

CABINET REFERRALS (PART 1)

21 September 2021

3.1 CA/058/21 SOUTH WEST HERTS JOINT STRATEGIC PLAN

Decision

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: to Council that the Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) underpinning the Joint Strategic Plan (JSP) as set out in Appendix 1 is approved.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: to Council that the Statement of Community Involvement for the Joint Strategic Plan (as set out in Appendix 2) is approved for consultation.

Corporate Objectives

The proposed South West Hertfordshire Joint Strategic Plan (JSP) helps support all 6 corporate objectives:

Safe and clean environment: e.g. contains policies ensuring safe and clean environment;

Community Capacity: e.g. provides a framework for local communities to prepare area-specific guidance such as Neighbourhood Plans, Town / Village Plans etc;

Affordable housing: e.g. sets an approach to meeting longer term housing needs, including affordable;

Dacorum delivers: e.g. provides a clear framework upon which planning decisions can be made; and

Regeneration: e.g. guides future planning frameworks for key regeneration projects;

The Climate and Ecological Emergency: e.g. provides a longer term framework to for sustainability across the area.

Monitoring Officer

As a local planning authority, the Council is required to engage constructively, actively on an ongoing basis to maximise the effectiveness of local plan preparation in the context of cross-border strategic planning issues as set out in the Localism Act 2011. This duty is also reflected in the tests of soundness for Local Plan Examination, set out in paragraphs 24 to 27 National Planning Policy Framework 2021.

Deputy S.151 Officer

No Direct financial implications of this policy.

Advice

Cllr Anderson introduced the report and invited questions.

Cllr Elliot thanked JDoe for report and asked, when advising on duty to cooperate, how would you see that panning out? Will that be more prescriptive, how will you prove there has been cooperation?

JDoe responded that it is not enough to have just met, it will be expected that common interest between parties have been set out and that they address areas that cannot be

resolved. Looking ahead it is speculation, awaiting announcement from the Secretary of State.

Cllr Anderson added to say that the Planning White Paper proposed scrapping the duty to cooperate all together but indications are that any Local Authority that tries to get their local plan adopted, that has not gone through that duty to cooperate exercise will have little chance of getting their plan approved.

Recommendations Agreed.

21 September 2021

3.2 QUARTER 1 FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT

Decision

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: that Council approve the revised HRA capital programme to move £4.63m slippage identified at Quarter 1 into financial year 2022/23 as detailed in Appendix C.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: That Council approve a supplementary revenue budget of £590k in the Leisure budget, funded from the Economic Recovery Reserve, for financial support to the Council's leisure provider Everyone Active.

Corporate Objectives

Ensuring efficient, effective and modern service delivery.

Monitoring Officer

No comments to add to the report

S.151 Officer

This is a Deputy S.151 Officer report.

Advice

Cllr Elliot introduced the budget monitoring report

Cllr Tindall asked; when will Everyone Active be able to resolve their contractual terms as agreed before COVID.

MBrookes responded to advise that in July the contract returned to a surplus for first time since start of COVID. In terms of longer term projection, discussions are continuing with Everyone Active to put that together. There is a meeting taking place next week and MBrookes will update Members once information is available.

Cllr Birnie asked; have we finished the acquisition of fleet for Clean, Safe & Green, particularly the specialist waste collection vehicles?

JDeane responded that he would check the current position is with regard acquisition of vehicles and will respond by email.

Cllr Griffiths asked that all members of Cabinet receive that response.

Recommendations Agreed.

3.3 CA/060/21 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

Decision

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: to Council the approval of the revised Medium Term Financial Strategy for the period 2021/22 – 2025/26, including the recommendations at Section 2 of the Strategy.

Corporate Objectives

The Medium Term Financial Strategy supports the delivery of all five of the Corporate Objectives.

Monitoring Officer

No comments to add to the report.

S.151 Officer

This is a S151 Officer report.

Advice

Cllr Birnie commented and noted the Council will need to expand its commercial activities to enhance income streams, asking; will there be a specific officer in charge of that or is it a blanket request for all departments?

Cllr Elliott responded that currently working on team restructure, this will very much be about strategic planning and being commercially astute to deliver extra income streams that are required over next few years. The Portfolio Holder advised the Council will be bringing in consultants to advise.

Cllr Birnie asked; are we recruiting specifically for that, or relying on existing officers. Cllr Elliot advised that would be covered in the part 2 discussions.

Cllr Birnie referred to assumptions underlying MTFs, page 12, note 9 - budgeting for a 2% increase in supplies and services and asked; is that realistic given we are looking at inflation.

JDeane advised that we are seeing income fluctuation now, will be updating those assumptions as we move through.

Cllr Birnie asked; does that mean we might have to revisit this pretty quickly if inflation does accelerate?

JDeane confirmed that is correct, it will be looked at as part of next year's budget setting, adding that this is an exceptional year and we expect to see more movement than we would ordinarily see.

Recommendations Agreed.