

## NOTICE OF MEETING

**Meeting:** CABINET

**Date and Time:** WEDNESDAY, 2 AUGUST 2017, AT 10.00 AM\*

**Place:** COUNCIL CHAMBER, APPLETREE COURT,  
LYNDHURST

**Telephone enquiries to:** Lyndhurst (023) 8028 5000  
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### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

\*Members of the public may speak in accordance with the Council's public participation scheme:

- (a) immediately before the meeting starts, on items within the Cabinet's terms of reference which are not on the public agenda; and/or
  - (b) on individual items on the public agenda, when the Chairman calls that item.
- Speeches may not exceed three minutes. Anyone wishing to speak should contact the name and number shown above.

**Bob Jackson**  
Chief Executive

Appletree Court, Lyndhurst, Hampshire. SO43 7PA  
[www.newforest.gov.uk](http://www.newforest.gov.uk)

**This Agenda is also available on audio tape, in Braille, large print and digital format**

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## AGENDA

### **Apologies**

#### **1. MINUTES**

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2017 as a correct record.

#### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To note any declarations of interest made by members in connection with an agenda item. The nature of the interest must also be specified.

Members are asked to discuss any possible interests with Democratic Services prior to the meeting.

**3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

To note any issues raised during the public participation period.

**4. STRATEGY FOR BUSINESS - "HELPING LOCAL BUSINESS GROW" (Pages 1 - 6)**

To approve the draft Business Strategy, to form the basis for consultations.

**5. A31 IMPROVEMENTS - RINGWOOD (Pages 7 - 14)**

To agree the response to be made to Highways England with respect to their consultation on improvements to the A31 at Ringwood.

**6. FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT - BASED ON PERFORMANCE TO JULY 2017 (Pages 15 - 20)**

To receive an update on the 2017/18 budget, adjusted for any initial budget changes required (on a Portfolio and Committee basis), and including the addition of the rephased budgets from 2016/17.

**7. "SERVING HAMPSHIRE - BALANCING THE BUDGET" - RESPONSE TO HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S CONSULTATION (Pages 21 - 24)**

To consider the response to be made in respect of the County Council's consultation.

**8. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL**

The Cabinet on 5 April agreed the process for recruiting members to the Independent Remuneration Panel to review the Members' Allowances Scheme. The agreed process has been followed and it is:

**RECOMMENDED:**

That the following persons be appointed to serve on the Panel for 4 years with effect from 1 October 2017

- Dr Declan Hall – former academic and now self-employed Local Government consultant, specialising in members' allowances
- Di Roberts, CBE – Principal and Chief Executive of Brockenhurst College
- Gerald Lewis – former local government employee, former parish councillor and current volunteer Chairman of the New Forest "LEADER" Rural Development Grants Programme

All members of the Council will be advised of the arrangements for the Panel's meetings and will be invited to contribute to the deliberations.

## 9. OUTSIDE BODY APPOINTMENT

This Council appoints 2 representatives (Cllrs Holding and J Heron) and 2 substitute representatives (Cllrs Kendal and J Ward) to represent the Council at the South East Employers Organisation. Cllr Kendal now represents the County Council on that body and it is therefore necessary to appoint a replacement.

### **RECOMMENDED:**

That Cllr M Harris be appointed as a substitute representative on the South East Employers Organisation, in place of Cllr Kendal.

To:

#### **Councillors**

Mrs S V Beeton  
J E Binns  
Mrs J L Cleary

#### **Councillors**

E J Heron (Vice-Chairman)  
J D Heron  
B Rickman (Chairman)

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**CABINET – 2 AUGUST 2017**

**PORTFOLIO: LEADERS**

## **STRATEGY FOR BUSINESS – “HELPING LOCAL BUSINESS GROW”**

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To approve a draft Business Strategy to form the basis for consultation with partners and members.

### **2.0 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 “Helping Local Business grow” is one of the Council’s top priorities. Given the changes that have taken place within the Council’s own economic development team there is a need to review the strategy for working with business to help it prosper within the New Forest.
- 2.2 The New Forest Business Partnership (NFBP) has identified the need for the Council to outline its new strategy.
- 2.3 This is a good time to review the strategy as organisations like the Em3 Local Enterprise Partnership are also reviewing their Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) and later in the year the Council will be submitting its own Local Plan, which will set the background to achieving prosperity over the next 20 years.
- 2.4 The national political and economic agenda would appear to look for each local area to step up and make their case for economic and business success from inward investment. Thus areas are in competition for resources to assist with helping their local businesses to be successful. The key areas for achieving success will be about taking advantage of the opportunities that are available and getting the right policy responses in place for planning, transport, housing and skills.

