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Minutes of the Council meeting held on Thursday, 28 February 2019 in Council Chamber - Deanes, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council at 6.30 pm

Members of the Council in attendance: Councillor S Keating (Chair), Councillor P Frankum, Councillor C Ashfield, Councillor R Bean, Councillor M Bound, Councillor S Bound, Councillor K Carruthers, Councillor R Cooper, Councillor A Court, Councillor J Cousens, Councillor O Cubitt, Councillor H Eachus, Councillor G Falconer, Councillor A Freeman, Councillor J Frankum, Councillor S Frost, Councillor R Gardiner, Councillor P Gaskell, Councillor D George, Councillor S Godesen, Councillor H Golding, Councillor R Golding, Councillor S Grant, Councillor P Harvey, Councillor R Hussey, Councillor J Izett, Councillor T Jones, Councillor G James, Councillor L James, Councillor D Leeks, Councillor J McKay, Councillor P Miller, Councillor S Parker, Councillor C Phillimore, Councillor D Potter, Councillor D Putty, Councillor C Regan, Councillor T Reid, Councillor K Rhatigan, Councillor J Richards, Councillor N Robinson, Councillor T Robinson, Councillor V Rowland, Councillor M Ruffell, Councillor C Sanders, Councillor D Sherlock, Councillor E Still, Councillor R Tate, Councillor D Taylor, Councillor K Taylor, Councillor M Taylor, Councillor I Tilbury, Councillor M Tucker, Councillor G Watts, Councillor J Westbrook, Councillor M Westbrook and Cllr C Wooldridge

82/18 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bowyer, Capon and McCormick.

83/18 **Declarations of interest**

Councillor Reid declared an interest in relation to agenda item 12 (Proposals for the Policy and Budget Framework), in that she owned a vacant property.

84/18 **Office of Deputy Mayor for the year 2019/20**

Resolved: To note that the position of Deputy Mayor for the 2019/20 municipal year remains vacant.

85/18 **Minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2018**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2018, as amended and recirculated immediately prior to the meeting, were confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Mayor.

86/18 **Announcements**

The Mayor announced that his Charity Concert – Travel the World, would be held on 2 March 2019 and his charity lunch would be held on 27 March 2019.

From: Sheila Peacock – Basingstoke Transition Network

Question

Basingstoke Transition Network asks Councillor Hayley Eachus, as portfolio holder for the environment, how the Council will deliver its commitments on climate change without funding for a full-time equivalent Climate Change Officer. At present the post is part-time because it was held by two job-sharers, one of whom has left and not been replaced.

The 2018 report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change states baldly that global warming must be kept below 1.5 deg C above present levels to avoid the most harmful effects, and that political action at all levels is needed. The Government's Clean Growth Strategy (April 2018) says the country needs to de-carbonise its economy; but that needs to work to local level. The Council has already signed the Climate Local Commitment; but real reductions in CO2 output need lifestyle change. This is where the Climate Change Officer comes in. 2017 Council policy on Climate Change, Pledge 2, says "The Council will support and encourage residents, community groups and businesses to reduce their carbon emissions across the Borough", so there is work in Green Week, home energy efficiency, low-carbon planning for the new housing estates, transport strategy, and fulfilling commitments in the Local Plan. Also, in waste and recycling, incinerating plastic is adding fossil-fuel CO2 to the atmosphere, so the Climate Change Officer should help increase recycling rates and reduce wasteful use of plastic, and work to attract recycling businesses to the town's industrial estates, making recycling cheaper for the Council.

For all these reasons we believe that the Climate Change Officer role should be expanded and ask why it has not been made up to a whole FTE (or more) in the 2019 budget. How will the Council show significant commitment to reducing climate change while making a 50% cut in the Climate Change Officer post?

Answer – Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services and the Environment

The council is absolutely committed to continuing with the delivery of the climate change strategy.

As part of the work to develop Horizon 2050, local residents told us how important it is to them to collectively focus efforts on environmental sustainability, improving air quality and investing in renewable energy sources, green spaces and green infrastructure.

We recognise the importance of this area of work but also that it is a cross-cutting theme across the organisation, rather than the responsibility of any single post. There are a wide range of internal services engaged in delivery, who are each leading on their contribution to the strategy, including the efficiency of council owned assets, considering options to reduce emissions and improve air quality, developing community based initiatives such as LED Light installation and initiatives to increase cycling and improve access. In addition, the waste contract places specific

requirements on the contractor to help increase recycling within the borough. We have a whole waste team of officers that also work alongside me in relation to recycling.

