

CABINET

Date and Time: Thursday, 4 March 2021 at 7pm

Place: Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Fleet

Present:

COUNCILLORS

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

In attendance: Axam, Smith

Officers:

Patricia Hughes	Joint Chief Executive
Emma Foy	Head of Corporate Services and Section 151 Officer
Helen Vincent	Committee Services

105 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting of 4 February 2021 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

106 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

107 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

108 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman asked Joint Chief Executive to update Cabinet on any recent emergency decisions taken to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Joint Chief Executive announced recent emergency decisions made: 1. In consultation with the Leader, Deputy Leader and Leader of the Opposition Cabinet, that an amendment to the local discretionary business grant scheme had been made which would increase funding for businesses facing challenge as part of the continued lockdown, which would change the proportionality of funds distributed and those held for Covid-19 Recovery purposes, as previously agreed, based on the immediacy of need by our local businesses.

109 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (ITEMS PERTAINING TO THE AGENDA)

None.

110 MINUTES FROM CIVIC REGENERATION WORKING GROUP

Minutes of the meeting held on 2 February were noted.

Following the meeting held in March the decision was made to postpone activity associated with a public consultation until after the May elections.

111 MINUTES FROM CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP

Members were informed that Service Plans will include climate change impacts and the Working Group will engage with transport and building control to influence the move to net zero.

Minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2021 were noted.

112 CORPORATE VEHICLE FOR PROPERTY HOLDING PURPOSES: DRAFT BUSINESS CASE

The Council had agreed to establish a corporate vehicle for property holding purposes. The company will take the form of a company wholly owned by the Council limited by shares. The purpose of this report is to set out the draft business case and to ask Cabinet to recommend to Council that the Business Plan is approved.

Members discussed:

- Any rent increases proposed will abide to the rent increase legislation.
- The Business Case will be presented to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee in April followed by Cabinet in May with recommendation to full Council.
- Future business plans will be approved by full Council.
- The Council and the programme will focus on affordable housing.

DECISION

Cabinet recommends to Council that the Business Case is approved.

113 2020-21 BUDGET MONITORING – TO END OF DECEMBER

Cabinet was advised of the position on revenue and capital expenditure at the end of December 2020. Overview & Scrutiny Committee had considered this report at its meeting on Tuesday 16th February 2021.

The forecast overspend on controllable budgets is £612k for 2020/21 before accounting adjustments; any deficit required will be transferred from Reserves at the end of the year after all year-end adjustments have taken place. Accounting adjustments can significantly affect the year end position as it is only then that we can fully account for key areas of spend such as Housing Benefits and Business Rates payments to cover policy decisions made by Central Government during the year.

This overspend should reduce due to support from the Government of lost income and cost savings from IT restructuring.

Members considered:

- Initiatives and opportunities for financial support not missed due to subscriptions to LGP (Local Government Platform) and Grant Finders who provide information of support available to Councils.
- Invoices to Basingstoke & Deane for the Joint Waste Contract delayed due to additional pressures and timing differences.
- The available resourcing for the annual audit of accounts to accommodate all extra schemes is on target for the deadlines of 31st July and end of September 2021.

DECISION

1. The revised projections and reasons for the main revenue variations highlighted in Paragraph 4 and analysed in Appendix 1 be noted.
2. The current spending position for Capital shown in Paragraph 5 and Appendix 2 which includes project details be noted.

114 CABINET WORK PROGRAMME

The Cabinet Work Programme was considered and amended.

1. Car Boot Sales to be postponed.
2. The Corporate Vehicle Business Plan to be included in June.

The meeting closed at 7.44pm