

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the CABINET held as a Remote Meeting via Zoom on Thursday, 16 July 2020

PRESENT: Councillor R Fuller – Chairman.

Councillors Mrs M L Beuttell, S Bywater, J A Gray, D N Keane and K I Prentice.

APOLOGY: An Apology for absence from the meeting was submitted on behalf of Councillor J Neish.

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor J M Palmer.

9 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17th June 2020 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

10 MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No declarations were received.

11 3C LEGAL, ICT AND BUILDING CONTROL SHARED SERVICES ANNUAL REPORTS 2019/20 AND PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT RENEWAL

The Cabinet received a report by the Corporate Director (People) (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) regarding the Shared Services' 2019/20 Annual Report and the progress of the renewal of the 3C Shared Services Agreement.

In introducing the item, the Executive Councillor for Corporate Services drew attention to the key outcomes to be achieved by the shared service over the ensuing 5 year period and commented upon the pressures placed upon 3C ICT to deliver against the challenges faced by the COVID-19 pandemic specifically in relation to network functionality and the Council Anywhere project.

Having been apprised with the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Performance and Growth) and in expressing their support for the renewal of the Shared Services Agreement, it was

RESOLVED

- (a) that the 3C Shared Service Annual Report for 2019/20 as attached as Appendix 1 of the report now submitted be endorsed; and
- (b) that delegated authority be given to the Managing Director to finalise and agree the renewed partnership agreement by September 2020,

after consultation with the Executive Councillor for Corporate Services.

12 TREASURY MANAGEMENT SIX MONTH PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Consideration was given to a report by the Chief Finance Officer (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) summarising the Council's treasury management activity over the second half of the 2019/20 financial year which included investment and borrowing activity and treasury performance.

The Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources reported that investments had generated £3.6m of income for the Council in 2019/20 which represented a rate of return of 6.5% which was welcomed by the Cabinet. The Chief Finance Officer then went on to report that owing to the COVID-19 pandemic there had been a reduction in the valuation of properties and expressed her view that this would be a temporary issue over the next 6-12 months as the market recovered.

In response to a question raised by a Member, it was confirmed that the valuation of the properties had been undertaken by a third party as at 31 March 2020. Whereupon, it was

RESOLVED

- (a) that the treasury management performance for the second six months of 2019/20 be noted; and
- (b) that the Council be recommended to consider the content of the report.

13 INTEGRATED PERFORMANCE REPORT 2019/20, QUARTER 4

With the aid of a report prepared by the Performance & Data Analyst and Finance Manager (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Cabinet considered and commented upon the end results for the 2019/20 financial year for the Key Actions and Corporate Indicators listed in the Council's Corporate Plan 2018/22. The report also incorporated progress on the current projects being undertaken at the Council and financial performance information at the end of March 2020.

Attention was drawn to the three corporate projects rated "red" at the end of March 2020, of which two were ICT related projects relating to the Customer Portal and the Council Anywhere project which had been delayed owing to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Corporate Director (People) highlighted a number of performance indicators where positive achievements had been made which included the Council's commitment towards encouraging a fit and healthy population, ensuring pride of place and achieving commendable recycling and composting rates.

The Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources outlined the financial performance at the end of March 2020 where it was noted that underspends of £0.2m and £2.9m had been achieved in terms of revenue and the capital programme respectively. In noting the final outturn position and having

considered the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Performance and Growth), the Cabinet

RESOLVED

- (a) to note the progress made against Key Activities and Corporate Indicators in the Corporate Plan and current projects, as outlined in Appendix A and detailed in Appendices B and C of the report now submitted; and
- (b) to note the Council's financial performance at the end of March 2020, as outlined in Appendix D and the register of reviews of Commercial Investment Strategy propositions as outlined in Appendix E of the report now submitted.

14 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY - FENSTANTON

Due to an imminent decision being required, an item of business was considered under the General Exception Provisions - Section 15 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules, as contained in the Council's Constitution.

Consideration was given to a report prepared by the Service Manager (Growth) (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) to consider a payment of £75,000 from Community Infrastructure Levy funding towards the provision of a new village hall for Fenstanton.

Having had their attention drawn to the funding commitments from the Fenstanton Village Hall Trust, Fenstanton Parish Council and the Cambridgeshire Community Fund and in expressing their support for the proposal, it was

RESOLVED

that the Cabinet support Community Infrastructure Levy funding of £75,000 as co-funding towards the construction of a new village hall in Fenstanton.

Chairman