

Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on Tuesday, 4 December 2018 in Committee Rooms 1 & 2 - Deanes, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council at 6.30 pm

Members of the Cabinet in attendance: Councillor C Sanders (Chair), Councillor T Reid, Councillor S Bound, Councillor H Eachus, Councillor H Golding, Councillor J Izett, Councillor M Ruffell and Councillor R Tate

44/18 Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

45/18 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

46/18 Urgent matters

There were no urgent items.

47/18 Minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2018

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 October 2018 were confirmed by the Cabinet as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Referring to minute 40/18, the Cabinet Member for Planning and Infrastructure confirmed the Green Infrastructure Strategy would be amended to read War Memorial Park and Old Common.

48/18 Treasury Management Mid Year Monitoring Report 2018/19

The Cabinet Member for Finance, Service Delivery and Improvement introduced the report, which provided details of the activity within the council's treasury management function from 1 April 2018 up to 30 September 2018.

He summarised the key points to note on the forecast performance for the year with an increase of £51,000 more income forecast than estimated, due to the increase in short term interest rates combined with higher average cash balances, however added that increased volatility in the tools used for investment could affect the forecast by the end of the year. He also stated that returns remained high and lower risk when benchmarked with other authorities. He concluded there were a number of uncertainties in the market place but was pleased with the performance for the first half of the year.

Recommendation to Council: That Council note the report.

49/18 **Revenue and Capital Monitoring as at 30th September 2018**

The Cabinet Member for Finance, Service Delivery and Improvement introduced the report, which presented the forecast, as at 30 September, for revenue and capital expenditure and income up to the end of the financial year and compared it with the budget.

He summarised the key points of the report with a net expenditure on services forecast to be £235,300 lower than budget and a forecast of £1.703 million capital expenditure less than the latest budget which would be rephased as part of the 2019/20 budget report.

Resolved: That Cabinet

note:

1. The forecast net revenue expenditure in 2018/19, before net transfers from reserves, is forecast to be £235,300 lower than the latest budget. Options for dealing with any outturn surpluses will be considered in the Q3 Revenue and Capital monitoring report.
2. Capital expenditure in 2018/19 is forecast to be £1.703 million lower than the latest budget and that this variation will be dealt with in the 2019/20 budget report by re-phasing relevant capital scheme budgets.
3. There are a number of risks to revenue and capital forecasts as detailed in sections 8 and 10 of the report.

approve:

4. An income budget virement of £300,300 from additional Industrial and Commercial rental income to fund increased Property Services business unit costs.
5. A revenue budget carry forward of £25,000 for Social Inclusion Programme works as outlined in section 4 of the report.

Reason for the decision:

Cabinet approval is required where there are requests for a carry forward of unspent revenue budget and for a revenue budget transfer which exceeds £250,000.

50/18 **Fees and Charges for 2019/20**

The Cabinet Member for Finance, Service Delivery and Improvement introduced the report, which set out the proposed fees and charges for 2019/20 for inclusion in the budget report to be considered by Council in February 2019.

He stated that fees and charges were a combination of mandatory and discretionary charges that provided a significant revenue stream for the council but were fair,

competitive with other authorities, reflected the council's priorities and supported delivery of the Council Plan. He explained that in most charging areas a 3% increase would apply however there were some proposals for an increase above 3% which would create additional income of £407,000. He also explained that there were a number of proposed fees and charges where rounding adjustments to the nearest 10p did not increase by exactly 3%.

The Cabinet Member for Communities and Community Safety supported the proposals and made particular reference to car parking charges. He highlighted the continuation of the free hour parking in town centre car parks, freezing daytime charges in short stay car parks, favourable quarterly charges for season ticket holders compared to other local providers, and a freeze for residents on street parking permits.

Resolved: That the fees and charges for 2019/20, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report be included within the budget report proposals to Council in February 2019.

Reasons for the decision:

The Cabinet's budget strategy provides for a multi stranded approach to balancing the budget which includes increased income from fees and charges. The specific proposals for fees and charges in 2019/20 have been developed with input from Portfolio Holders. All services have followed a consistent review process to ensure that charges are reviewed in line with policy principles.