### **3.0 PROCESS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE BUSINESS STRATEGY**

- 3.1 A draft Business Strategy is set out at Appendix 1 for approval by Cabinet.
- 3.2 Following Cabinet approval of the draft strategy it is proposed to engage with the New Forest Business Partnership and other relevant partners. The Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Panel will have the opportunity to review the strategy before a final draft is agreed by Cabinet later this year.

### **4.0 CRIME AND DISORDER, ENVIRONMENTAL, EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 None arising directly from this report. The promotion of a healthy, vibrant economy is however a key factor that feeds into achieving this Council’s objectives for all the above implications.

## 5. LEADERS COMMENTS

- 5.1 The prosperity of the New Forest District relies on there being a successful business community. Within the New Forest we have over 8,000 businesses, some of which are global, but many are small or micro and it is important that we work with all of them and support them in the very competitive economic world. I believe this strategy maintains the commitment we made, in our manifesto, to the importance of successful business for the overall prosperity of our community.

## 6.0 RECOMMENDED:

- 6.1 That the draft Strategy for Business, attached as Appendix 1 to this report; be approved to form the basis for consultation with the New Forest Business Partnership and other relevant partners; prior to it being reviewed by the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Panel in the light of the responses received.

### For further information contact:

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Matt Callaghan, Business Support Officer  
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### Background Papers:

None

# NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

## Strategy for Business – “Helping local business grow”

### **Vision to be a business friendly and supportive Council**

Working collaboratively to create a sustainable local economy, a vibrant business and visitor destination with an unparalleled quality of life, where highly productive businesses create quality jobs for local people. New Forest District Council will be open for business to do business.

### **Strategic Focus**

Components that will drive the delivery of our vision:

#### Business

- Small and medium sized enterprise (SME) support programme
- Connecting local businesses with support and funding programmes
- Support for our local towns and villages
- A dedicated Council service

#### Skills

- Employer led skills - connecting businesses with training providers

#### Infrastructure

- Complete roll out of the Hampshire high speed broadband programme across the New Forest
- Capitalise on development opportunities to enhance economic growth in the District.

### **Our Objectives**

The Council's corporate plan has identified a priority of “Helping local business grow.” The objectives of this being:

- Local Jobs growth
- Providing for opportunities for young people to remain, live and work in the District
- Improved business productivity
- Increased visitor spend
- Business base growth and diversification

### **New Forest Strengths**

- An unrivalled quality of life in an outstanding natural environment; the District successfully thrives on the reputation of being a high quality location to work and live.

- Excellent location with good transport links to the national motorways, M3 corridor, rail networks, good connections to the international airports of Heathrow and Gatwick and close to Bournemouth and Southampton airports that also serve as gateways for business.
- The area is within easy reach of Southampton international freight port, which offers easy access to national and international markets.
- The business base includes multi-national companies and approximately 8,000 vibrant, diverse and responsible small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs)
- The National Park continues to act as a magnet.
- Within the New Forest there are exemplary educational establishments and links to both Southampton and Bournemouth Universities.

## **Supporting activity**

### **Business**

#### **Dedicated support of the New Forest Business Partnership**

Through the business partnership the Council provides support to our SMEs and larger employers through a yearly support and event programme. The partnership consists of representatives of all major business sectors and public bodies.

#### **Support for our towns and villages**

As a business friendly council, we will ensure that our main town and villages are clean, safe and accessible trading environments. Through the business partnership we will look to support the needs of all areas.

#### **Connecting local businesses with support and funding programmes**

We will help our businesses to remain located and to grow in the New Forest by connecting with local and national business support programmes and services provided by Hampshire County Council, Local Enterprise Partnerships and other business support partners.

#### **Destination New Forest**

The Council will further develop and promote the New Forest's unrivalled national and international visitor offer through innovative initiatives such as "Film New Forest" in partnership with Creative England. Continued support will be provided to the local tourism sector businesses, encouraging increased visitor spend.

### **Skills**

#### **Learning and Skills Centre**

We will work with partner organisations to develop learning and skills that equip local people either in work or seeking work to remain locally.



