

CABINET

Thursday, 29 July 2021 (7:00 pm – 7:43 pm)

PRESENT:

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

Also in attendance: Councillors Garton and Gomer

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Kyrle

32. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation on this occasion.

RECOMMENDED ITEMS (REQUIRING A DECISION)

33. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

There were no recommendations from Committees.

34. APPOINTMENTS

Issue

In addition to attending Council meetings and other constituency work, Councillors and some staff are required to sit as representatives of the Council on other organisations and agencies.

Consideration

The Council are required to make strategic appointments to partner agencies.

RESOLVED –

That Cabinet approve the following appointments:

- (i) Citizen’s Advice Bureau – Councillor Tanya Park**
- (ii) Director of Solent Freeport Consortium Limited – Councillor Derek Pretty**

35. COUNCILLORS’ ALLOWANCES

Issue

The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) Regulations 2003 require that every authority publicise, within its area, the sum paid by it in that year under the scheme to each Councillor and co-opted member in respect of basic allowance, special responsibility allowance, dependents' carers allowance, travelling and subsistence allowance. (Paper 7)

Consideration

It is a requirement of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) Regulations 2003 that the actual allowances paid relating to basic allowance, special responsibility allowance, dependents' carers allowance, travelling and subsistence allowance are published in the local press.

RESOLVED –

That Cabinet note the allowances paid in 2020/2021 contained in Appendix A to this report.

36. CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND FINANCIAL MONITORING

Issue

The Council is reporting a favourable variance for the year of £347,000 compared to the rolling budget after Budget Management items of £30,000 have been carried forward. (Paper 8)

Consideration

Capital expenditure for 2020/21 was £51.145m in-line with the rolling budget. The understanding of both elements of monitoring enables a full picture of the Council for 2020/21.

RESOLVED –

That Cabinet:

- (1) Note the financial performance of the General Fund and Community Investment Programme (CIP) as at 31 March 2021;**
- (2) Note the Council's operational performance;**
- (3) Note the Treasury Management Outturn Position as at 31st March 2021 (Appendix E); and**
- (4) Recommend to Council to approve the changes to the Prudential Indicators (Appendix D)**

37. ITCHEN VALLEY COUNTRY PARK INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Issue

Itchen Valley Country Park (IVCP) is seen as a 'jewel in the crown' of Eastleigh Borough. For many years there has been an ambition for the development of a 'master plan' to guide investment into its infrastructure and realise the Council's ambitions for this key community asset. (Paper 9)

Consideration

Itchen Valley Country Park (IVCP) is a much-loved community facility and visitor attraction for the residents of the Borough and beyond. Its popularity, especially since the start of the pandemic, has continued to increase with a total of 240,860 visitors during 20/21. This compares to the previous year's figures of 228,355 for 19/20 and 218,153 for 18/19. It plays an important role in the wellbeing of residents, providing opportunities for recreation, health, fitness and events that reinforce social cohesion and inclusivity and offering an escape from the built environment.

RESOLVED –

That Cabinet:

- 1) endorse the recommendations of the architect's report shown in Appendix 1;**
- 2) approve a budget of £3,331,000 for the Itchen Valley Country Park infrastructure improvements Project; £182,320 to be funded from Developers' contributions as approved by Hedge End, West End and Botley (HEWEB) Local Area Committee on 8 March 2021, £1,000,000 to be funded from New Homes Bonus and £2,149,000 to be financed through borrowing, which will be repaid from existing and new income streams at Itchen Valley Country Park; and**
- 3) approve the project to proceed with detailed design, submission of a planning application by the architect on behalf of the Council, and to tender for the appointment of a design team and subsequent contractors as outlined in this report.**

38. HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL BUDGET CONSULTATION

Issue

Hampshire County Council (HCC) is consulting publicly on the options for finding £80M savings over 22/23 and 23/24, including reductions in Public Health service budgets. The Council's response has been agreed under delegated powers due to the consultation deadline falling before this Cabinet meeting date. (Paper 10)

Consideration

HCC is consulting publicly on the options for finding around £80M savings over 22/23 and 23/24 (in addition to savings of £560M already found over the last 13 years from targeting services, sharing and selling services to

external organisations, charging residents for services, and procurement). The consultation runs from 7/6/21 to 18/7/21. HCC is simultaneously consulting (from 14/6/21 to 9/8/21) on reductions to Public Health budgets.

RESOLVED –

That Cabinet notes and ratifies the Council’s response to Hampshire County Council’s ‘Balancing the Budget’ and Public Health consultations at Appendix 1.

