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CABINET

Date and Time: Thursday 3 November 2022 at 7.00 pm

Place: Council Chamber

Present:

Neighbour (Leader), Radley (Deputy Leader), Bailey, Clarke, Cockarill, Oliver and Quarterman

In attendance: Axam, Butcher, Dorn, Farmer

Officers:

Daryl Phillips	Chief Executive
Graeme Clark	Executive Director – Corporate and S151 Officer
Mark Jaggard	Executive Director – Place
Daniel Hawes	Planning Policy and Economic Development Manager
Adam Green	Countryside Manager
Sharon Black	Committee Services Manager

61 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of 6th October 2022 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

62 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Collins.

63 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

64 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed Graeme Clark to the meeting in his role of Executive Director – Corporate and S151 Officer.

65 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (ITEMS PERTAINING TO THE AGENDA)

In relation to Minute 70, Mr David Turver read out a statement to Cabinet (attached at Appendix 1).

Cabinet noted:

- That Agenda Item 10 on the Shapley Heath Audit Report would address some of the points made
- That Mr Turver's statement would be included with the Minutes as an appendix at the discretion of the Chairman and Chief Executive

Statement to Cabinet from Mr David Turver

66 LEASE OF EDENBROOK FLATS

Cabinet was asked to approve the entering into a lease to transfer the 41 apartments at Edenbrook (known respectively known as Heather Court and Thistle House) to Butterwood Homes.

Cabinet discussed:

- That this was confirmation of arrangements already put in place
- The advantages and disadvantages of transferring the lease

DECISION

Cabinet agreed:

That The Chief Executive be authorised to agree the terms and then conclude a 20-year lease for Butterwood Homes to manage on behalf of the Council the 41 Apartments at Edenbrook (respectively known as Heather Court and Thistle House)

67 ODIHAM AND NORTH WARNBOROUGH CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL

Cabinet was asked to adopt the Odiham and North Warnborough Conservation Area Appraisal.

Cabinet discussed:

- That this Appraisal covered both areas, rather than being 2 separate Appraisals
- That Cabinet was being asked to adopt the Appraisal rather than endorse and that the wording of the Recommendation would be suitably amended before voting to show that this superseded the previous two Area Appraisal documents
- That thanks were due to Odiham Parish Council for the work they had done with the Council on the Appraisal documentation
- That the documentation was partially funded by the Parish Council although it will become a Hart District Council document as the Planning Authority

DECISION

Cabinet

1. North Warnborough Conservation Area Appraisal for Agreed to adopt the Odiham and planning and development management purposes:

2. Agreed that the [Odiham Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management Proposals December 2008](#) and the [North Warnborough Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management Proposals March 2009](#) will be superseded by the new Area Appraisal
3. Authorised the Executive Director – Place to make minor alterations and typographical corrections prior to the Appraisal being published.

68 LEASE OF POND AREAS TO HARTLEY WINTNEY PARISH COUNCIL

Approval was being sought from Cabinet to enter into a lease with Hartley Wintney Parish Council for the future management of Causeway and Hatton's Ponds, Hartley Wintney; and also to release £50,000 from District S106 Leisure and Open Space receipts to support the future restoration of the ponds.

Cabinet discussed:

- That this was an excellent example of the Council working together with the local Parish Council
- That thanks were due to Hartley Wintney Parish Council for the work they had undertaken in helping to find an appropriate way forward
- Other agencies would need to be involved in the future
- That the funding request would be used for restoration work on the ponds which was very much required
- That the lease, whilst not yet finalised, would be a long term one rather than a short term lease

DECISION

1. Cabinet agreed that the Executive Director for Community be authorised to agree the terms and conclude lease for the transfer of ponds in Hartley Wintney Common (see Appendix 1) to Hartley Wintney Parish Council (HWPC)
2. Cabinet agreed that £50,000 of District S106 Leisure and Open Space funding be transferred to HWPC for the on-going restoration of the ponds.

69 GRANT FUNDING FOR BIODIVERSITY AND CARBON OFF-SETTING STRATEGY

To seek Cabinet's approval to spend £110k (£100k Grant and £10k for earmarked reserves) towards the delivery of "Phase 2" of the approved Biodiversity and Carbon Off-Setting Project, and to seek Cabinet approval to procure the necessary expertise to progress the project.