We are currently pulling together information on initiatives which have successfully decreased carbon emissions and increased efficiency to help inform our approach going forward, which will clarify resource requirements and identify opportunities for alternative/self-funding. At our upcoming meeting, we welcome the opportunity to discuss effective approaches which will further benefit the community and help towards the council's aims for a sustainable borough. Because we welcome that opportunity, I understand we have a meeting with you on Tuesday which was set up by Martin Heath.

Supplementary Question - Sheila Peacock – Basingstoke Transition Network

Thank you, I wonder specifically how the initiatives you have mentioned might apply to the Manydown estate. There seems an opportunity there to make a particularly important impact with the opportunity for a garden suburb that encapsulates a progressive attitude to reducing and mitigating climate change.

Supplementary Answer - Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services and the Environment

I think I have made it clear that green is cross cutting across all the areas of the council. Manydown is a massive project and there is a huge team of officers working on it and along with my other Cabinet colleagues we are all aware of the importance of green and sustainability running through that. I work with my Cabinet colleagues who deal with Manydown in that respect and I also meet with the officers regularly so we are all aware of the opportunities and will work to ensure we can make it as green and sustainable as possible.

88/18 Petitions

No petitions were received.

89/18 Resignations and appointments

Resolved:

- 1) That Councillor Reid be re-appointed to serve on Kala the Arts.
- 2) That Councillor S Bound be appointed to fill the vacancy on Relate North Hampshire.

90/18 Calendar of Meetings 2019/20

Resolved: That the amended calendar of meetings be approved.

91/18 **Horizon 2050: The journey to 2050**

The Leader of the Council moved the recommendation, seconded by Councillor Rhatigan.

Resolved:

That the Horizon 2050 vision be adopted, ahead of adoption by Basingstoke Area Strategic Partnership in March 2019.

92/18 **Property Investment Strategy - Annual Property Plan 2019-20**

The Cabinet Member for Property and Development moved the recommendation and explained that of the £30 million investment allocation, £5 million remained for investment. A further £5 million was sought if required, should a suitable opportunity for investment be identified. Additional investment funds would be reinstated by the sale of existing poorly performing assets.

The recommendation was seconded by Councillor Tate.

During debate some members expressed views which opposed the increase in funds whilst others considered it sensible to have funds available should an investment opportunity be identified. Some members raised concern regarding the lack of residential investment opportunities.

The Cabinet Member for Property and Development responded to the concerns and comments raised and suggested a report be provided to the Audit and Accounts Committee in relation to residential investment opportunities.

Resolved:

That if necessary, investment funds available for the Property Investment Strategy can be increased by up to £5 million funded from Property receipts.

93/18 **Proposals for the Policy and Budget Framework - 2019/20 Budget Report**

Council considered a report which provided a summary of the Cabinet's revenue and capital budget proposals for 2019/20, provided the Chief Finance Officers statutory statements on the robustness of the estimates, adequacy of reserves and estimate of business rate income for the Business Rate Retention Scheme and set out the formal 2019/20 Council Tax Resolution and Council Tax charges.

The Leader of the Council moved the recommendation, seconded by Councillor Tate.

Group leaders were invited to give their annual budget speeches to the council which covered a wide range of issues.

Following a full debate on the budget, a recorded vote was taken on the recommendation. (Appendix 1)

Resolved: That Council

note:

- 1) The Chief Finance Officer's (Head of Financial Services) statutory report regarding the robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of reserves detailed in section 12 of the report.
- 2) That £394,700 of 2018/19 budget carry-forwards have been included in the 2019/20 budget for the Wordpress Website, Residents Survey, Local Plan, Smart City Initiatives and Leisure Park Development and this will reduce the 2018/19 budget accordingly.
- 3) That the Head of Financial Services on the 3 January 2019 calculated the Council Tax base for the whole council area at 65,768.8 Band D equivalents and for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a parish precept relates as per Appendix 10 of the report.
- 4) The county, police and fire authority precepts detailed in Appendix 11 of the report.
- 5) That as the billing authority, the Council has not been notified by any major precepting authority that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2019/20 is excessive and the billing authority is therefore not required to hold a referendum, in accordance with section 52ZK of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- 6) The risks and sensitivities within the financial forecasts highlighted in section 3 of Appendix 7 of the report.
- 7) That the final Local Government Grant Settlement for 2019/20 is £2.133 million of New Homes Bonus Grant, nil Revenue Support Grant and the requirement to pay a tariff of £170,000 through the retained business rates mechanism has now been removed.

agree:

