

CABINET

Date and Time: Thursday, 3 December 2020 at 7pm

Place: Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Fleet

Present:

COUNCILLORS

Ambler, Bailey, Kinnell, Neighbour (Chairman), Oliver, Quarterman, Radley

In attendance: Axam, Crookes, Farmer, Smith, Worlock (*left at 7.32pm*)

Officers:

Patricia Hughes	Joint Chief Executive
Emma Foy	Head of Corporate Services and Section 151 Officer
Mark Jaggard	Head of Place
Emma Whittaker	Planning Manager
Helen Vincent	Committee Services Officer

61 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting of 5 November 2020 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

62 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received.

63 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Farmer declared a non-pecuniary interest with regard to Item 78.

64 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman announced the following Executive Decisions that had been made as a matter of urgency.

1. Proposal for three Christmas Markets in December on the Birchayes Car Park in Fleet starting on Saturday 5th December.
2. To waiver parking charges in all Council car parks to support Small Business Saturday on 5th December 2020.
3. To waiver parking charges in Monachus Lane, Hartley Wintney car park between 4pm – 8pm on Thursday 10th December 2020.

65 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (ITEMS PERTAINING TO THE AGENDA)

None.

66 MINUTES FROM CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP

Minutes of the meeting held on 8 October 2020 were noted.

67 MINUTES FROM HART HEALTH AND WELLBEING PARTNERSHIP

Minutes from meeting held on 15 October 2020 were noted.

68 MINUTES FROM CIVIC REGENERATION WORKING GROUP

Members were informed that the Working Group is continuing to make good progress and on track to provide a report for Overview & Scrutiny in January. A question raised at Overview & scrutiny Committee reference the possible inclusion of Fleet High Street in the Civic Regeneration Project. It was confirmed that the current project is only to be focused on the Civic Quarter. Further, it was confirmed that a question raised at Cabinet in November, with reference to the effectiveness of the cross-party Working Group, had been debated by the Working Group at its December meeting and all parties had confirmed the Group was working well.

Minutes from the meeting held on 3 November 2020 were noted.

69 2020/21 BUDGET MONITORING TO END OF SEPTEMBER

Cabinet were advised of the position on revenue and capital expenditure at the end of September. This information had been considered at the Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting of 17 November 2020.

Members were advised of the global issues and impact from the COVID lockdown pandemic. There is an overspend due to loss of income from leisure, planning fees and parking. A revision statement will be going to Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Members discussed.

- Current gross number of overspend of £900k due to loss of income. This may be reduced subject to receipt of Government funding.
- Revenue recovery from Government is based on 75 pence in the pound being received, based on 90% of budgeted income.

DECISION

- 1 The revised projections and reasons for the main revenue variations be noted.
- 2 The current spending position for Capital be noted.

70 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY– HALF YEAR REVIEW 2020/21

Cabinet were informed of the position on revenue and capital expenditure at the end of September. This report had been considered by Overview & Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 17 November 2020.

The S151 Officer gave a verbal update detailing changes resulting from the second lockdown imposed on the 5 November 2020.

Members discussed the global picture and the Council's approach regarding borrowing limits. Members were invited to join a seminar regarding a more proactive Treasury Management approach for long term investment.

Members were informed that the counterparty limit would be raised to £10m due to assisting business grant claims and may be raised to £15m for a temporarily period of time.

DECISION

That the Treasury Management Activities and performance during the first half of the 2020/21 financial year be noted.

71 2021/22 BUDGET & MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

Cabinet were given an early consideration of the emerging budget for 2021/22 and the draft Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). This information had been considered at the Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting of 17 November 2020.

Members considered the following concerns:

- The uncertainty over any future Government Financial settlement and the timing of any announcement so close to Christmas.
- Future year expectations to be challenging following COVID expenditure.
- Pay increase restraints.
- Scale of budget pressures clarity to be emailed to Members.

DECISION

That the issues around the emerging budget for 2021/22 be noted.

72 DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICE ACTION PLAN

To consider the Development Management Service Action Plan. This report had been considered by Overview & Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 17 November 2020.

Members discussed:

- The slow down due to COVID.

- Clarification was requested of Planning Application site notices. Statutory requirements state that if site notices don't go up, neighbours are notified by letter. This will be reviewed.
- Improving Ward Members attendance at site visits.

DECISION

That the Development Management Service Action Plan be approved and regularly monitored by Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

73 IT SECURITY AND ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

The revised IT Security and Acceptable Use Policy was considered.

Members discussed:

- Purchase of corporate laptops to enable working from home.
- Data Security Protection approval.
- Cyber Crime training.
- Phishing testing.
- That the policy contains valuable information when using Council owned equipment and personal equipment.
- Data and Data Management Legislation training requirements and regular updates.