Cabinet discussed:

- That the grant funding had been successfully applied for from DEFRA, and would be used to fund the development of Phase 2 of the strategy.
- That both the grant and additional funding from earmarked reserves would be put towards staffing and other specialist contract work.
- There was a requirement for a large piece of work to be undertaken to design the potential projects, develop costings and look at income streams and future funding mechanisms
- The project would take around 2 years to complete
- A range of projects would be designed but it would be difficult to give any ballpark costings at present whilst no decisions had been made as to what type of projects would be selected
- There was a need for a Project Initiation Document (PID) giving more in depth details
- That the money from earmarked reserves was in addition to the funding allocated to Climate Change initiatives, although it was recognised that there would be some overlap between this project and the work being undertaken by the Climate Change Working Group
- The need for communications from the Council to be clear about whether it was aiming for carbon neutrality or net zero
- A requirement for an easy to read paper showing all the different strands on Climate Change/Biodiversity that meshed together, for ease of reference
- That there was a wealth of resources in Parish Councils that could be accessed, particularly to meet the District 2040 Climate Change target

DECISION

1. Cabinet agreed to expend £110k (£100k Grant and £10k from earmarked reserves) towards the delivery of “Phase 2” of the approved Biodiversity and Carbon Off-Setting Project
2. Approval was given to procure consultants to project manage and develop the strategy

70 SHAPLEY HEATH AUDIT REVIEW

Cabinet received an oral update from the Chief Executive regarding the proposed action plan.

Cabinet noted:

- The original Audit Report was circulated to Cabinet in September
- Staffing Committee had set up a Panel to look at the staffing issues and would report back to Audit Committee
- It had to be accepted that things had gone awry with the project
- The LGA had confirmed that they would have someone available to undertake the independent review during December/January. This would

involve interviewing Cabinet Members, and members of the Council who were on the Opportunity Board.

The leadership team would be discussing the key outcomes with a view to all future projects being delivered as expected and in a transparent manner

71 CABINET WORK PROGRAMME

Cabinet considered and amended the work programme as circulated with the agenda paperwork.

Cabinet noted:

- That the Staffing Committee report on the Shared Chief Executive with Rushmoor may be delayed from December as it had asked for further information from the Inter Authority Agreement (IAA) before being able to make any recommendation(s) to Cabinet
- A short paper would be brought to December's Cabinet meeting on the composition of the Board of Butterwood Homes, following by the departure of one of the Joint Chief Executives

The work programme would be updated accordingly.

The meeting closed at 8.01 pm

Statement to Cabinet 3 November 2022 – Mr David Turver

You have committed to openness and transparency in your follow up of the Shapley Heath Audit Report. Tonight, you might contemplate why none of the deliberations of the Staffing Committee have been published and why there is only a verbal update on the Management Action Plan and no written report.

The verbal update to Audit Committee revealed endemic institutional incompetence. Most pre-November 2021 projects had no PID and no financial documentation; many had no risk register. In other words, the what, why, where, when and who of all these projects wasn't written down and agreed and there was no effective financial control framework. Many of the post-November 2021 projects are also delinquent with the Capita Review, Traffic Management and Fleet Pond enhancements having no documentation at all.

You might recall that strong criticisms were made in the Shapley Heath Audit Report about the lack of effective project management and inadequate financial controls. From the lack of written documentation accompanying this meeting, it is clear that you have missed your self-imposed deadline to deliver the results of your facilitated reflection today. Answers to FOI requests reveal that you haven't created a Terms of Reference for this work and have not set a budget, so you haven't learned even the most basic of lessons. As Einstein said, insanity is continuing to do the same thing over and over and expecting different results.

It is four months since the Audit Report was delivered. There's been a lot of talk about process and none about content. No effective action has been published and nobody from Cabinet has taken responsibility. You have denied the findings of the Audit Report. You have even censored questions where truthful answers would have caused you embarrassment. It is clear that the Council really has no idea how to run projects. The first part of addressing a problem is to admit it exists. You need urgently to pass through the denial phase, accept these fundamental failings and get on with fixing the deep underlying issues or make way for others who can.