

# Public Document Pack

## **CABINET**

**Date and Time:** Thursday 1 October 2020 at 7.00 pm

**Place:** Council Chamber

**Present:**

Ambler, Bailey, Cockarill, Kinnell, Neighbour, Oliver, Quarterman and Radley

**In attendance:** Councillors Axam, Crookes, Delaney, Dorn, Forster and Worlock  
Andrew Down – Commercial Director, Five Councils

**Officers:** Foy, Hawes, Hughes, Jaggard, Vincent and Wood

### **36 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of 3 September 2020 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### **37 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies received.

### **38 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations made.

### **39 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Leader reminded the Committee that item 9 on the Agenda is exempt and would be discussed in order of the Agenda.

### **40 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (ITEMS PERTAINING TO THE AGENDA)**

None.

### **41 UPDATE ON SUITABLE ALTERNATIVE NATURAL GREENSPACE (SANG)**

Cabinet were updated on the amount of SANG available in Hart, to consider how it should best be used, and what measures are needed to ensure Council has control of its own SANG assets.

Members noted:

- That access to Hart administered or controlled SANG capacity is strictly limited and prioritised solely for development that is needed to comply with Hart's identified Local Plan housing needs.
- Amended wording to bring the Policy in line with the new Local Plan, of note, the Interim Avoidance Strategy to be replaced by a technical advice note.

- The Strategic Access Management Monitoring (SAMM) is applied in Hart with immediate effect.

Members discussed:

- Whether Hart is short of SANG and if we are looking to acquire extra land.
- As a local planning authority our SANG is a finite resource therefore we enable developments which will significantly advance the allocation of affordable homes for rent.
- Hart have temporarily paused granting SANG to allow a catch up in the monitoring process however there is a reasonable amount to be released for future years.
- Opportunities to negotiate on appropriate land to support SANG provision for the future.

## **DECISION**

Cabinet accepted the Officer recommendations as follows:

1. That Cabinet notes the SANG monitoring figures at Appendix 1.
2. That access to Hart administered or controlled SANG capacity is strictly limited and prioritised solely for development that is needed to comply with Hart's identified Local Plan housing needs with the emphasis on supporting developments that provide affordable homes for rent.
3. That the Council's SANG allocation criteria is updated as set out at Appendix 2.
4. That the Interim Avoidance Strategy for the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area, First Revision, Adopted November 2010 is withdrawn.
5. Subject to Recommendation 4, that the Strategic Access Management Monitoring (SAMM) tariff at Appendix 3 is applied in Hart with immediate effect.
6. Subject to Recommendation 4, that updated planning guidance in the form of a Technical Advice Note is prepared to replace the Interim Avoidance Strategy, to be approved by the Head of Place.

## **42 REVISED DRAFT BUDGET 2020/2021 AND OUTTURN PERIODS 1-4**

The report provides a summary of the revised revenue proposals for 2020/21 to enable Overview and Scrutiny Committee to forward its comments on the proposed draft revised budget and Council Tax levels to Cabinet.

Members considered:

- That the COVID-19 pandemic coincided with the start of the 2020-21 financial year and as a consequence, some regular services were

suspended, and others introduced therefore the previously agreed budget has been re-cast to reflect the new situation.

- The timing and nature of the pandemic has limited our opportunities in increasing income.

Members discussed:

- When we can expect the confirmation that our estimate has been accepted for the new Government Scheme to compensate Authorities for lost fees due to the Covid-19 pandemic and were informed this should be within the next 2 weeks.
- 95% confidence that Hart will qualify for compensation for loss of income from Leisure Centres through the Government Scheme.
- What has been factored into the budget model to use for the shortfall.

Members thanked Officers for the accurate data and noted that the budget will continue to be vigorously reviewed during this uncertain period.

## **DECISION**

Cabinet agreed the draft revised budget and the funding of any shortfall in lost income due to Covid-19 from the General Fund after all Central Government funding schemes have been fully engaged with.

Cabinet noted the budget monitoring information provided in Appendix One for the period ended July 2020.

## **43 FUTURE PROVISION OF CCTV SERVICE**

Following review of the Council's CCTV service and the associated costs required to operate and maintain it, this report outlined the options for and makes recommendations on future CCTV service delivery.

