

REPORT OF CABINET

(Meeting held on 6 November 2019)

1. HYTHE AND DIBDEN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REFERENDUM (MINUTE NO 40)

The Leader of the Council informed Members of the outcome of the first referendum on a Neighbourhood Plan within the New Forest District, which took place in Hythe and Dibden Parish on 29 October 2019.

The plan was prepared by Hythe and Dibden Parish Council and had been the subject of an Examination by an independent planning inspector.

At the referendum, the voters were asked:

“Do you want New Forest District Council and New Forest National Park Authority to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Hythe and Dibden to help it decide planning applications in the Neighbourhood Area?”

85% of voters answered “yes” to the question. The turnout was 14.6%.

Having achieved majority support at the referendum, the Neighbourhood Plan will come into force as part of the statutory development plan for the area and is a material consideration in planning decisions within the Parish.

The Council will now proceed to formally adopt the plan when receiving the report of Cabinet from the meeting held on 4 December 2019.

2. THE CORPORATE PLAN 2020-24 – ‘COMMUNITY MATTERS’ (CONSULTATION DRAFT (MINUTE NO 41)

The Cabinet approved the draft corporate plan for consultation, which identifies the strategic and service objectives to help the Council work towards the same values, visions and priorities.

The ‘Community Matters’ theme of the Corporate Plan focuses on the challenges faced and it is these that have shaped the commitments and priorities within the plan.

Cabinet heard from all Portfolio Holders on their highlights within their various areas of responsibility.

3. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2019 ONWARDS (MINUTE NO 42)

The Cabinet, having approved the emerging draft Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP), are recommending that authority is given to the S151 Officer in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Investment and Corporate Services, to make pre-payments of employer contributions to the Pension Fund.

Cabinet noted the clarity arising from the one year funding settlement but would continue to be cautious beyond this, particularly in respect of the investment returns seen within the pension fund which were always subject to any wider changes in the global economy.

RECOMMENDED:

That delegated authority is given to the S151 Officer in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Investment and Corporate Services, to make pre-payments of employer contributions to the Pension Fund.

4. COMPULSORY PURCHASE AND OVERRIDING EASEMENTS POLICY

The Cabinet, having considered the responses received to the consultation on the draft Compulsory Purchase and Overriding Easements Policy, is recommending that the Council adopt the policy, subject to minor amendments.

Overall, the response to the consultation was positive. To address the concerns regarding the profit to both the Council and future developers, the revised policy for adoption clarifies that any disposal of land must comply with the Local Government Act 1972 Regulation 123, which requires local authorities to dispose of land for the 'best consideration reasonably obtainable.'

The Cabinet noted that it was hoped that discussions with developers would bring about positive conclusions without the use of these powers, but the policy was an important tool that the Council could use if absolutely necessary.

RECOMMENDED:

That the draft Compulsory Purchase and Overriding Easements Policy is adopted, subject to a minor amendment to the bullet points in paragraph 6.1, as set out in Annex A of Report 6 to the Cabinet Agenda.

**COUNCILLOR B RICKMAN
CHAIRMAN**