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## **Cabinet**

### **Report of the meeting held on 20th June 2013**

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#### **Matter for Determination**

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#### **4. TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2012/2013**

By way of a report by the Head of Financial Services (reproduced as an Appendix), the Cabinet has been acquainted with the Council's performance of its treasury management activities for the year ending 31st March 2013.

The Council has continued to carry out its treasury management activities with due regard to minimising risk, and in accordance with the relevant legislation. Funds have performed well, significantly exceeding both the benchmark and the budgeted investment interest.

Having been acquainted with the deliberations of the Overview and Scrutiny (Economic Well-Being) Panel on this matter, as described in Item No.3 of their Report, the Cabinet

#### **RECOMMEND**

**that the Council receives the Treasury Management Annual Report 2012/13.**

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#### **Matters for Information**

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#### **5. MEETING OUR OBJECTIVELY ASSESSED NEED FOR HOUSING: MEMORANDUM OF CO-OPERATION – SUPPORTING THE SPATIAL APPROACH 2011-2031**

**Having regard to the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) (Item No. 2 of their Report refers),** the Cabinet has endorsed the content of a Memorandum of Co-operation which sets out the objectively assessed need for additional housing to 2031.

Local Planning Authorities have a requirement under the National Planning Policy Framework to have a clear understanding of housing needs in their area. The guidance states that planning authorities should prepare a Strategic Housing Market Assessment to assess their full housing needs, working with neighbouring authorities within

their strategic housing areas. The Memorandum of Co-operation reflects the joint working between authorities and will support the local plan preparation.

In discussing the information before them, Executive Councillors referred to the methodology employed to determine housing allocations across each local authority area including housing mix and density. Members were advised that 17,000 homes will be required in Huntingdonshire by 2031 and 21,000 homes by 2036. During their discussions, Executive Councillors have stressed the need to be mindful of the plans of neighbouring authorities outside the strategic housing area which may have considerable impact on the district.

## **6. HOME IMPROVEMENT AGENCY SHARED SERVICE REVIEW AND DISABLED FACILITIES GRANT BUDGET**

**In conjunction with the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being) (Item No. 2 of their Report refers),** the Cabinet has been acquainted with the outcome of a review of the Home Improvement Agency (HIA) Service with Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District Councils following its first year of operation.

A major part of the service is the administration of Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG's), usually following a referral from an Occupational Therapist. It was reported that some problems were experienced during the Service's first 6 months of operation. These issues have been addressed and the service is currently operating as intended. Furthermore, waiting times for occupational therapists have reduced from 8 months in March 2012 to 4 months in March 2013. Attempts will now be made to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the service further through the introduction of competitive tendering for equipment and the procurement of adaption works from local businesses.

In discussing the Council's commitment to supporting the delivery of DFG's, Executive Councillors were advised that the budget for 2013/14 had been increased and will be able to manage the current demands placed upon it. Given the pressures on Council's budgets, the Cabinet has requested Officers to undertake additional modelling of current and future demand for DFG's, over the summer, to feed into the Medium Term Plan process in September 2013.

## **7. HUNTINGDONSHIRE REGULATION 123 AND INFRASTRUCTURE BUSINESS PLAN 2013/14 LIST**

**Having regard to the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) (Item No. 1 of their Report refers),** the Cabinet has approved the contents of the draft Huntingdonshire Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Regulation 123 List. The List sets out the infrastructure that will be funded in whole or in part by the levy, to ensure that there is no duplication with Section 106 contributions.

As part of their deliberations, the Cabinet had regard to the Infrastructure Business Plan for 2013/14 which contains a broad range of requirements across the District that could be eligible for CIL funding in the period to 2026. Executive Councillors referred to the concerns of Town and Parish Councils that CIL receipts will not be tied to the development area to which they relate and stressed the need to work with them to identify their priorities as part of the next stage of the Business Plan process.

**8. COMMUNITY RIGHT TO CHALLENGE**

The Cabinet has approved the contents of a timetable for the acceptance of expressions of interests (EIO's) under the new Community Right to Challenge Initiative. The Localism Act 2011 introduces a right for defined organisations and persons to submit an expression of interest in taking over the provision of a service on behalf of the Council. Where a valid expression is received, the Council will be required to undertake a procurement exercise for that service which may lead to the Council awarding a contract for the service provision. The timetable identifies when services will be open for receiving EOI's.

**9. REPRESENTATION ON ORGANISATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS 2013/14**

The Cabinet has made appointments/nominations in relation to representation on a variety of organisations/partnerships and has authorised the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, after consultation with the Deputy Executive Leader of the Council, to make any changes that may be required throughout the year.

**10. LOAN TO HUNTINGDONSHIRE REGIONAL COLLEGE**

*(This item was submitted as a confidential item under Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.)*

The Cabinet has approved the principle of a loan to Huntingdonshire Regional College to fund the expansion of their facilities. The Assistant Director Finance and Resources has been authorised to finalise the details of the loan after consultation with the Executive Leader and the Executive Councillor for Resources.

In discussing the risks associated with the request, Executive Councillors have noted that adequate security will be available to the Council in the form of a charge against land in excess of the value of the outstanding loan.

The improvements made by the College will be beneficial to those attending the campus enabling them to access quality courses and facilities without having to travel outside the District.

N J Guyatt  
Vice-Chairman