Members considered:

- The termination of the shared service agreement with Rushmoor Borough Council for the monitoring of Hart's CCTV cameras.
- The option to continue to run the service and establish a legal agreement with Runnymede Borough Council, who currently operate a CCTV service for themselves and Spelthorne Borough Council, to monitor the cameras.
- The commencement of all necessary technical feasibility and other preliminary works to affect the proposed new service agreement.
- That a budget of £104K is allocated in the council's capital programme to fund implementation and decommissioning costs.
- That a budget of £15K per annum is allocated to the Council's capital programme for a 3-year period commencing in 2021/2022 to fund a rolling replacement of the Council's CCTV camera stock.

Members discussed:

- Runnymede operators in Runnymede will come to Hart to familiarise themselves with the Hart area.

- The level of service and how that may change recognising the benefits of the new service outweighing any disadvantages.
- Whether a consultation with Parish Councils has taken place.
- The cost of de-commissioning the service under the original Contract Hart inherited at the start of the service and asked Officers to double-check the break clause for a possibility to reduce the cost.

## **DECISION**

Cabinet Agreed:

- (i) the termination of the shared service agreement with Rushmoor Borough council for the monitoring of Harts CCTV cameras;
- (ii) (the establishment of a legal agreement with Runnymede Borough Council for the monitoring of Harts CCTV cameras as outlined in the below report;
- (iii) the commencement of all necessary technical feasibility and other preliminary works to affect the proposed new service agreement;
- (iv) that a budget of £104k is allocated in the council's capital programme to fund implementation and decommissioning costs.
- (v) that a budget of £15k per annum is allocated to the council's capital programme for 3-year period commencing in 2021/22 to fund a rolling replacement of the Councils CCTV camera stock.

## **44 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

The following item contained exempt information. Cabinet considered whether the public interest in maintaining an exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

### **DECISION**

Cabinet agreed that, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded during the discussion of the matters referred to, on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

## **45 5 COUNCILS (5CS) CONTRACT**

This report invited Cabinet to consider the current position with regard to the contract for Corporate Services, known as the Five Councils' Partnership.

*NB Appendix 2 of this report was exempt from publication.*

## **DECISION**

Cabinet considered the paper and agreed to the anticipated financial implications arising from the renegotiation of the Five Council's Corporate Services Contract with Capita Business Services.

### **46 NEXT STEPS IN COVID-19 RECOVERY**

This report provided an update on the Council's work to support the district since the last report in July, in response to the outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID-19).

It also provided more detail on the work currently being undertaken to support the recovery phase, an overview of the 'lessons learnt' and our preparations for any local outbreaks. It is key to note that as before this report represented a high-level assessment of the current position. The situation remains live, the pandemic is still ongoing, and work continues to assess the implications on our residents and the Council.

Members discussed:

- Reflection on lessons learnt and emergency decisions made and noted that we are in a better position if we go into another lockdown situation.
- Communication improvement with more regular contact and faster responses.
- Joint Chief Executives to look at emergency points of information on our website with links to HCC outbreak plan, Keeping Hampshire safe website, LGINform covid website and BBC website for district information.
- Approval for the use of Hart Council's staff car park for the provision of testing or vaccinations facilities for Covid-19 or Influenza.
- Social isolation payments commenced Monday this week.

## **DECISION**

Cabinet:

- (i) Noted and endorses the remaining decisions taken under emergency powers prior to cessation of the major incident response phase and the preparations for any second or local outbreak of coronavirus.
- (ii) Endorsed the Councils approach to the utilisation of the 'kick start' and apprenticeship schemes for both recovery and other roles within the organisation.
- (iii) Approved the Recovery Plans as outlined in appendix 1, subject to authorising the Joint Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, to agree any further variations to the Recovery Plans in recognition that the circumstances surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic does change, so there may be a need for these plans to evolve in light of emerging information.

- (iv) Noted the main 'lessons learnt' (appendix 2) from the first wave of the pandemic and endorsed the approach to building into second or local outbreak planning
- (v) Approved the use of the Councils Staff Car Park for use in provision of testing or vaccination facilities for Covid-19 or Influenza, seven days a week.