## **Employment and Training agreements**

We will ensure residential and commercial developments provide employment and training opportunities for local residents through S106 agreements.

## **Employer led skills**

We will work to ensure the voice of local business influences training provision to meet the needs of the local economy. This will be achieved by working with the business partnership.

## **Working apprenticeships**

We will help promote apprenticeships and assist young people to access employment opportunities, particularly within SME's who often find this more difficult.

## **Infrastructure**

### **Broadband delivery**

The Council is committed to improve access to High Speed Broadband in rural areas and will work proactively with Hampshire County Council and local businesses to improve access for more remote areas

### **Capitalise on development and regeneration opportunities to enhance economic growth**

We will take opportunities that encourage the delivery of land and property for commercial use for growing New Forest businesses with a focus on areas outside of the National Park.

### **Local Plan**

We will use the local planning process to help those who wish to work in the New Forest have affordable housing and employment opportunities locally.

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CABINET – 2 AUGUST 2017

PORTFOLIO: PLANNING AND  
TRANSPORTATION

## A31 IMPROVEMENTS - RINGWOOD

### 1.0 PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to approve a positive consultation response to Highways England in light of the proposals to improve the A31 at Ringwood between the A338/B3347 (Ringwood junction) and the B3081 (Verwood) junction.

### 2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Highways England are consulting on an option to improve the A31 at Ringwood between the A338/B3347 (Ringwood) junction and the B3081 (Verwood) junction with the consultation open from 23 June to 4 August 2017. A plan of the proposals can be seen at Appendix 1 of this report and the full scheme brochure produced by Highways England can be seen here: [https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/he/a31-ringwood-improvement/supporting\\_documents/S170097%20A31%20Ringwood%20consultation%20%20brochure.pdf](https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/he/a31-ringwood-improvement/supporting_documents/S170097%20A31%20Ringwood%20consultation%20%20brochure.pdf)
- 2.2 A public exhibition was held, as part of this consultation, over 2 days at Ringwood Town Council's office, at which District Council officers were present. The feedback received from the exhibition was generally positive with people keen to see improvements in the area.
- 2.3 The A31 is a critical route in maintaining the diverse economy of the New Forest. The route supports the significant incidence of cross commuting both into and out of the district as well as providing the single most important route onto the motorway network.
- 2.4 Surveys have also shown that around 70% of domestic day visitors to the New Forest each year are from Hampshire and 18% from Dorset. With around 85% of people using a car as their primary mode of transport a significant proportion of these visitors will be using this route.

### 3.0 PROPOSALS

- 3.1 Over the past year, Highways England have been looking at a number of options and assessing whether they met their objectives for this scheme.
- 3.2 The proposal being consulted upon contains a number of elements as outlined below:

#### Addition of a third lane on the A31

- 3.3 This extra lane would be westbound on the off-side, to the right of the existing carriageway, utilising part of the existing central reserve and will be approximately one kilometre (0.6 miles) in length.

- 3.4 This would relieve the existing bottleneck, where traffic slows down or comes to a stop on this section of the A31.
- 3.5 As part of the addition of a third lane there would be a need to widen the existing bridges crossing the River Avon and Bickerley Millstream. Surveys are currently being carried out on the bridges to assess their condition to inform the design.

#### Closure of West Street access to the A31

- 3.6 Highways England have identified that there is a safety issue where traffic joins the A31 from West Street. The difference in speed between joining traffic and traffic already travelling on the A31 leads to lane changing and weaving manoeuvres which in turn leads to nose to- tail 'shunt' type incidents.
- 3.7 To reduce the number of incidents at the junction, Highways England propose to close West Street where it meets the A31. They propose to provide space for vehicles to turn around at the end of West Street and traffic signs along approaching routes stating that there is no access to the A31 from West Street.
- 3.8 Traffic surveys undertaken by Highways England have shown that on a typical weekday, 84% of traffic using the West Street access to the A31 is using it as a short cut to avoid using the current bottleneck section of the A31. The remaining 16% is made up of people who stop in the town centre.
- 3.9 To improve safety, the proposal would also close the access and egress to and from the Fish Inn directly onto the A31. The access to the Fish Inn from West Street would remain open.
- 3.10 Highways England has indicated that, based on their funding arrangements, the works must commence by March 2020, although they anticipate a start in 2019 with an 18 month construction period.