51/18 **Property Investment Strategy Implementation Report for Half Year To End Of 2nd Quarter 2018**

The Cabinet Member for Property and Development presented the report, which detailed the activity relating to the council's Property Investment Strategy for the half year up to 2nd October 2018.

He explained that the Property Investment Strategy set a target to grow net rents by £1.7 million by 2020/21. To date £1.3 million had been achieved. Furthermore, a fourth acquisition, Ringway House on the Daneshill Industrial Estate, had been made which will yield a significant return of 16.8%. He added that of the original £30 million allocation for new property investments, £5.5 million was left for further investment. Investment had been made in the new Eli Lilly office building to ensure retention of a key employer in the borough. He also added that opportunities had been identified to re-gear leases and a review of investment properties which are under-performing was on-going. He concluded that he was pleased with the success that has been achieved at the Malls in terms of lettings with three lettings nearing completion leaving two vacant units. Footfall levels were around 12 million per annum which was good news and demonstrates the resilience of Basingstoke's shopping offer.

Resolved: To note the Property Investment Strategy Implementation Report for the half year up to 2nd Quarter 2018.

52/18 **Invest to Grow Fund - Second Quarter Report 2018/19**

The Cabinet Member for Property and Development introduced the report which provided an update on progress through the second quarter of the 2018/19 reporting period against the approved Business Plan. He stated that £25 million had been allocated to the Invest to Grow Fund with £10 million being committed to date. The Funds aim was to stimulate local development activity in the borough particularly in relation to new jobs, development and homes and to generate business rate income for the council. He added there were currently twenty five projects at various stages of discussion, three commercial opportunities and one housing investment opportunity. He concluded he was particularly keen for the Fund to play a significant role in supporting the council's delivery of all types of housing.

The Leader of the Council clarified that due to safe and prudent financial management, the council was not borrowing money to invest in property investment opportunities.

Resolved: To note the report.

53/18 **Adoption of the Landscape, Biodiversity and Trees Supplementary Planning Document**

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Infrastructure introduced the report which provided details of a Supplementary Planning Document which set out how landscape, biodiversity and tree considerations should be integrated into the development process to ensure the Local Plan's requirements are met and best practice is achieved. Furthermore the report outlined the consultation that had taken place and the feedback received to inform proposed changes to the SPD.

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Infrastructure thanked officers for their hard work in producing the document and Councillors and outside bodies for their contributions. He stated that the SPD covered a wide range of topics and linked to the Green Infrastructure Strategy.

Resolved: The contents of the report and the proposed changes to the Landscape, Biodiversity and Trees Supplementary Planning Document (Appendix 1) are noted.

Recommendation to Council: That Council

- i) adopt the Landscape, Biodiversity and Trees Supplementary Planning Document.
- iii) withdraw the Landscape and Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (2008).

54/18 **Brexit Implications for Basingstoke and Deane**

The Leader of the Council explained that the report examined a wide range of issues to ensure that preparations could be made to deal with any of the potential areas impacting the borough from Brexit. He added that whilst there was a significant amount of uncertainty it was prudent that the council should start to examine potential issues. Furthermore the Council would engage with partners such as Hampshire County Council and the Local Enterprise Partnership who were in a similar situation to share information and plans.

Resolved:

- 1) A cross council officer steering group be set up to assess the impacts of Brexit and liaise with partners.
- 2) A Members Advisory Panel be set up to advise the Leader on policy options to respond to Brexit challenges.

Reasons for the decision:

Given the uncertainty at the current time, and that the implications of a deal and no-deal Brexit are likely to emerge over time, it is prudent for Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council to put in place a structure for considering these implications. The steering group will consider the implications for the council as an organisation, as a service provider and as a steward of place.

The Members Advisory Panel will provide advice to the Leader on policy options and responses where issues arise.

The meeting ended at 6.59 pm.

Chairman