

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date and Time: Tuesday, 21 January 2020 at 7.00pm

Place: Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Fleet

Present:

COUNCILLORS

Axam, Crookes (Chairman), Davies (from 7.09 pm), Dorn, Farmer, Makepeace-Browne, Smith, Wildsmith

In Attendance: Kinnell, Neighbour, Oliver, Tomlinson, Wheale (from 8.11 pm)

Officers:

Patricia Hughes	Joint Chief Executive
Andrew Vallance	Head of Corporate Services
John Elson	Head of Environment and Technical Services
Mark Jaggard	Head of Place
Gill Chapman	Committee Services
Martina Duffin	Committee Services
Dana Kavanagh	Capita – Finance Business Partner
Ken Trotter	Capita – Senior Management Accountant
Peter Summersell	Waste and Recycling Officer

97 MINUTES

Councillor Kinnell indicated she had attended the last meeting. With this amendment, the minutes of the meeting of 17 December 2019 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

98 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Councillors Lamb and Worlock. Councillor Davies had indicated she would be late.

99 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

100 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

101 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (ITEMS PERTAINING TO THE AGENDA)

None.

102 DOG FOULING PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER

Members considered a new Dog Fouling Public Spaces Protection Order proposed following a public consultation, for adoption district wide.

The Committee discussed the availability of general waste bins, enforcement, adequate signage, signalling and publicity, reacting to complaints, and the importance of how it is introduced to residents.

The inclusion of Hounds for Heroes in the exemptions was agreed.

RECOMMENDATION to Cabinet

1 That a new Dog Fouling Public Spaces Protection Order as set out in Appendix C be adopted in accordance with the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 to include the following restrictions:

District-wide (any place to which the public or any section of the public has access, on payment or otherwise, as of right or by virtue of express or implied permission):

- a) Persons in charge of a dog must have with them appropriate means to pick up dog faeces deposited by that dog; and
- b) Persons in charge of a dog must remove the faeces and for it to be disposed of in an appropriate receptacle.

2 That the Dog Fouling PSPO comes into force on 1 June 2020.

NB Councillor Davies entered the meeting during this item.

103 CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN

Members considered the Draft Climate Change: Carbon Reduction Action Plan prepared by a cross party Working Party. It was confirmed that there was no prioritisation in the actions, priorities would become apparent as the process moved on, along with measures of improvement, costs and deliverability.

Members considered:

- Business cases for each action, eg cost, carbon benefit, societal benefits, offsetting, would come through as the process moved forward
- The initial budget required for an officer and consultancy fees
- The intention for the Working Group to continue meeting quarterly
- Projects would be developed and implemented going forward if possible
- There was no intention to wait until all actions were costed or prioritised before actions were taken
- Further funding would be requested as and when
- Initial savings could be in Waste and Recycling via more efficient vehicles and Leisure through heating and electricity use within the buildings
- Working on current data available, eg staff travel

- Population growth had not been factored in - better technology would be expected to help with the targets, eg houses and cars
- Offsetting costs being investigated with the Commercialisation Manager
- Initial concentration on services that can be controlled and measured, eg Leisure electricity use
- Procurement of services purchased from outside the district are not as easy to control and data is not easily available
- Co-benefits of carbon neutrality actions - considering benefits for residents as well as reducing carbon emissions eg cycle routes added exercise benefit, tree planting added health benefits

RECOMMENDATION to Cabinet

That a provisional 2020/2021 budget growth bid be supported to comprise:

- 1 An initial £55k to fund the first stage of the delivery of the action plan
- 2 £45k to fund consultants to produce a fully costed plan to setup a building insulation grants scheme for residents on low income as proposed in action E3.

I04 DRAFT BUDGET 2020/21

The Committee was invited to make recommendations on the budget and Council Tax levels to Cabinet on 6 February 2020.

Consideration and discussion included:

- 2020/2021 budget balanced but future pressures challenging
- Central government funding issues still under consideration
- Council tax base is growing slowly
- Impact of removal of new homes bonus
- Assumption that parking charges may stay the same
- Reduction in recycling credits 2020/2021 and complete loss in 2021/2022
- Commercial activities not in this programme
- Environmental services some activities pushed back to next year eg Bramshot Farm Edenbrook, Fleet Pond funding redirected

Members noted that it is a delegated decision to the Portfolio Holder to change parking charges, eg any changes may not make the budget process, but do not have to. Consultation with Parishes is ongoing.

DECISION

That the draft Budget 2020/2021 be supported.

I05 CAPITAL STRATEGY, TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT, AND ASSET MANAGEMENT

The Committee was asked to consider any recommendations it wished to make to Cabinet in respect of the draft Capital Strategy, the Treasury Management Strategy and the Asset Management Plan.

It was noted that figures quoted in the report did not appear to match up with those quoted in the previous (Budget 2020/2021) paper. The Head of Corporate Services confirmed that these issues would be resolved before the papers were considered by Cabinet.

Members discussed:

- The estimate of commercial investment this year - the Commercial Manager is looking at investment in commercial property schemes
- External borrowing not the norm, Hart generally funds capital investment from its own resources

Members asked for clarification on where capital receipts were from. Mr Vallance agreed to circulate more detail on this.

DECISION

That the Capital Strategy, the Treasury Management Strategy and the Asset Management Plan be supported.

I 06 CABINET WORK PROGRAMME

The Cabinet Work Programme was considered and noted.

I 07 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

The Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme was considered and noted.

The meeting closed at 8.32 pm