

CABINET

Date and Time: Thursday, 7 September 2017 at 7pm

Place: Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Fleet

Present:

COUNCILLORS

Ambler, Bailey, Cockarill, Collett, Kinnell (for item 45 onwards), Neighbour (Chairman), Oliver

In attendance: Councillors Axam, Forster, Kennett and Parker

Officers:

Patricia Hughes	Joint Chief Executive
Andrew Vallance	Head of Corporate Services
Nick Steevens	Head of Regulatory Services
Liz Glenn	Health and Policy Officer

37 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting of 3 August 2017 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

38 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Councillor Radley, and it was noted that Councillor Kinnell had notified that she would attend later.

39 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman noted his intention to take questions from the public on the item on the agenda, at the appropriate time.

40 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

41 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (ITEMS PERTAINING TO THE AGENDA)

None.

42 LEISURE CENTRE WORKING GROUP

The minutes of the meeting of 1 August 2017 were noted.

43 NEW SETTLEMENT OPTIONS

Members received the notes of the Presentation to Members of the 9 August 2017.

Questions from the public were responded to:

- All information from the developers arising from the presentations has been published.
- It was confirmed that the next stage on the Reg 19 consultation is expected to start in January
- Information from the last stage of the consultation (Reg 19) will be published in due course.

44 2017-18 BUDGET MONITORING – TO END OF JUNE

Members received information concerning the position on revenue and capital expenditure at the end of June 2017. Members noted that Overview and Scrutiny Committee had received this report at their meeting on the 15 August 2017 and their amendments had been incorporated into the report.

The Head of Corporate Services advised that the projected overspend may now be reduced from the figure provided within the report, albeit further due diligence is required on the now anticipated administrative fee income from Section 106 funding.

Members commented on:

- The apparent change in relation to the projected income from the Leisure Centre, associated with the, slightly later than anticipated, opening of the centre.
- The change in projected savings from the 5 Councils implementation, which reflected commercial discussions that had been undertaken in the hope that services could be commenced early.

Members asked for a written response on the capital expenditure anticipated on IT.

DECISION

That the revenue and capital expenditure at the end of June 2017 be noted.

45 LOCAL DISCRETIONARY BUSINESS RATE RELIEF SCHEME

Members were advised of the business rate reliefs made available by the Government to ameliorate the consequences of the 2017 revaluation and considered the proposed Local Discretionary Relief Scheme.

The Head of Corporate Services provided an update on the mandatory elements of the Business Rate relief scheme, detailing:

- Of the 49 Pubs contacted, 15 have now responded, and all 15 have now had a discount applied to their business rates accounts
- Support to small business scheme - the number of businesses we now believe will receive discounts has risen to 21 businesses.

Members discussed:

- The need to notify businesses, in a cohesive way, to enable all businesses who are eligible to have the same opportunity to apply
- Whether franchise businesses should be eligible to apply for this relief.

DECISION

That the Local Discretionary Relief Scheme for 2017/18 set out in Appendix I be approved subject to the following alterations:

- a. That franchises are included within the scheme
- b. That the businesses are notified in writing
- c. That this scheme is communicated in a cohesive way, so no business is disadvantaged.

46 CORPORATE EQUALITY POLICY AND OBJECTIVES (2017-21)

Members considered the draft Corporate Equality Policy and Objectives 2017-21.

Members sought clarification on Hart's obligations to ensure that contractors adhere to the obligations of the Councils Corporate Equality and Objectives; the Health and Policy Officer advised that this is in place for our contracts, the example provided was in relation to the 5 Councils contract, where Equality Officers from the Councils were working collaboratively to ensure adherence. Ms Glenn also advised that when external organisations are grant funded, Hart have ensured that they have policies in place that are aligned to our own.

Members also raised the concern of perception of the symbolism associated with the use of the word 'Chairman'.

DECISION

That the Corporate Equality Policy and proposed Equality Objectives for 2017-21 be adopted.

47 HART LOCAL AUTHORITY LOTTERY DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

Members considered the report asking agreement for the distribution of funds to good causes raised by the 'Central Fund' of the Hart Lottery.

Members queried the financial returns, and Mr Vallance confirmed that some funding was going into the central funds, and some into specific charities, however the overall level of funding from the lottery was in line with the report.

DECISION

- 1 That the Central Fund be distributed each year (June 2017 – March 2018 this year, and April to March thereafter) between the Chairman's Charity(ies) provided that they meet the Hart Lottery eligibility criteria set out in Appendix A;
- 2 That should none of the Charities chosen meet the eligibility criteria that they be distributed to eligible Chairman's Charities from the previous year.

48 DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN

Cabinet considered the Draft Corporate Plan (Appendix A).

Members commented on the need to reference neighbourhood retail centres and transport under the Issues in Hart page, and debated the inclusion of wording associated with recycling rates and youth provision, with a request that this is revisited ahead of consultation.

DECISION

Cabinet delegate to the Corporate Plan Working Group, (to include Councillors Collett, Radley, and Neighbour) ahead of final public consultation of the draft anticipated to take part in October – November 2017.

49 CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT COMMERCIAL STRATEGY

Cabinet considered the Draft Commercial Strategy report.

Members noted that this is a framework for future decision making and that initiatives will, in due course, come forward with further detail

DECISION

That the Commercial Strategy be approved, subject to reference that it is in addition to the Council's normal processes and procedure for setting fees and charges.

50 CABINET WORK PROGRAMME

The Cabinet Work Programme was considered and amended.

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm.