

CABINET

Date and Time: Thursday, 3 September 2020 at 7pm

Place: Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Fleet

Present:

COUNCILLORS

Ambler, Bailey, Cockarill, Kinnell, Neighbour (Chairman), Oliver, Quarterman, Radley.

In attendance:

Councillors Axam, Crookes.

Officers:

Patricia Hughes	Joint Chief Executive
Dympna Sanders	Environmental Health Team Leader
Mark Jaggard	Head of Place
Emma Foy	Head of Corporate Services and S151 Officer
Martina Duffin	Committee Services
Celia Wood	Committee Services

24 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of 6 August 2020 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received.

26 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements from the Chairman.

27 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

28 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (ITEMS PERTAINING TO THE AGENDA)

None received.

29 FOOD SAFETY PLAN 2020/21

The Food Safety Plan for 2020/21 was considered.

Members were informed that the standard of food premises in the Hart area has generally shown an improvement.

Members discussed the affect of the current Pandemic may have had on food safety and were informed that in the initial stages Environmental Health provided a lot of guidance to restaurants who wanted to offer a delivery service. The advice was provided by the same team who dealt with Covid-19 regulations and as there were no food hygiene inspections, weekly drive arounds were carried out to give advice and to do spot checks.

DECISION

That Cabinet approve the contents of the Food Safety Plan 2020/21 for Hart.

30 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL)

To consider the introduction of a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) in Hart.

Members were informed that the Government is in the process of changing the law and overall the view is that it would be better to carry on with current arrangements and adjust when the law changes.

Members discussed why this had not been covered in existing budgets and were informed that until there is more clarity it is better not to include it in the budget however the CIL charges incorporate the costs of setting and implementing the CIL Charging Schedule so ultimately would be absorbed later on.

Members also sought clarification on Charging zones and were informed that it will be important to set it at a rate to ensure it will be fully policy compliant.

With regard to timescales, Members were informed that the process may take between 12-18 months to get in place.

DECISION

Members approved the recommendations:

1. That the Officers commence the processes to set the Community Infrastructure Levy charging schedule and
2. That Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider any draft CIL Charging Schedule prior to a Cabinet decision to consult.

31 2020/21 BUDGET AND MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

To allow a refresh of the Medium-Term Financial strategy (MTFS) and to a timetable for the setting of the budget for 2021-22.

Members discussed lost revenue (in terms of Leisure Centres) caused by the effect of the Covid-19 pandemic had been taken in account and were informed that fees are set at Pre-Covid levels in the 21-22 budget and assumes everything will be back to normal, although there will be revisions to current budgets.

DECISION

Members noted and agreed the refresh of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy as outlined and the timetable for budget build for 2021-22.

32 TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN 2019/20 (ANNUAL REPORT)

Post consideration by Overview & Scrutiny Committee to consider Annual Report on Treasury Management Activities 2019/20.

Members were informed that further investigation be carried out by the Section 151 Officer to find alternative investment opportunities.

Members are encouraged to take advantage of training courses on Treasury management for organisations such as Hart can be arranged for all Council Members.

DECISION

Members noted the report agreed the Officer recommendation that further investigation be carried out.

33 2019/2020 OUTTURN POSITION

Post consideration by Overview & Scrutiny Committee to consider the Annual Report on Outturn.

Members were reminded that it is important to recognise these budgets change every year and during the year and therefore it is not surprising there will be ups and down. However, it is unusual that we see the bulk of the money being used so we will have to challenge ourselves to be careful.

DECISION

Members approved the Officer's recommendations:

1. That Cabinet note the 2019/20 outturn position, including the underspend of £847K after transfers and accounting adjustments for the General Fund Revenue Account

2. That Cabinet endorses the approach that the £847K can be used to increase the General Fund Reserve.
3. That Cabinet approves the carry forward of the unspent revenue budgets as detailed in paragraph 6.

34 MINUTES FROM CIVIC REGENERATION WORKING GROUP

Members noted the minutes of the meeting of 14 July 2020 and 4 August 2020.

35 CABINET WORK PROGRAMME

The Cabinet Work Programme was considered and updated for Cabinet in September.

- Harlington roof repairs will be re-considered as a key decision when all information has been received from Fleet Town Council if the costs are above the threshold.
- Programme to be updated for SANGS – Cabinet Member is Cllr Cockarill.
- Programme updated for the next steps detailed in Medium Term Financial Strategy paper.

The meeting closed at 8:26 pm