## **4.0 CONSULTATION REPONSE**

- 4.1 The Council welcomes and supports the proposals put forward by Highways England and believe that these improvements to the A31 are very much needed and are essential for economic prosperity of the area. It is believed that the proposals will significantly improve the capacity of the junction and the closure of West Street will improve safety. It is therefore proposed that a positive response is made to Highways # England on the consultation and a draft letter is attached at Appendix 2.
- 4.2 It is worth noting that the transport modelling undertaken as part of the Local Plan preparation has indicated that implementation of these proposals will fully accommodate the anticipated traffic flows from new development.

## **5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no financial implications to this Council arising from this report. The estimated cost of the scheme is between £12-£13.5 million and is being fully funded by Highways England

## **6.0 CRIME AND DISORDER / EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY / ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 At times when traffic is heavily congested in Ringwood, between these junction points, then some traffic currently diverts from the A31 and on to the local roads in the New Forest. The improvements to enhance the capacity at this point should reduce the instances of this happening and therefore have positive environmental implications.
- 6.2 There are no Crime and Disorder or Equality and Diversity implications arising directly from this report.

## **7.0 COMMENTS OF PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION PORTFOLIO HOLDER**

- 7.1 The A31, between its Junction with the M27 at Cadnam and the County boundary west of Ringwood, is one of the key transport routes within the District. It is a major commuter route for residents working in the Bournemouth and Poole conurbations and provides access for goods travelling to the South West and overseas via Poole Port and Bournemouth Airport. Current congestion at the Junction with the A338 at Ringwood has an adverse impact on the local economy and the environment and the proposed improvements will seek to alleviate the problem. The District Council will continue to work with Highways England (who have responsibility for the A31) and Hampshire County Council (as the Highways Authority for the connecting network), along with Ringwood Town Council, to implement the improvements when agreed.

## **8.0 RECOMMENDED:**

- 8.1 Cabinet is recommended to approve that the letter of support, as set out at Appendix 2 to this report, is sent to Highways England for the improvements to the A31.

### **For further information contact:**

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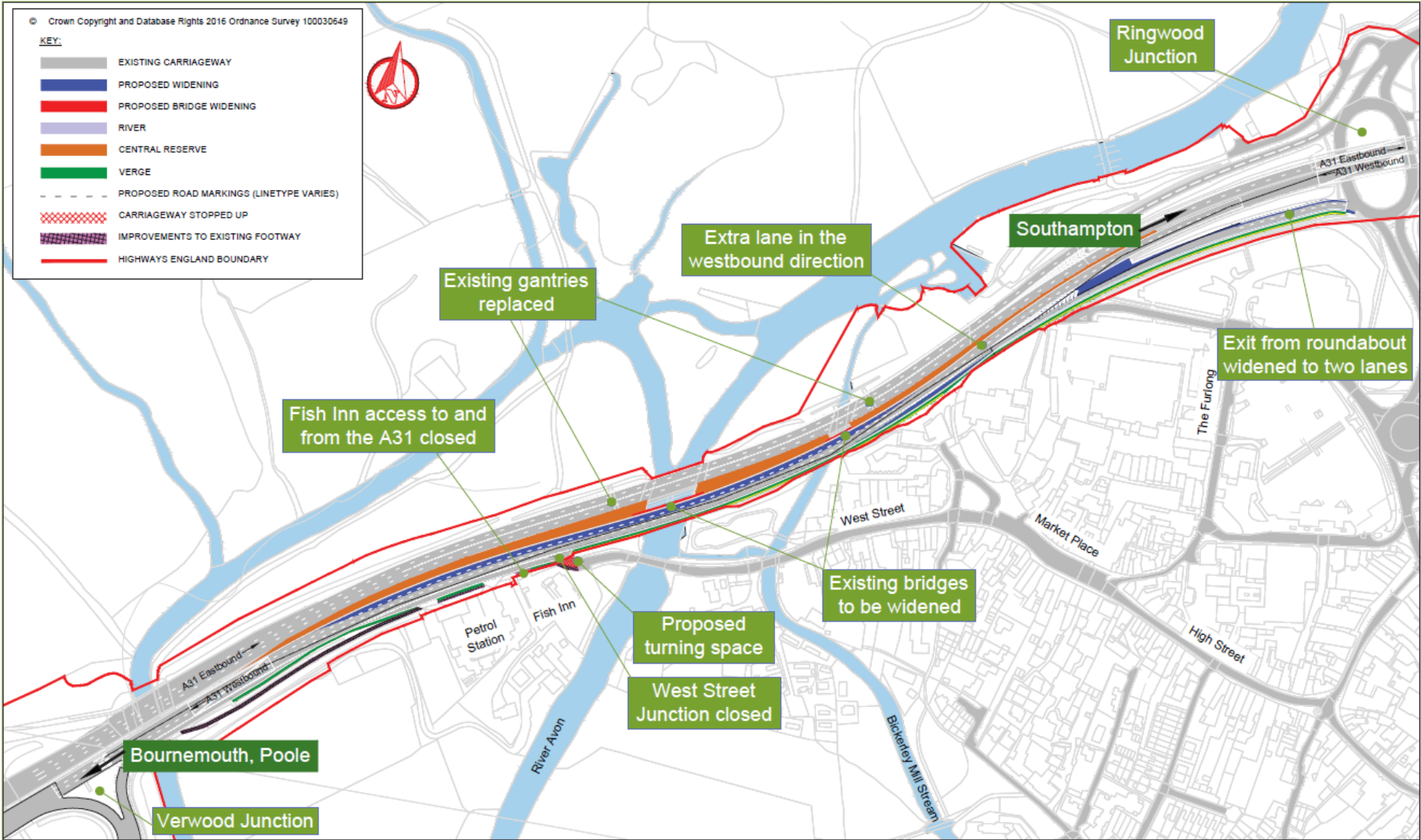
### **Background Papers:**

