

REPORT OF CABINET

(Meetings held on 7 April 2010)

1. HOWARDS MEAD COUNCIL HOUSE BUILDING PROJECT – UPDATE (REPORT A) (MINUTE NO. 83)

On 7 October 2009 the Cabinet approved the Council's bid to the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) for funding to build Council Houses at Howards Mead in Pennington. At their meeting on 14 January 2010 the Cabinet was pleased to note that the bid for funding of £650,000 had been successful.

The Cabinet has now been updated on the progress so far on the project to build council houses at Howards Mead, Pennington. The Planning Development Control Committee will consider a planning application at their meeting on 14 April 2010 and, subject to all necessary agreements it is envisaged that the work will start on 1 June 2010.

Following the successful bid to the HCA a Project Team was set up to see the scheme through the planning process and beyond into the start on site and construction. The Project Team draws experience from across the Council and will ensure that project is regularly monitored through meetings with the Project Manager and the Project Officer. In addition, the scope of this project warrants the oversight of a Project Board and this has been set up to take key decisions and provides a scrutiny function. The Board will receive regular updates and in addition there will be monthly updates to the Housing Portfolio Holder to ensure that Members are fully appraised at each stage of the project.

The Project Team has developed a Risk Register which highlights risks not only in relation to these contracts, but in relation to the project as a whole and these will be regularly reported on to the Project Board who will advise on any necessary action in mitigation.

In order to proceed, the project requires three contracts to be entered into and the Cabinet has given the necessary authority to enter into contracts as required subject to the Project board being satisfied as to the terms.

This is the first time in twenty five years that the Council has been in a position to build its own houses and members agreed that this is a remarkable achievement.

2. LYMINGTON HEALTH AND LEISURE CENTRE – DEVELOPMENT OF STEAM/SAUNA CABIN (REPORT B) (MINUTE NO. 84)

Currently all of the Council's Health & Leisure Centres except Lyminster have sauna and/or steam cabins which are popular with customers. Although Lyminster has an expanding customer base and has been relatively successful in competing with local private facilities the lack of a steam sauna is seen as a weakness which needs to be addressed if the centre is to sustain and improve its competitiveness in the market and in membership sales and retention.

The Cabinet is therefore supporting a proposal to build separate steam and sauna cabins with an adjacent relaxation area at Lyminster Health and Leisure Centre on the poolside next to the learner pool where the poolside store and first aid room is currently situated.

The capital purchase price of the steam/sauna will be £25,000 with further £25,000 building costs. There is an additional cost of £7,000 to relocate the first aid room which gives a total capital cost in 2010/11 of £57,000. The costs and income streams associated with this scheme have been looked at in the context of a 10 year useful life expectancy. It is anticipated that the steam kettle and the sauna controls, at a cost of £15,000, will need replacing after 5 years. The total capital cost over the 10 year life of the project therefore is £72,000 (£57,000 + £15,000).

The Cabinet has noted that the Asset Management Group has considered the detail of the income analysis for the scheme and in summary, taking all capital charges into account, it is estimated that the facility will make an annual surplus of £8,500 from 2011/12 onwards. The progress of the scheme will be subject to a thorough process of review.

It is proposed that the work will be completed during the pool side closure for other works to minimise the disruption to the public and to income losses.

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) ***That the business case for relocating the existing first aid room and building a new steam and sauna cabin with associated relaxation area as set out in Report E to the Cabinet be agreed;***
- (b) ***That the revenue implications as set out in paragraph 3.4 of Report E to the Cabinet be noted; and***
- (c) ***That a supplementary capital estimate of £57,000 be approved in 2010/11 with a £15,000 capital requirement in 2015/16.***

3. NATIONAL NETWORK OF STRATEGIC REGIONAL COASTAL MONITORING PROGRAMMES (2011-2016) (REPORT C) (MINUTE NO. 85)

The Cabinet has considered and agreed proposals for the integration of the South East Strategic Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme into the National Network of Monitoring Programmes. They have agreed that the Council will continue to act as the lead authority in the application to the Environment Agency for funding of the national network of regional monitoring programmes and in the development and management of the national network of regional monitoring programmes.

Coastal risk management is now conducted over broad areas, controlled by coastal processes rather than simple administrative boundaries. This necessitates partnership working by adjoining local authorities. The current approach to coastal monitoring throughout England is now well organised and structured nationally, both within individual Coastal Groups and on a regional basis. The current series of regional monitoring programmes, managed through a series of lead authorities on behalf of the Coastal Groups, provides a regionally co-ordinated and integrated approach to coastal monitoring, to maximise use of data and to provide best value.

The Southeast Strategic Regional Monitoring Programme is recognised as an example of international best practice by maritime coastal authorities, consultants and the Environment Agency. The regional centre of excellence (Channel Coastal Observatory) hosted by NFDC will continue to operate in its present form but will “expand” to store and disseminate monitoring data from the regional programmes within the national network.

If agreed, the programme will be 100% funded through the Coast Protection Act grant rate system and there will be no additional cost to the Council. The national programme has the potential for large scale actual and efficiency savings to the taxpayer in the region of £200m in the first five years.

4. KEY TARGETS – 2009/2010 PERFORMANCE AND 2010/2011 PROPOSED (REPORT D) (MINUTE NO. 86)

Each year the Council set key targets to help deliver improved outcomes for the organisation and the community. The Cabinet has considered and agreed the performance assessment for inclusion in the Portfolio Plans 'Looking Back' at 2009/10 and the draft key targets for 2010/11.

The Cabinet is pleased to note that out of the 67 targets set 57 will have been achieved. Some targets that are not met will be carried forward to 2010/11 and others will continue to be monitored where work continues on them in the months to come. Delivery of all the key targets has been planned as part of the portfolio planning / expenditure planning process and as such are all set against existing budget provision.

The Council has achieved a good performance against its key targets in 2009/10. The targets proposed for 2010/11 represent a good balance of activity across the Corporate Plan and demonstrate the breadth of activity the Council undertakes.

5. COMMUNITY STRATEGY ACTION PLANS 2009/10 PERFORMANCE AND 2010/2011 DRAFT (REPORT E) (MINUTE NO. 87)

Each year an action plan is developed and delivered by each of the Local Strategic Partnership's Community Action Networks for each topic chapter of the Sustainable Community Strategy.

The Cabinet noted and agreed the performance against the 2009/2010 actions and the proposed actions for 2010/2011 put forward by the Partnership.

For 2009/10 the level of achievement is good with 29 of the 40 actions, 72.5% being achieved. This is very similar to last year's performance (73%) across the whole of the action plan. The Council led on 27 of the actions, 24 of which were achieved giving an 88% success rate. This exceeded the target of 80% and compares well to 2008/09 when 72.5% of the actions were achieved.

The outcomes that flow from the proposed action plans for the year ahead should bring good benefits to the local economy, help the environment and improve people's lives in the district. Delivering through partnership is one way of making better use of the Council's resources.

**Cllr B Rickman
CHAIRMAN**