

ITEM 9a – REFERRALS FROM CABINET

20 September 2016

9.1 CA/096/16 BUDGET MONITORING 2016/17 - QUARTER 1

Decision

1. That the budget monitoring position for each of the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account and Capital Programme accounts be considered;

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

2. That Council approve the following:
 - The revised capital programme to move slippage identified at Quarter 1 into financial year 2017/18.
 - The supplementary budgets set out in the report to the Cabinet. Details for these supplementary budgets are set out in the body of the report and have a net nil impact on the General Fund Working Balance:
 - Decrease the Corporate Improvement and Innovation Employees budget by £46k
 - Decrease use of the Technology reserve by £46k
 - Increase the Planning Supplies and Services budget by £100k
 - Increase use of the Management of Change reserve by £100k
3. A supplementary Capital budget in the Housing Revenue Account of £1.05m for the Affordable Housing Development Fund, as per paragraph 7.3 of the Cabinet report

Reason for Decision

To provide details of the projected outturn for 2016/17 as at Quarter 1 for the:

- General Fund
- Housing Revenue Account
- Capital Programme

Implications

Financial and Value for Money implications are included within the body of the report to Cabinet.

Risk Implications

Risk implications are included within the body of the report.

Health & Safety Implications

There are no health and safety implications.

Corporate Objectives

Delivering an efficient and modern council

Monitoring Officer/S.151 Officer Comments

Monitoring Officer

No further comments to add.

S.151 Officer

This is a Section 151 Officer report.

Advice

Councillor Elliot suggested that recommendation 4 of the report be removed as this had been approved as part of the previous virements report. He added that there was a pressure of £200k expected in Building Control due to number of vacant posts within the establishment and agency staffs are currently carrying out this work, but at a more expensive rate. Work is ongoing to improve processes within the service and make efficiency savings going forward.

He added that the capital programme was also explained in the report. He said that it was envisaged that the multi storey car park would be approved and completed by this time next year.

Councillor Williams asked if any work had been carried out to compare costs for commercial waste.

J Deane explained that there had been increased pressure from the private sector. They had capacity to offer introductory rates which DBC could not match. The rounds at the depot had already reduced by 25% but they needed to understand how flexible the service could be.

Councillor Griffiths asked which council meeting would approve these recommendations.

M Brookes confirmed that they would be recommended to the next Full Council meeting on 28th September 2016.

Voting

None.

9.2 CA/097/16 TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2015/16

Decision

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

That Council accept the report on Treasury Management performance in 2015/16 and the Prudential Indicators for 2015/16 actuals

Reason for Decision

To report upon the performance outturn for treasury management in 2015/16.

Implications

Financial

In accordance with Central Government Guidance on Local Government Investments, and the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice, the order of the Council's investment priorities is 1. Security; 2. Liquidity; and, 3. Return. This may result in the Council achieving a lower rate of return than an organisation operating a more aggressive investment strategy in a less regulated sector.

Risk Implications

Good corporate governance encompasses risk management and making sure that the Council makes decisions with the full knowledge of the associated risks and opportunities. The risk of not reviewing and updating our corporate governance arrangements have been addressed by this report.

Health & Safety Implications

None

Equalities Implications

None

Corporate Objectives

Dacorum Delivers - Optimising investment income for General Fund and Housing Revenue budgets whilst managing investment risk is fundamental to achieving the corporate objectives.

Monitoring Officer/S.151 Officer Comments

Monitoring Officer-

No comments to add to the report.

Deputy Section 151 officer-

This is a S151 Officer report

Advice

Councillor Elliot noted that this would be discussed at the Audit committee meeting on 21 September 2016.

He explained that the positive Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) indicates that the Council had a need to borrow. The General Fund reduction of £7.7m 2015-16, from (£4.5m) to £3.2m, relates to the financing of in-year expenditure on the Capital Programme. The HRA funds available for the future financing of the Capital Programme are held outside of the CFR in the Major Repairs Reserve and Earmarked Reserves, totalling £25.7m.

Voting

None.

9.3 CA/099/16 OPTIONS FOR PROVISION OF ATHLETICS TRACK WITHIN THE BOROUGH

Decision

1. Approved that further, more detailed work be undertaken for the possible relocation of the athletics track from Jarman Park to Longdean School, to be funded from the sale of the location of the current track;

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

2. **That Council approve a capital budget of £150k to progress more detailed design and planning works for the relocation of the athletics track from Jarman Park to Longdean School**
3. Note that a further report will be brought to Cabinet, within the next few months, detailing: the outcome of the detailed design work; the specific budget requirements; and, a marketing strategy for the site of the current athletics track.

Reason for Decision

To consider the options for the provision of an athletics track within the Borough and the best possible location for the track.

Implications

Financial

The anticipated financial receipt as set out in the part 2 element of the report to Cabinet would allow for a supplementary capital estimate to be made to allow construction of the a new athletics track and associated infrastructure (changing, spectator facilities, storage and parking).

Value for Money

The project should allow for the delivery of a new athletics track at no net cost to the Council.

Risk Implications

Delivery of the scheme is subject to planning approval and detailed design work at both the new site in Longdean and also to enable disposal of the current site at Jarman Park and to demonstrate the re-provisioned site.

Health & Safety Implications

Health and Safety issues will be considered as part of the project risk assessment for delivering the project.

Corporate Objectives

Building strong and vibrant communities

Ensuring economic growth and prosperity

Delivering an efficient and modern council

Monitoring Officer/S.151 Officer Comments

Monitoring Officer:

This report seeks approval for further work to develop the proposal for the re-location of the athletics track. Accordingly, further comment will be reserved until full detail has been provided on key issues relating to the development such as achieving best consideration for the existing site, planning and commercial risk from the sale and re-provision, and proposed use arrangements/agreements with the school and other users.

S.151 Officer

The costs and income outlined in Part 2 of the Cabinet report provides financial justification for further works to be undertaken on this project. As per the recommendation above, a further report will be brought to Members for final budgetary approval once more detail is available.

Advice

Councillor Williams explained that work had been ongoing with Longdean school and SportSpace for some time in order to provide a new athletics track. They are very popular but can be costly. There was a tight timescale for this work as Longdean school were currently undergoing works which were due to complete soon and therefore it would make sense to continue into this development rather than start again.

D Skinner added that there was currently £150k in the 2017/18 budget set aside for refurbishing the current track. Therefore if the new site is approved this money would not be required.

Councillor Harden asked who people would need to speak to about football usage on the site.

Councillor Williams said that if the track is relocated; football would not take place on the same field thereby reserving the quality of the site. He noted that all parties involved would discuss the dual site use for the future.

Councillor Marshall enquired as to who was responsible for the management and maintenance cost of the site.

Councillor Williams explained that Longdean and SportSpace would need to agree maintenance costs. DBC and SportSpace would look at management and operational costs.

Councillor Elliot asked who would own the track on Longdean school.

M Brookes explained that in this case the school was an academy and they would own the land and therefore the track.

Councillor Sutton asked if the existing access road to the site would remain.

Councillor Williams said that it was currently on the wrong side to access the athletics track and it was therefore the intention to serve it from the opposite side. This would be a future consideration for HCC and the academy.

Councillor Griffiths asked if there would be an area for spectators and will local schools still be able to use the track for their sports days.

Councillor Williams confirmed there would be an area for spectators and schools would continue to use it for sports days as it would be fenced off as a separate area.

It was confirmed that the recommendations would be referred to the Full Council meeting on 28th September 2016.

Voting

None.