Published documents

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Highways England Proposals







**Consultation Response Letter**

**Chief Executive**

**Executive Head:** Bob Jackson

Highways England

My Ref:  
Your Ref:

Date: 02 August 2017

Dear Sirs

**Consultation on A31 - Ringwood**

Thank you for the opportunity to consult on the plans for increased capacity on the A31 together with junction improvement.

This section of the A31 connects western Hampshire, and is a highly traffic sensitive location for the New Forest, and the District Council fully supports the proposals for improvements by Highway England.

The A31 is a critical route in maintaining the diverse economy of the New Forest. The route supports the significant incidence of cross commuting both into and out of the district as well as providing the single most important route onto the motorway network.

Surveys have also shown that around 70% of domestic day visitors to the New Forest each year are from Hampshire and 18% from Dorset. With around 85% of people using a car as their primary mode of transport a significant proportion of these visitors will be using this route.

Based on the proposed level of housing that is likely to come forward over the course of the Local Plan period (to 2036) there will be an increase of traffic in the area. However, recent transport modelling undertaken by the Council to inform the evidence base for the Local Plan has concluded that if the proposed works by Highways England area carried out then they will be able to fully accommodate future traffic flows,.

The District Council hopes to work closely with Highways England to deliver these enhancements.

Yours faithfully

Bob Jackson  
Chief Executive  
Tel No: 028 8028 5588  
email: [bob.jackson@nfdc.gov.uk](mailto:bob.jackson@nfdc.gov.uk)

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## FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT (based on Performance to July 2017)

### 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report provides an update on the 2017/18 budget, adjusting for any initial budget changes required (on a Portfolio and Committee basis), including the addition of the rephased budgets from 2016/17.

### 2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The Council’s financial strategy of a continuous review of activities and services to identify opportunities for savings in expenditure alongside opportunities to generate income has been successful in addressing the significant reductions in government funding whilst at the same time maintaining key service levels. Budget monitoring reports form an important part of this process and support the ongoing development of the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP).

### 3. GENERAL FUND REVISED PROJECTION

3.1 A General Fund budget of **£16.587m** for 2017/18 was agreed by Council in February 2017.

3.2 Savings and additional income identified at this early stage total **£499,000**, offset by new requirements of **£567,000**; £150,000 of which is funded by an earmarked reserve. Rephasings into 2017/18 from 2016/17 total **£1.146m**, also funded by earmarked reserves set up in 2016/17. These changes result in an updated General Fund budget of **£16.505m**. The table below provides an overview of the variations and full details are provided in sections 3.3 to 3.5.

