

# CHANDLER'S FORD AND HILTINGBURY LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

Wednesday 15 January 2020

## FEES AND CHARGES, LOCAL AREA ACTION PLAN AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

### Report of the Local Area Manager

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#### RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Local Area Committee:

- 1) Approve the Cemeteries fees and charges to come into effect from 1 April 2020;
- 2) Approve the Local Area Action Plan for Chandler's Ford and Hiltingbury for adoption and publication;
- 3) Allocates up to £2000 from its reserves to provide flower towers and hanging baskets in 2020 and that the Local Area Manager seeks sponsorship contributions for these; and
- 4) Allocates the developer contribution of £18,159.89 to the Travel Co-ordinator post.

#### **Purpose**

Fees and Charges for Council services are reviewed on a regular basis. In accordance with the budget strategy approved by the Cabinet in October, fees and charges levied by the Council are being reviewed with the intention of increases being introduced with effect from January 2020 where possible. This report also presents key strategic priorities for the coming year in the form of the Local Area Action Plan as well as identifying funding for local projects.

#### **Statutory Power**

**Section 151 of the, Local Government Act 1972**

**Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 i.e. the Local Authority's general power of competence, including power to act for the benefit of its area or persons resident or present in its area**

## **Strategic Implications**

1. This report relates to the Council's new ways of working which includes operating in a business-like, commercially focused way. The Travel Coordinator proposal relates to Tackling Congestion and the flower towers will help create an Excellent Environment and Reinvigorate Town and Local Centres. The Local Area Action Plan seeks to address all key objectives in the Corporate Plan and the projects are in line with the Local First project which focuses on local need and local priorities.

## **Fees and Charges - Cemeteries**

2. This report examines the effects of income received by the Council from fees and charges levied for services that are the responsibility of Chandler's Ford and Hiltingbury Local Area Committee (LAC). A minimum increase in yield of 3% for all fees and charges is recommended to be implemented from January 2020 where possible.
3. LACs have the discretion to set fees for services devolved to their areas subject to compliance with the corporate target to generate an additional minimum yield from fees and charges of 3%.
4. The Service Manager has recommended increasing the Fees and Charges for Cemeteries from 1 April 2020 and the proposed charges are shown in Appendix A.

## **Local Area Action Plan**

5. The Council has agreed a set of Borough-wide objectives to improve quality of life for all. These are set out in the Corporate Plan 2015-25. The Council also seeks to enable decisions to be made at the most appropriate local level, most notably through the five Local Area Committees but also through our parish councils and other more local partnerships.
6. The Local Area Committee approves a Community Investment Programme (CIP) annually, which lists the local projects and initiatives that the Local Area Committee and Parishes would like to deliver in the short, medium and long term. The list is used to negotiate Section 106 contributions from developers which usually form the majority of the funds required. These funds often need to be pooled from several developments over several years in order to achieve sufficient funding for the project.
7. The Local Area Action Plan (LAAP) is used to determine budgets and staff resources as part of the Council's annual business planning cycle. It also highlights the key local partnerships within the local area.
8. All five Local Area Committees have reviewed progress on existing projects and priorities.
9. Local councillors have contributed to the updated Plan and it is now

recommended that the Chandler’s Ford and Hiltingbury Local Area Action Plan 2020/21 is approved for adoption and publication as shown in Appendix B.

## **Planters and Hanging Baskets**

10. Traditionally this Committee has approved funds to provide two plant towers and 12 hanging baskets to enhance the quality of life, sense of wellbeing and commercial attractiveness in the local area. The Local Area Manager seeks sponsorship towards this provision. Therefore, it is recommended that up to £2,000 is allocated from the Committee’s reserves.

## **Travel Co-ordinator post**

11. Developers have been required to pay Section 106 contributions towards the monitoring and management of Travel Plans for a number of years. The Council currently holds more than £165,000 of Section 106 funds that are dedicated to the management of Travel Plans. However, we currently lack the staff resource needed to support this function, namely to review and approve travel plans submitted alongside development proposals and to monitor and enforce existing travel plan conditions.
12. There is sufficient funding available to recruit a permanent member of staff, with funding for the post beyond the initial phase secured through future developer contributions. It is proposed that a new post will sit within Specialist Services in the Environment theme, working with the Sustainable Transport Planner.
13. For the first year, the post will be jointly funded by Southampton City Council, with three days in Southampton and two days per week in Eastleigh Borough, and this will provide the post holder with an opportunity to build their understanding of travel patterns across the wider Solent area.
14. The developer contributions currently held by the Council are shown in the table below, broken down by Local Area.

