoming appeals but no less frequently than the current quarterly publication.

Thanks were given to Toby Ayling, his team, and GL Hearn for all their hard work in reviewing the Borough's housing need.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the report from GL Hearn on the Borough's objectively assessed housing need be noted;**
- (2) That Council adopts a new interim housing requirement of 590 dwellings per annum; and**
- (3) That further updates on the 5 year housing supply position are prepared and published on the Council's website in accordance with the needs of the timetable for forthcoming planning appeals, but no less than quarterly.**

(NOTE: Councillor Olson spoke on this item seeking clarity on the number of additional homes in the Local Plan.)

6. WRITE OFF OF IRRECOVERABLE DEBTS COUNCIL TAX, NNDR AND HOUSING BENEFIT OVERPAYMENTS

Issue

To consider the report of the Head of Revenue and Benefits on the write off of irrecoverable debts. (Paper 7)

Considerations

The Head of Revenue & Benefits has exercised delegated powers to write-off certain debts and approval is sought for 7 debts over £2,000 to be written off.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the 280 written-off debts under £2,000 totalling £23,307.62 be noted;
- (2) That the 75 written-off debts due to bankruptcy/liquidation/debt relief order/IVA totalling £169,742.75 be noted;
- (3) That the 70 reversed or recovered debts totalling £7,220.32 be noted; and
- (4) That the write-off 7 debts over £2,000 totalling £47,107.73 be approved.

7. GOVERNMENT BUDGET 2016

Issue

To update Cabinet on the Government Budget 2016 that had taken place that day (this item was not on the agenda but was taken due to Government statements on Eastleigh in the Budget).

Considerations

The 2016 Budget launches the Local Majors Fund, so that local areas in the South East would be able to bid for funding for larger local transport schemes. The Chickenhall Link Road was named as an example. This changed the previously stated position of the Chancellor that the Government would fund the Chickenhall Link Road and the Botley Bypass.

RESOLVED -

That the update from the 2016 Budget be noted.

(NOTE: Councillor Olson spoke on this item suggesting that other parties and organisations become involved as all would benefit from this scheme.)

8. DEVOLUTION

Issue

To consider the outcome of the bid to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, for a combined authority that would see additional powers devolved to local government. At a very late stage, it was announced by Government, that any bid without an elected Mayor would not be considered (this item was not on the agenda but was taken due to recent Government statements).

Considerations

There was no unanimous agreement to having an elected Mayor county wide so Eastleigh Borough Council, and other local authorities in Southern Hampshire, have been working to agree a Solent Devolution deal. This has now been agreed between some of the southern councils including:- Fareham, Gosport, Havant, the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth, Southampton, East Hampshire, together with the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership. Whilst this replaces the Hampshire-wide arrangement previously discussed, the door is still open for other councils to join the Solent Combined Authority.

The main benefits of the devolution deal are the extra powers and funding giving councils greater influence over economic growth, transport, skills and housing - both in the borough and across south Hampshire. Under the new arrangement, an elected mayor would be supported by a cabinet made up of council leaders.

The combined authority would not replace the councils involved, neither would it involve merging councils - these would continue to operate as normal. The majority of council staff would experience minimal change to their roles, although some would be involved in managing the new funding and powers coming from central government.

The Solent devolution package includes: £900 million in funding over 30 years to invest in economic growth and housing; councils retaining all business rates generated in the area (approximately £400 million) and greater control over our financial future, with powers over strategic planning and transportation and strengthened support for job creation, innovation, trade and investment.

RESOLVED -

That the update on Devolution be welcomed and noted.

9. EXEMPT BUSINESS

Exempt business was not moved or considered at this meeting as Appendix 2 and 3 to the Fleming Park Leisure Centre Redevelopment Project was considered at the Audit and Resources Committee immediately before Cabinet convened.

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