	Para.	Savings £'000	New Req. £'000	Rephasing £'000	Total £'000
<b>Original Budget April 2017/18</b>					<b>16,587</b>
Portfolio / Committee Items	3.3	-245	325	253	333
AMG / Asset Replacement	3.4	-254	80	496	322
Business Development / Third Party	3.5	0	162	397	559
		<b>-499</b>	<b>567</b>	<b>1,146</b>	<b>17,801</b>
Transfer from Earmarked Reserves			-150	-1,146	-1,296
<b>Updated Budget July 2017</b>					<b>16,505</b>

### 3.3 PORTFOLIO/COMMITTEE ITEMS

#### **Savings; £245k**

- £215k - Additional income from Development Control is expected to arise from ongoing application numbers, expected large site pre application enquiries and planning performance agreements (PDC)
- £ 30k – An ongoing underspend has been identified within the Health & Leisure Centre Utility Budgets (H&L)

#### **New Requirements; £325k (net £175k allowing for the transfer from the earmarked reserve)**

- £150k - On 3 May 2017 Cabinet approved the spending of the £976k Community Housing Fund Grant allocation received in 2106/17. An initial budget allocation of £150k is now identified for 2017/18 for staffing costs and anticipated grant applications. This expenditure will be financed from the earmarked reserve set up in 2016/17 (H&C)
- £100k - On 20 February 2017 Council approved resources of £100k for set up and management costs of the new Asset Investment Strategy (F&E)
- £ 75k - A reduction in the number of Land Search submissions has continued, resulting in an expected shortfall in income for the year of £75k (P&T)

#### **Rephasings; £253k**

Budgets rephased from 2016/17 and to be met from earmarked reserves are as follows:

- £200k - Kerbside Glass (ENV)
- £ 30k - Parking Business Rates (P&T)
- £ 23k - Text Reward Service (ENV)

### 3.4 ASSET MAINTENANCE & REPLACEMENT

#### **Savings; £254k**

A review of the programme taking into account the level of rephasings from 2016/17 has resulted in the following savings being identified;

- £145k - Health & Leisure Centres (H&L)
- £ 22k - Offices & Depots (F&E)
- £ 32k - Foreshores (ENV)
- £ 55k - CCTV (H&C)

#### **New Requirements; £80k**

- £80k - The Boilers at Lymington Town Hall have failed and are now in urgent need of replacement (F&E)

### Rephasings; £496k

Budgets rephased from 2016/17 and to be met from earmarked reserves are as follows:

- £301k - Health & Leisure Centres (H&L)
- £165k - Parking (P&T)
- £ 24k - Foreshores & Open Spaces (ENV)
- £ 6k - Offices & Depots (F&E)

## 3.5 BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT/THIRD PARTY GRANTS

### New Requirements; £162k

- £162k – In line with the recommendation made at the meeting of Cabinet on 05/07/17, the additional spend on the Ringwood Health & Leisure Centre Gym and Spin Studio enhancement project is now being added to the budget (offset by the H&L savings identified in 3.3 and 3.4 above).

### Rephasings; £397k

Budgets rephased from 2016/17 and to be met from earmarked reserves are as follows:

- £329k - Public Conveniences (ENV)
- £ 68k - Community Grants (H&L)

## 4. CAPITAL EXPENDITURE (General Fund and Housing Revenue Account)

- 4.1 The Capital Programme agreed in February amounted to **£21.266m**. This is now increased to a revised capital budget of **£23.002m** to reflect net budget reductions of **£156,000** and rephasings of schemes from 2016/17 (**£1.892m**).

	Savings £'000 Para 4.2	New Req. £'000 Para 4.3	Rephasing £'000 Para 4.4	Total £'000
<b>Original Budget April 2017/18</b>				<b>21,266</b>
Public Sector Housing	-150		74	-76
Other Services (General Fund)	-214	208	1,818	1,812
<b>Updated Budget July 2017</b>	<b>-364</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>1,892</b>	<b>23,002</b>

#### 4.2 Savings; £364,000

- £150k – The Older Persons Scheme Alterations budget can be reduced by £150,000 as a result of recently received tender prices from our first project of this nature
- £214k – A review of Transportation schemes has resulted in a reduction to the 2017/18 programme.

#### 4.3 New Requirements; £208,000

- £208k – A review of Open Space schemes has resulted in an increase to the 2017/18 programme.

#### 4.3 Rephasings; £1.892m

Net capital schemes rephased from 2016/17 to 2017/18 totalled £1.892 million (detailed below).

