

CABINET

Thursday, 9 December 2021 (6:30 pm – 7:05 pm)

PRESENT:

Councillor House (Chair); Councillors Bicknell, Airey, Corben, Craig, Kyrle and Pretty

Also in attendance: Councillors Gomer, Garton and Duguid

RECOMMENDED ITEMS (REQUIRING A DECISION)61. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

The Policy and Performance Scrutiny Panel made the following recommendations relating to the Asset Transfer Policy at their meeting on 14 October 2021 (Paper 4):

- (1) That Eastleigh Borough Council communicate with the Parishes to understand and address issues and concerns relating to asset transfers that are currently in progress, regardless of the outcome of the policy decision.
- (2) Ensure that asset transfer legal agreements clearly state the need for the Parish to provide specific expertise to appropriately manage sites with complex biodiversity features; and for the Borough Council to consider how to support Parishes achieve this, e.g., with training from Council staff; and
- (3) Ensure that asset transfer legal agreements allow for latent defects in assets to be addressed by the Borough Council post transfer where the defect has occurred through no fault of the Parish and could not be known about at the time of transfer, within a specified time period, to be agreed.

The Policy and Performance Scrutiny Panel made the following recommendations relating to the Asset Transfer Policy at their meeting on 6 December 2021 (Paper 6):

- (1) Climate and Environment Emergency Action Plan: (1) That Cabinet look into exploring credible carbon offset programmes and consider their material impact on net emissions; and (2) An interim update to the action plan is brought to Policy and Performance Scrutiny Panel in June 2022, but that new actions should be progressed as soon as operationally practical and should not wait for the June or December 2022 reviews.

RESOLVED –

That Cabinet agree to accept four recommendations.

62. ASSET TRANSFER POLICYIssue

The Council has had a policy of Asset Transfers to town and parish councils since 1994. This report collates various previous related policy documents into a single and up-to-date policy that reflects this approach. (Paper 5)

Consideration

The Council has transferred a large number of assets to parish and town councils over many years, enabling those more local councils to make decisions and manage facilities closer to the people who use and benefit from those assets. The Policy highlights the rationale and benefits of transferring assets. The Policy reflects the existing policy approach to Asset Transfers, so is therefore helpful for new Council staff, as well as parish and town councils, **to understand the approach.**

RESOLVED –

That Cabinet approve the Asset Transfer Policy as at Appendix A to the report.

63. ONE HORTON HEATH PROPERTY TRANSACTIONIssue

The Council has previously purchased land and assets to deliver a new community west of Horton Heath in the borough (total 320 acres i.e. 129 hectares). Land purchases and the Project Brief followed Cabinet approvals in October 2017, July 2018, April 2019, and September 2020, and the project is known as One Horton Heath. (Paper 6)

Consideration

2. Cabinet approval is sought to approve the budget for the Secondary Infrastructure Delivery (SID) and updates. In the context of One Horton Heath, secondary infrastructure includes the following elements within the site boundary, between development parcels and enroute to key destinations within the site layout such as the school local centre and sports provision, the cost breakdown is shown in Appendix A.
 - (a) Carriageways, footways & cycleways.

- (b) Mains drainage, water, electricity, telecoms and broadband.
- (c) Formal and informal open spaces.
- (d) Surface water management via on site Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS).
- (e) Destination play facilities.
- (f) On site sports provision.
- (g) Ecological mitigation.
- (h) Nutrient mitigation via on site SuDS.
- (i) Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)

RESOLVED –

That Cabinet:

- (1) Approve additional expenditure of £30.7M (Appendix A) to bring forward the delivery of secondary infrastructure at One Horton Heath funded by borrowing repaid from future sales and rental income;**
- (2) Approve the revised serviced plot business plan (Appendix B); and**
- (3) Approve the revised First Reserved Parcel (FRP) business plan (Appendix C)**

64. TREES AND DEVELOPMENT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

Issue

The Trees and Development Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) provides guidance on the approach to trees alongside new development in the Borough. This is the final draft version which includes limited changes following public consultation in June – July 2021. (Paper 7)

Consideration

The guidance in this document will be used by Development Management when negotiating new development proposals and determining planning applications. Until the adoption of the Local Plan, this will be interim planning guidance. Once the Local Plan has been adopted, the Trees and Development SPD will become part of the Council's Local Plan and Policy Framework.