#### **47 CAR BOOT SALES / SUNDAY MARKETS**

This report invited Cabinet to consider and provide a strategic lead on the options they would like the Council to pursue and further investigate, which would enable the delivery of Sunday Markets or Car Boot Sales to occur on Council owned car parks.

Members considered:

- To continue to run the (temporary) car boot sale in the Victoria Road car park and to provide car boot sales in the future.
- Longer term the Council will need a policy on car boot sales if it does continue.
- How the commercial value will be distributed in terms of an opportunity to provide all profits to agree Charities.
- Each car park is amenable to a separate choice, so there are many options.
- Would running the sale ourselves be a strain on resources.

In summing up, Cllr Quarterman suggested the paper be approved as presented in order to allow the existing car boot sale to continue and to take note of what has been discussed at this meeting, to gain an initial view of the potential strategic direction to enable further work on the preferred approach.

#### **DECISION**

Cabinet confirmed that it is interested in the exploration of options for the future delivery of Sunday car boot sale/ markets.

Cabinet:

- A. (i) Endorsed the proposal by the Head of Corporate Services to use delegated powers to temporarily waive Contract Standing Orders for the period between the period 4th October and 1st November 2020 to enable Sunday car Boot sales to resume on Victoria Road car park; and (ii) agreed that a proper procurement exercise is undertaken in accordance with Contract Standing Orders to ensure that the Council from 7th November 2020 secures value for money in the use of its assets and that equal, open, and fair opportunity is given to bid for the opportunity to run Sunday Car Boot sales on Victoria Road car park if options C(i) or C(ii) are sought for further investigation.

- B. Cabinet agrees that any proposed car boot sale/Sunday market policy should review all Council car parks, across the whole district
- C. In drafting a Car boot sale/Sunday market policy Cabinet authorised the Joint Chief Executive to carry out further investigations, with the expectation of a report to Cabinet in November 2020 on one of the following options; i) seeks a commercial value for the car boot sales, and to tender this opportunity ii) seeks a commercial value for the car boot sales, tender for this opportunity, and provide all profits to agreed charities iii) seeks to run the car boot sale by the Council, retaining or sharing proceeds as appropriate iv) establishes a policy whereby the Council will only consider car boot sales where run for charitable purposes.

*Meeting stopped for a break at 9.27pm and resumed at 9.35pm*

#### **48 MINUTES FROM CIVIC REGENERATION WORKING GROUP**

Members noted the minutes of the meeting held on 1 September 2020.

#### **49 FLEET ROAD PEDESTRIANISATION MOTION**

To give informal advice on a possible approach that could be followed to address the Motion adopted at Council on 24th September 2020.

It was explained that a Consultant had been engaged to carry out a detailed account of business views while measuring progress and benefits to understand and assess the nature of their concerns.

That the current traffic monitoring is being carried out by Hampshire County Council and supplemented by physical observation of the impact of traffic on neighbouring roads.

Members discussed:

- If it is possible to collate the turnover and footfall data within the tight timescale given.
- When a decision will be made and who ultimately will be responsible for that decision.

#### **DECISION**

Cabinet agreed:

- A. To give an objective, rigorous and detailed account of business views while measuring progress and benefits, a Consultant is engaged to actively engage with retailers to understand and assess the nature of their concerns.

- B. That the current traffic monitoring that is already being carried out by Hampshire County Council is supplemented by physical observation of the impact of traffic on neighbouring roads.
- C. The Portfolio Holder Place (in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment) be authorised to have the road closures removed and Fleet Road reopened to traffic by 31 October at the very latest if, in his opinion, compelling and verifiable evidence has been gathered that indicates that the benefit to retailers does not outweigh any negative impact on businesses or residents.

## **50 CABINET WORK PROGRAMME**

The Cabinet Work Programme was considered and amended.

- To bring back a further car boot sale report.
- Fleet road pedestrianisation – Cabinet Member is Cllr Cockarill and this update may be an oral report.
- There will be a formal Civic Quarter Regeneration Report on preliminary findings due January or February 2021.
- Asset based reports and leases will be coming soon.

The meeting closed at 10.15 pm