	£'000	£'000
<b>Public Sector Housing:</b>		
· Compton & Sarum New Build		74
<b>Environment:</b>		
· Procurement of Cemeteries Land	38	
· Beach Hut & Environmental Enhancements	500	
· Coast Protection Schemes	53	
<b>Finance &amp; Efficiency:</b>		
· Vehicle & Plant Acquisitions	268	
<b>Health &amp; Leisure:</b>		
· Eling Experience	883	
<b>Private Sector Housing:</b>		
· Disabled Facilities Grants	71	
<b>Planning &amp; Transportation:</b>		
· Open Space Works	-3	
· Transportation Works	8	1,818
<b>TOTAL REPHASINGS BETWEEN 2016/17 AND 2017/18</b>		<b>1,892</b>

## 5. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

- 5.1 A break-even HRA budget for 2017/18 was agreed in February 2017. No budget adjustments have been identified in the initial quarter of the year.

**6. CRIME AND DISORDER / EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 There are no Crime & Disorder, Equality & Diversity or Environmental implications arising directly from this report.

**7. PORTFOLIO HOLDER COMMENTS**

7.1 At this early stage of the budget I am pleased to see that remain on target.

**8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 It is recommended that Cabinet notes the latest budget forecasts of the General Fund (para 3.2), Capital (para 4.1) and HRA (para 5.1) and recommends Council approve the new budget requirement in need of approval at paragraph 3.4.

**For Further Information Please Contact:**

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CABINET – 2 AUGUST 2017

PORTFOLIO: FINANCE  
AND EFFICIENCY/ALL

## “SERVING HAMPSHIRE – BALANCING THE BUDGET” - RESPONSE TO HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S CONSULTATION

### 1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To acknowledge that the County Council is undertaking a significant public consultation to guide it through a process that will likely result in changes to the existing provision of local government services.
- 1.2 To help with a wider awareness of and increased participation in Hampshire County Council's budget consultation process.
- 1.3 To confirm the Council's response to the County Council's budget consultation.

### 2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The County Council is undertaking a public consultation on its budget – “*Serving Hampshire – Balancing the Budget*”. The closure date for responses is 21 August 2017.
- 2.2 The County Council anticipates it will face a budget shortfall of £140 million by April 2019, on top of the £340 million savings already delivered over the last nine years. This is due to ongoing national austerity measures; increases in demand for some services; reflecting demographic changes and inflationary pressures.
- 2.3 Through this public consultation, the County Council is seeking residents' and stakeholders' views on a range of options for balancing its budget. These include:
  - reducing and changing services;
  - introducing and increasing charges for some services;
  - lobbying central Government for legislative change;
  - generating additional income;
  - using the County Council's reserves;
  - increasing Council Tax; and
  - changing local government arrangements in Hampshire.
- 2.4 The County Council's consultation sets out all possible options for making savings, regardless of its policy position. At this stage, the County Council is setting out high-level, strategic options, and is not proposing specific changes to services. Any proposals will be informed by feedback from this consultation and subject to further, more detailed, public engagement. Therefore, only examples of potential service changes have been provided.

- 2.5 A detailed Information Pack, providing important background information about the consultation, is available on the County Council's website.:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/balancingthebudget>

Residents and stakeholders are invited to respond to the consultation online.

- 2.6 Alternatively, paper copies of the Information Pack and Response Form can be requested by emailing [insight@hants.gov.uk](mailto:insight@hants.gov.uk) and will be available from Hampshire libraries.

### **3.0 RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION**

- 3.1 The Council acknowledges the difficult financial position faced by the County Council and others in local government at this time.

3.2 It is noted that this stage of the County Council's budget consultation is very high level. It is not therefore possible to comment on the likely impact on specific areas of our community as they are not known. However, when the County Council is proposing to make specific changes to services it is requested that the views and knowledge of local people, including the district council, are sought prior to any formal decisions being taken.

3.3 From an operational perspective the Council is keen to explore the opportunities to work in partnership with the County Council in order to explore where tangible benefits to both local authorities can be delivered, including in areas that may generate new sources of income.

### **4.0 CRIME AND DISORDER, ENVIRONMENTAL, EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS.**

- 4.1 None arising directly from this report. In the longer term the County Council's decisions may have implications for this District.

### **5.0 PORTFOLIO HOLDER'S COMMENTS**

- 5.1 We accept the difficulties facing local government finances and would encourage local residents to respond to this high level consultation.

### **6.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 6.1 That the Cabinet approves the response to be made to Hampshire County Council's high level budget consultation – "*Serving Hampshire – Balancing the Budget*", as set out in Section 3 of this report.

**For further information contact:**

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**Background Papers:**

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