DECISION

That the IT Security and Acceptable Use Policy be approved.

74 RENEWAL OF THE SHARED BUILDING CONTROL SERVICE WITH RUSHMOOR BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet were asked to agree the renewal of the Shared Building Control Service between Hart District Council and Rushmoor Borough Council Building Control Partnership to 31 March 2025.

Members were informed of the cost recovery and split costs which changed to a 60/40 split. Once Rushmoor Council's demand increases this split will be adjusted and there is a clause in the deed to allow this. These costs are only recovery costs against revenue set by both Councils on an annual basis (averaged over three years).

DECISION

Cabinet agreed the recommendation with the correction date to 31 March 2025.

1. That the renewal of the Shared Building Control Service between Hart District Council and Rushmoor Borough Council to discharge the statutory building control functions for both Councils until 31 March 2025 be agreed,

unless terminated earlier in accordance with the provisions of the agreed Deed.

2. That the Joint Chief Executive, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Place, be given delegated authority to the to finalise the specific terms and conditions and then sign the new Deed (the legal agreement between Hart District Council and Rushmoor Borough Council).

75 PETITION

Cabinet received the following petition organised by Mr Steve Forster and signed by over 1,000 residents of Hart District:

***To the Leader, Cabinet and members of Hart District Council
The Humble Petition of the residents of North East Hampshire, Declares that there was insufficient consultation ahead of the closure of Fleet Road to traffic; further that there have been significant implications for neighbouring roads as a result of the re-routing of traffics; and further that the closure of the road has made it more difficult for local people to get in to their local town centre.
The petitioners therefore urge Hart District Council to re-open Fleet Road as a matter of urgency; further pledge to retain on street parking for cars and motorcycles; and further pledge that access along Fleet Road for cars and motorcycles will be maintained in the future.
And the petitioners remain, etc.”***

The petition organiser was given three minutes to present the petition, which Cabinet then discussed.

Members noted that the Petition had been received immediately before the September Council and therefore arrived too late to influence the September Council debate on the Motion to have the pedestrianisation scheme removed. In any event it related to an Executive matter and so was a matter for Cabinet to discuss.

Cabinet decided that it would make the final decision on whether to seek the removal of the scheme by 31 October. This meant that it would have been premature to pre-empt that decision through inclusion on the November Cabinet agenda which had already been published.

The December's Cabinet was therefore, the first most appropriate forum to have an informed discussion.

Members were pleased to note that at Cabinet's request, Hampshire County Council, as the local highway authority, had agreed in November to reopen Fleet Road and had removed the pedestrianisation scheme in its entirety. It was also noted that for social distancing reasons, the County Council has decided that the temporary closure of the Fleet Road parking bays should be reinstated as part of the County Council's approach across the whole county to make safe space for pedestrians.

DECISION

Cabinet Agreed:

1. To thank the petitions for their contribution and to advise that at Hart's request, Hampshire County Council, as the local highway authority, had agreed in November to reopen Fleet Road and had removed the pedestrianisation scheme in its entirety. It was also noted that for social distancing reasons, the County Council has decided that the temporary closure of the Fleet Road parking bays should be reinstated as part of the County Council's approach across the whole county to make safe space for pedestrians.
2. The Joint Chief Executive would provide a written response to the Petition Organiser on the current County Council and M3LEP thoughts on the deliverability of the cycleway link between Fleet Town Centre and Fleet Station.

76 CABINET WORK PROGRAMME

The Cabinet Work Programme was considered and noted.

77 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

The following item contained exempt information.

DECISION

Members decided that the public interest in maintaining an exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

In accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public were 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.

78 HART DISTRICT COUNCIL LEISURE CONTRACT – COVID 19

Cabinet were asked to consider the current agreement regarding management fee relief to be extended by one month to recognise the financial implications for Everyone Active due to enforced closure of both the Hart and Frogmore Leisure Centres during Lockdown 2.0, and to extend the deadline for the S151 Officer to negotiate and report the final sum for final approval to 31 January 2021.

Members discussed:

- Foregoing the income from Lockdown 2.0 which will be placed in the claim from Central Government of income lost which runs until the end of March 2021.
- Other areas are working together on similar commercial matters.
- Everyone Active has improved performance rates.
- Users of Everyone Active are being passed on the savings in their annual membership.
- Good Publicising of concessions.

DECISION

1. Cabinet agreed to extend the grant of management fee relief from 30 November 2020 to 31 December 2020 and to allow for lost revenue as a result of the closure of both the Hart and Frogmore Leisure Centres during Lockdown 2.0.
2. Cabinet agreed that the S151 Officer and the Portfolio Holder for Finance can authorise and carry out the open book audit and agree any subsidy payable with Everyone Active.

The meeting closed at 8.32pm