- 8) That for the purposes of section 35 (2) (d) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, any expenses incurred by the Borough Council in the financial year 2019/20 in performing functions in a part of the district which elsewhere in the district are performed by a Parish Council, shall not be special expenses of the Borough Council.
- 9) That its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2019/20 (£121.42 at Band D) reflects a £5.00 (4.29%) increase which is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

approve:

- 10) The net Council Tax requirement of £7.986 million for 2019/20 and the revenue estimates and contributions to and from reserves as summarised in Appendix 1 of the report and supported by the detailed supporting budget papers.
- 11) The Medium Term Financial Forecast, as shown in Appendix 7 of the report.
- 12) The financial policies set out in Annex A of Appendix 7 including the re-naming of the Strategic Capital Reserve to the RRCP Housing Reserve – Manydown and extending the potential use of the Stability and Resilience Reserve to include mitigating the impact of economic pressures.
- 13) The Capital Programme as set out in Appendix 9 of the report and supported by the detailed supporting budget papers.
- 14) That the requirement for Council Tax for borough purposes for 2019/20 be £121.42 Band D equivalent as set out in Appendix 11 of the report.
- 15) The fees and charges for 2019/20 as set out in Appendix 12 of the report.
- 16) The 2019/20 budget for the Joint Manydown Committee as set out in Appendix 13 of the report.
- 17) The Council Tax Resolution as set out in Appendix 11 of the report which brings together the Borough's Council Tax Requirement and that of the other major preceptors (Hampshire County Council, Hampshire Fire and Rescue and The Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire) and sets the Council Tax charges for 2019/20.
- 18) That the S151 Officer (Chief Finance Officer) be given delegated authority to implement any variation necessary to the overall level of 2019/20 Council Taxes in the event that any of the precepting authorities change their precept calculation from that expected and reported at the Council meeting.

94/18 **Treasury Management Strategy 2019/20**

The Cabinet Member for Finance, Service Delivery and Improvement introduced the report which set out the Treasury Management Policy Statement and proposed Treasury Management Strategy for 2019/20 which set the framework and limits for the delivery of the council's Treasury Management Strategy.

The Cabinet Member for Finance, Service Delivery and Improvement moved the recommendation, seconded by Councillor Izett.

Resolved:

- 1) To note:

- i. That the Treasury Management Policy Statement (set out in Appendix 1 of the report) remains unchanged.
 - ii. The new Treasury Management Risk Indicators set out in section 5 of Appendix 2 of the report).
 - iii. The Chief Finance Officer (Head of Finance) comments on the level of risk set out in Section 13 of the report.
- 2) That the Treasury Management Strategy for 2019/20 (set out in Appendix 2 of the report) be approved.

95/18 **Capital Strategy and Investment Strategy (Non-Treasury) for 2019/20**

The Cabinet Member for Finance, Service Delivery and Improvement introduced the report which set out the new Capital Strategy for 2019/20 and Investment Strategy (Non-Treasury) for 2019/20.

The Cabinet Member for Finance, Service Delivery and Improvement moved the recommendation, seconded by Councillor Izett.

Resolved:

- 1) That the Chief Finance Officer (Head of Financial Services and Section 151 Officer) comments on the level of risk set out in Section 7 of the report be noted.
- 2) That the Capital Strategy for 2019/20 (Appendix 1) be approved, which includes:
 - i. the Prudential Indicators for 2018/19 to 2021/22
 - ii. the Authorised Limit for External Debt of £50 million for 2019/20 (as set out in the prudential indicators) and
 - iii. the Annual Minimum Revenue Provision Statement for 2019/20
- 3) That the Investment Strategy (Non-Treasury) for 2019/20 (Appendix 2 of the report) be approved.

96/18 **Notices of Motion**

There were no Motions.

97/18 **Questions to Chair of Cabinet and/or a committee**

There were no questions in relation to the meetings listed below:

Committee	Meeting Date
Cabinet	4 December 2018
Audit and Accounts Committee	10 December 2018
Development Control Committee	12 December 2018
Council	13 December 2018
Community Environment Partnerships Committee	19 December 2018
Development Control Committee	9 January 2019
Economic Planning Housing Committee	10 January 2019
Cabinet	15 January 2019
Scrutiny Committee	22 January 2019
Audit and Accounts Committee	28 January 2019
Community Environment Partnerships	30 January 2019
Cabinet	5 February 2019

98/18 **Questions from Members of the Council on notice**

Question

From: Councillor M Westbrook

Can the Portfolio Holder for Regulatory Services and the Environment please explain the rationale for choosing the site at 'Land East of Ringway West' as a location to install a new battery storage facility? The land in question is included within the SHELAA, however it notes that 'Due to the elevated position of the site, it is important that any scheme is of a high quality design due to its prominence'.