39. LOCAL NHS CONSULTATIONS'

Issue

The necessities born from the COVID-19 pandemic have changed the way in which General Practice (GP) surgeries have been functioning and offering access to care for their patients. More services are now provided on a remote basis, although the offer of face-to-face consultations remains where appropriate, and this will remain important for some patients who are not able to have their needs met remotely by telephone or online consultations. Vaccination Centres have also been implemented in existing GP surgeries, displacing patients to nearby alternative facilities. GP Surgeries are now working in collaboration with each other as Primary Care Networks (PCNs), building resilience, utilising efficiencies, and extending the range of services available to support GPs in delivering care to their patients. (Paper 11)

Consideration

Changes such as these in the NHS are beyond the immediate control of the Council; however, the Council seeks to influence service changes on behalf of residents. The Council has established good relationships with a range of organisations that make up the NHS as well as the Voluntary and Faith sector and other charitable organisations and are working with them to secure the best health provision possible for residents.

RESOLVED –

That Cabinet reviewed the NHS proposal for the Bursledon and Blackthorn merger, and the Living Well Partnership merger, and agreed a representation to make to the consultations (attached).

[NOTE: Councillor Garton spoke during this item in relation to appointments at GP surgeries.]

40. VEHICLE AND PLANT REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME

Issue

The vehicle fleet operated by the Council produced 1,141 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e) during the 2019-2020 financial year. This accounted for 15% of the Council's emissions and was the second largest contributor to our carbon emissions after procurement emissions of 5,347tCO₂e (69%). The way the fleet is renewed is a vital part of the Council's response to the climate emergency and achieving carbon neutrality for its operations by 2025. (Paper 11a)

Consideration

Neighbourhood Services have been developing a plan to transition the Council fleet to electric or Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEV).

RESOLVED –

That Cabinet:

- (1) approve the additional budget of £874,270 to the Vehicle and Plant Replacement Programme funded by 50% capital receipts and 50% borrowing which will be split between 21/22 and 22/23 financial year due to the lead in time of the vehicles;**
- (2) approve the additional revenue growth of £51,000 for ten years for borrowing costs;**
- (3) note the trial period of using Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) and if successful switching the whole Council fleet to this fuel in the interim whilst other fuel types are explored; and**
- (4) ask staff to continue trials for alternative fuelled vehicles and report back their findings.**

41. FUNDING FOR FREEPORT

RESOLVED –

That Cabinet approve a contribution of £50,000 for the Freeport.

42. 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.**

43. NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES STAFFING AND RESILIENCE

Issue

To consider Neighbourhood Services staffing and resilience. (paper 13)

Considerations

The report sets out matters relating to Neighbourhood Services staffing and resilience.

RESOLVED –

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

The Leader thanked officers for their hard work in organising meetings in person and praised their efforts in making it feel like a pre Covid-19 meeting whilst maintaining safety.

RESOLVED ITEMS (SUBJECT TO QUESTIONS ONLY)

44. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

45. MINUTES

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2021 be agreed as a correct record.

M6851

1. FIELD TITLEFIELD TITLE

Recommendation at Cabinet 29/7/21 - Response of Eastleigh Borough Council to NHS consultations July 2021

On the proposed merger of Bursledon and Blackthorn practices

The Council supports new remote and digital ways for people to receive health services; however, some residents are not able to use such technology, and a face-to-face appointment is often still needed.

Council is disappointed that having worked in partnership with the NHS to create a purpose-built GP facility at the Lowford Centre, the residents of the Bursledon and Old Netley area will lose local provision of daytime GP services under these proposals. This area includes some of the hardest-pressed residents in terms of socio-economic deprivation and health outcomes within the borough of Eastleigh; under the NHS proposals these residents will have to travel much further to Blackthorn Surgery for daytime GP appointments. This risks such residents not seeking health advice and treatment at the right time, opportunities for prevention being missed, worse health outcomes and more cost for the NHS.

The Council formally OBJECTS to loss of weekday bookable GP appointments for the Bursledon community at Lowford and urges the NHS to amend its proposals.

On the proposed merger of St Luke's and Botley practice within the Living Well Partnership

The Council is concerned that the proposals will limit access to local GP services for residents of Hedge End and Botley. The Council seeks assurances from the Living Well Partnership and the Clinical Commissioning Group that patients of St Luke's and Botley surgeries will not be forced to travel to Southampton surgeries for GP appointments.

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