

Dear Councillor

CABINET - THURSDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 2020

I am now able to enclose for consideration at the above meeting the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Performance and Growth) that were unavailable when the agenda was printed.

Agenda Item

No.

- 3. CORPORATE PLAN REFRESH 2020/21 (Pages 3 - 4)**

- 4. CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT 2020/21, QUARTER 1 (Pages 5 - 6)**

- 5. FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2020/21, QUARTER 1 (Pages 7 - 8)**

- 6. CONSULTATION ON ENGLAND'S ECONOMIC HEARTLAND: DRAFT TRANSPORT STRATEGY (Pages 9 - 10)**

- 7. A141 STUDY/ST IVES STUDY (Pages 11 - 12)**

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COMMENTS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (PERFORMANCE AND GROWTH)

CORPORATE PLAN REFRESH 2020/21

- 4.1 The Panel received the Corporate Plan Refresh 2020/21 at its meeting on 16th September 2020.
- 4.2 A question was asked by Councillor Roberts on how important partnership working is going forward. In response, the Panel was informed that partnership working is crucial for the Council in order to fulfil the aims of the Corporate Plan. There are significant problems which require the Council to work with partners to resolve for the benefit of Huntingdonshire residents.
- 4.3 The Panel supported the Corporate Plan Refresh and recommended that the Cabinet endorse the proposed list of key actions and performance indicators for 2020/21.

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COMMENTS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (PERFORMANCE AND GROWTH)

CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT 2020/21, QUARTER 1

- 4.1 The Panel received the Corporate Performance Report 2020/21, Quarter 1 at its meeting on 16th September 2020.
- 4.2 Councillor Chapman thanked the Council for the way it has worked with volunteer groups throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 4.3 Councillor Wakeford enquired as to whether the Council could continue the additional homelessness support once the Covid-19 pandemic is over. In response, the Panel was informed that Huntingdonshire normally has low levels of homelessness and the challenge is identifying good temporary accommodation but it is something that could be considered.

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COMMENTS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (PERFORMANCE AND GROWTH)

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2020/21, QUARTER 1

- 5.1 The Panel received the Financial Performance Report 2020/21, Quarter 1 at its meeting on 16th September 2020.
- 5.2 Concern was raised by Councillor Cooper-Marsh regarding the finances of the Council should there be a second national lockdown or a local lockdown. The Panel was informed that the impact would be on the support the Council would offer to vulnerable residents and whether there were any further restrictions on leisure services which would impact on One Leisure.
- 5.3 Councillor Cooper-Marsh also raised a concern over next year's Council Tax but was reassured that Council Tax could not rise any further than the statutory maximum.
- 5.4 Councillor Wells asked whether the forecast included any predicted future losses in relation to One Leisure and in particular any capacity measures that have to be implemented. In response, Members were informed that the forecast does include future losses and that estimates were made based on a slow recovery.
- 5.5 Councillor Roberts asked what impact the pandemic has had on the Commercial Investment Strategy (CIS) and any future purchases. The Panel was reassured that rental income is higher than the same period the previous year. The Executive Councillor confirmed that it is unlikely that there will be any CIS purchases in the current economic climate.
- 5.6 Councillor Wakeford asked about the social obligations in relation to the Council's role as a landlord. The Panel was informed that the Council operate CIS on a commercial basis but that it is aware of the social obligations. The social obligations are addressed by engagement with tenants and the Commercial Estates Team work hard in establishing who need assistance.
- 5.7 Councillor Chapman enquired as to whether the capital value of the Council's CIS properties has fallen or is expected to fall. It was confirmed that some values have fallen but that the Council did not invest in the properties for the capital values but rather for the rental revenues.

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COMMENTS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (PERFORMANCE AND GROWTH)

ENGLAND'S ECONOMIC HEARTLANDS CONSULTATION RESPONSE

- 4.1 The Panel received the report on the Council's response to the England's Economic Heartlands Consultation at its meeting on 16th September 2020.
- 4.2 Councillor Cooper-Marsh asked about the East West Rail project, but Members were reminded that that whilst England's Economic Heartlands would like oversight on East West Rail, it is not the lead authority and is a consultee. The East West Rail consortium lead on that project.
- 4.3 Councillor Wells would like the response to emphasise that the Huntingdonshire section of the Cambridgeshire Autonomous Metro (CAM) should be given priority. In response, the Panel was informed that the Combined Authority are currently reviewing CAM as a whole project and that the Deputy Leader continues to emphasise the need for the prioritisation of the Huntingdonshire section.
- 4.4 Concern was raised, by Councillor Gardener, regarding HGVs using minor routes as short cuts and wanted reassurance that the response would emphasise a need for official routes for HGVs. In response, it was noted that the consultation as a whole takes a strategic look across the Cam-Ox corridor and that particular incidents of HGVs using minor routes, particularly through villages, should be taken up with the relevant Highway Authority.

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COMMENTS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (PERFORMANCE AND GROWTH)

A141 AND ST IVES STUDY

- 7.1 The Panel received the A141 and St Ives Study at its meeting on 16th September 2020.
- 7.2 Councillor Gardener raised a concern over the possibility of a lack of capacity on the B-roads around the A141 once the upgrade has been complete. In response, Members were reassured that phase two of the study would undertake a more in depth study to ensure the local road network has sufficient capacity to cope. It was noted that this would also include changing prioritisation of some routes to ensure the majority of the traffic is directed where it is intended.
- 7.3 Councillor Dew asked whether the study had considered rerouting Harrison Way in order to make access to St Ives easier. In response, Members were informed that any such considerations would be undertaken by a more in depth St Ives study. The current study only reviewed the current situation and did not review future capacity.

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