RESOLVED –**That Cabinet:**

- (1) Approve the final draft Eastleigh Borough Trees and Development Supplementary Planning Document for adoption alongside the Local Plan; and**
- (2) Delegate authority to the Senior Planning Policy Specialist to make minor editing changes to the document prior to publication.**

65. BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY 2022-2032Issue

The draft Biodiversity Strategy for Eastleigh Borough Council is presented for public consultation following comments received from the Policy and Performance Scrutiny Panel on 17 June 2021. (Paper 8)

Consideration

The strategy highlights the key issues facing biodiversity, why biodiversity is important, and presents a framework for delivery. Documents pertaining to the framework of delivery will be reported to Cabinet separately at a future meeting, as will the outcomes of this consultation, in due course.

RESOLVED –

That Cabinet approve the draft Biodiversity Strategy 2022-2032 to go out to public consultation, with the amended final document to be brought back to Cabinet for adoption after the consultation period.

66. CORPORATE FEES AND CHARGESIssue

Fees and Charges for Council services are reviewed on a regular basis. (Paper 9)

Consideration

In accordance with the Budget Plan, fees and charges levied by the Council are reviewed annually with the intention of any changes being introduced, where possible, with effect from January 2022. This report contains the fees and charges for services directly overseen by Cabinet. The increases in this report will be budgeted to achieve an additional yield of £168,000 in 2022/2023 which is in line with the Medium-Term Financial Plan.

RESOLVED –

That Cabinet approve all proposed fees and charges in Appendices A to I to come into effect on the dates outlined in the report.

67. CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORTIssue

This report presents the Council's financial and performance position for the second quarter (Q2) of 2021/22 including a forecast of the financial position for the full year against that budgeted. (Paper 10)

Consideration

The report also highlights significant and emerging financial and performance issues. Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for service areas are outlined in Appendix A of the report. KPIs and financial variances are commented on in Appendices F-N. The financial monitoring for the second quarter of 2021/22 is forecasting total net favourable variances against the budget of £99,000 based on best estimates in a changing landscape. Capital expenditure for the first half of the financial year of 2021/22 was £39.3M compared to the rolling budget for the year of £81.8M.

RESOLVED –**That Cabinet:**

- (1) note the performance of the Council for the first two quarters of 2021/2022 and the Council's forecast financial position for the year and consider any recommendations from Policy and Performance Scrutiny Panel;**
- (2) note the performance of the Community Investment Programme (Appendix C);**
- (3) note the updated Medium Term Financial Plan (Appendix B);**
- (4) note the performance of Treasury Management, and the financial outlook (Appendix O); and**
- (5) recommend to Council to approve the change to the Prudential Indicators (Appendix P).**

68. CORPORATE RISK MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORTIssue

Risk Management is a key element of the Council's operational and strategic functioning. (Paper 11)

Consideration

The Executive Head of Governance is responsible for the co-ordination of Corporate Risk Management. The Strategic Risk Management Group (SRMG) are responsible for overseeing and monitoring the Council's response to Risk Management. This Annual Report provides a summary of Risk Management activity during 2020/21 and also presents the Risk Management Framework (the Policy), Risk Appetite Statement and Terms of Reference for SRMG.

RESOLVED –**That Cabinet:**

- (1) consider the Annual Risk Management Report,**
- (2) approve the Risk Management Framework and Risk Appetite Statement; and**
- (3) note the content of the Terms of Reference.**

69. 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.**

70. PROPERTY TRANSACTIONIssue

To consider a property transaction. (Paper 13)

Consideration

The report sets out a number of matters relating to a property transaction.

RESOLVED –

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

71. PROPERTY TRANSACTION

Issue

To consider a property transaction. (Paper 14)

Consideration

The report sets out a number of matters relating to a property transaction.

RESOLVED –

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

72. PROPERTY TRANSACTION

Issue

To consider a property transaction. (Paper 15)

Consideration

The report sets out a number of matters relating to a property transaction.

RESOLVED –

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

RESOLVED ITEMS (SUBJECT TO QUESTIONS ONLY)

73. MINUTES

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 October 2021 be agreed as a correct record.

74. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation on this occasion.

75. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

1. FIELD TITLEFIELD TITLE