The leasing out of land to a company to create income for the council is to be welcomed to support services for our residents and we all want to see new energy saving technologies brought to Basingstoke, but does the Portfolio Holder not agree that installing what could be 4 metre high shipping containers in a prominent position on one of the main gateways to our Town, may be seen as inappropriate in this location and possibly contrary to our Local Plan?

Answer: Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services and the Environment

In 2017, council officers were approached by Ecotricity, a company with strong green credentials and who were seeking to identify a suitable site upon which to locate a battery storage facility; and which was considered by the company to have positive features in its ability to support supply to the grid but in a method which would have an environmentally low impact.

Officers met with Ecotricity and some possible sites were tabled which included the Thornycroft site. This site was considered by Ecotricity as likely to be the

most suitable, however they advised that they were also considering other sites in private ownership. There was acknowledgement by officers and Ecotricity that there would need to be significant research and detailed feasibility work, of matters relating to exact siting, container design, access, noise, environmental and landscape considerations.

This is council owned land if we did not want it to get as far as a planning application it wouldn't. Further, as the site was within the SHELAA, it was acknowledged that the remainder of the site (the Battery facility only occupying a relatively small portion of the total site area) might have housing or other suitable use potential.

Officers and Ecotricity did discuss, informally, possible occupational terms which would of course require approval via the council's standing orders and delegation procedures.

However having said all that in 2018, Ecotricity advised officers it was unlikely they would consider the Thornycroft site further as it was no longer their preferred site option, to date we have not had their unequivocal confirmation that they no longer wish to pursue the Thornycroft site. Their final position is awaited but officers views are that they will unlikely pursue the Thornycroft site.

If any planning application ended up coming forward it would be premature to second guess the outcome of such a future application. Any application would be assessed against the councils local plan which is supportive of low carbon initiatives and sets out the criteria to be applied to any assessment.

Supplementary Question – Councillor M Westbrook

I am a bit confused by the statement from Councillor Eachus. I note from the earlier budget report that this proposal already figures as future income for the council. A substantial amount of work must have already been completed to be able to identify the proposed annual income will be £10,000 per year ongoing from 2020/21 which would suggest Mr Mayor that this is advanced enough to be put in a public document. I would imagine that every Member who sees a proposal for a structure and source of income from their ward couldn't fail to be surprised and disappointed not to be consulted. As far as we are aware there has been no ward member or other consultations. Could Councillor Eachus please clarify why we as ward councillors and our residents haven't been consulted and know nothing about this proposal?

For clarification Mr Mayor, it is on page 162 of the budget report under Councillor Eachus's portfolio.

Supplementary Answer – Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services and the Environment

I can look into that but certainly at the moment it is not happening as far as I am concerned but I will look into the page on the budget.

The meeting ended at 10.22 pm.

Chairman

Minute Item 93/18

Date of Meeting: ...28 February 2019.....Minute No:93/18.....

Subject: Budget Proposals... ..

Mover: ...Cllr Sanders..... Second: ...Cllr Tate.....

Voting	For	Agst	Abstn	Voting	For	Agst	Abstn
Ashfield C		√		Keating S	No vote		
Bean R	√			Leeks D	√		
Bound M		√		McCormick A			
Bound S	√			McKay J		√	
Bowyer J				Miller P	√		
Capen T				Parker S	No Vote		
Carruthers K	√			Phillimore C		√	
Cooper R		√		Potter D		√	
Court A	√			Putty D	√		
Cousens J		√		Regan C		√	
Cubitt O	√			Reid T	√		
Eachus H	√			Rhatigan K	√		
Falconer G	√			Richards J	√		
Frankum J		√		Robinson N	√		
Frankum P		√		Robinson T	√		
Freeman A		√		Rowland V	√		
Frost S	√			Ruffell M	√		
Gardiner R	√			Sanders C	√		
Gaskell P	√			Sherlock D	√		
George D	√			Still E	√		
Godesen S	√			Tate R	√		
Golding H	√			Taylor D	√		
Golding R	√			Taylor K		√	
Grant S		√		Taylor M		√	
Harvey P		√		Tilbury I		√	
Hussey R		√		Tucker M	√		
Izett J	√			Watts G		√	
James G		√		Westbrook J		√	
James L		√		Westbrook M		√	
Jones T		√		Wooldridge C		√	

15	13	0
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16	11	0
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TOTAL

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