<b>Local Area Committee</b>	<b>Amount (£)</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
BHH	18,476.51	11
BiFOHH	24,378.50	14
CFH	18,159.89	11
ELAC	51,252.66	30
HEWEB	57,242.39	34
<b>EBC TOTAL</b>	<b>169,509.95</b>	<b>100</b>

15. All other Local Area Committees have indicated their support for the new position and it is therefore recommended that £18,159.89 is allocated to fund the Chandler’s Ford and Hiltingbury Local Area element from the following developer’s contribution:

DC37737 B & Q, Former Tarmac Building, Bournemouth Road	£18,159.89
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## **Financial Implications**

16. The projects in this report can be funded from the Committee's funds.

## **Risk Assessment**

17. There is always a risk that the proposed charges will not yield the overall anticipated 3% additional income target for the Budget. The impact of simply increasing the fees and charges needs to be balanced against the impact on demand and this will be monitored closely during the quarterly performance and financial monitoring processes throughout the year.
18. The allocation of resources and delivery of the projects would be adversely affected without the Local Area Action Plan.

## **Equality and Diversity Implications**

There are no direct Equality and Diversity implications as a result of any of elements of this report. There are a number of indirect positive implications through the Local Area Action Plan. The improvements to Hiltingbury Lakes includes clearing of undergrowth to make the paths more accessible to enable access for all. The replacement of Ramalley Scout Hut will lead to a more accessible fit for purpose building. The review of the cycleways, particularly the links between them, as part of the Borough's multi-use footpath network, will lead to an increase in accessible footpaths linked together aiding movement around the borough.

## **Climate Change and Environmental Implications**

19. The fees and charges for cemeteries do not have any direct environmental impact, although the provision of the service itself does, from the digging of graves and the ongoing maintenance of the cemetery, for example from grass cutting, the provision of plants, provision for cut flowers and waste disposal. Cemeteries can also provide valuable wildlife habitats and the use of drought tolerant planting can reduce water consumption. Limited planting of trees can also be considered if space allows.
20. There are a number of elements of the Local Area Action Plan that have an environmental impact (both positive and negative):
  - a. Hiltingbury Lakes Regeneration – will have a positive impact on eco-systems and habitat.
  - b. The replacement of Ramalley Scout Hut – will have a negative impact in terms of the build, but the new building will be more energy efficient in terms of heat and water usage

- c. Comprehensive review of cycle-ways and engaging with the community to improve the local carbon footprint– will directly support the Climate Change Strategy, focusing on reducing the use of car travel and other locally based projects
21. There are very few flower towers grown in the UK, so the proposed towers are imported from the Netherlands. They contribute to climate change through their production, transport, eventual disposal and weekly watering throughout the summer. Using mains water is a very significant cause of CO2 emissions so hanging baskets, which require daily watering are likely to contribute even more to CO2 than the flower towers on a plant for plant basis. This negative impact has to be weighed against the positive impact on local wellbeing and economic benefit for local businesses. An environmental audit of the flower towers and hanging baskets could be considered in future years to explore how this impact can be reduced, for example through the use of less polluting container materials, peat free composts, and more drought tolerant planting. The use of more permanent containers or planting could also be considered.
22. The Travel Plan Co-ordinator’s main purpose is to bring about a modal shift away from the car to more sustainable means of transport. This has a number of environmental benefits alongside improved physical and mental wellbeing. For example, more sustainable transport can significantly improve air quality, reduce CO2 emissions and other transport related chemical and noise pollution.

## **Conclusion**

23. A review of the Local Area Committee fees and charges has been undertaken and where possible the review reflects the budget requirement to achieve a 3% increase in yield. It is recommended that the fees and charges come into effect from 1 April 2020. The report presents the draft Chandler’s Ford and Hiltingbury Local Area Action Plan 2020/21 as shown in Appendix B for approval in addition to other projects which will benefit the well-being of local residents.

Guy Riddoch/Julia Birt  
Local Area Managers

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Appendices: 2

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 – SECTION 100D

The following documents disclose facts or matters on which this report or an important part of it is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report

Chandler's Ford and Hiltingbury Local Area Action Plan 2019/20