

REPORT OF CABINET

(Meeting held on 1 July 2020)

1. RESPONSE TO CORONAVIRUS – COVID-19 – UPDATE (MINUTE NO 93)

The Cabinet would remind all councillors of the need to stay alert in light of recent local lockdown measures introduced in other areas of the country. A COVID-19 incident control outbreak plan is being prepared in collaboration with local partners, which will be shared with councillors in due course.

The following Portfolio Holders gave a general update on the latest progress in relation to the Council's response to the Coronavirus – COVID-19 pandemic:-

- Cllr Jill Cleary – Housing Services
- Cllr Alison Hoare – Environment and Regulatory Services
- Cllr Edward Heron – Planning and Infrastructure

A copy of the presentation slides from this item are attached to the minutes of the Cabinet meeting.

2. COVID-19 RECOVERY – REPORT FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (MINUTE NO 94)

The Leader of the Council reported briefly on the work of the first meetings of the Council's four recovery Task and Finish Groups, engaging a total of 41 councillors on a range of key subjects. Whilst there were recommendations arising from the Finance and Resources, and Council Services Groups, the following Portfolio Holders reported on the work generally underway within their areas of responsibility:-

- Cllr Jeremy Heron – Finance, Investment and Corporate Services
- Cllr Diane Andrews – Community Affairs
- Cllr Mark Steele – Leisure and Wellbeing
- Cllr Michael Harris – Economic Development

3. COVID-19 RECOVERY – FINANCE AND RESOURCES (MINUTE NO 95)

The Cabinet, having considered the recommendations from the COVID-19 RECOVERY – Finance and Resources Task and Finish Group, approved a list of initial actions necessary now ahead of the preparation of a re-drawing of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan, including an Emergency Budget for 2020/21. The list of actions includes cost control and budget review measures, and with regard to Council Services, that the re-opening of Health and Leisure Centres is managed in way which avoids further increases in net costs beyond those currently being incurred as a result of COVID-19.

In supporting councillors with the increased reliance on technology and virtual meetings, the Cabinet also approved the utilisation of up to £80,000 from the existing £500,000 Smarter Working budget to provide for the use of standard ICT equipment to be rolled out where necessary, ensuring there is equal opportunity for all councillors to engage with the democratic process.

4. COVID-19 RECOVERY – HEALTH AND LEISURE (MINUTE NO 96)

The Cabinet, having considered the recommendations from the COVID-19 RECOVERY – Council Services Task and Finish Group, approved the re-opening of the Council's Health and Leisure Centres on a phased basis, when government

guidance allows. This is likely to include a phased approach to both centres an activities, with gym and group exercises ahead of Swim Academy.

Furthermore, the Cabinet approved that in respect of the revised Government National Furlough Scheme, that all New Forest District Council staff who have been placed on Furlough, will be aligned to the national scheme from 1 August 2020 to 31 October 2020.

5. ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AND PROVISIONAL BUDGET OUTTURN 2019/20 (MINUTE NO 97)

The Cabinet noted a range of updates arising from the Annual Performance and Provisional Budget Outturn.

Cabinet would like to thank all four of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Panels for their detailed consideration of the report prior to Cabinet.

6. UPDATE TO THE STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (MINUTE NO 98)

On the basis that the Council at this meeting of 6 July 2020 adopt the Local Plan 2016-2036 Part One: Planning Strategy, the Cabinet agreed to launch a six week consultation on the proposed amendments to the Statement of Community Involvement, as at Appendix 1 to Cabinet Report 7 of the Cabinet Agenda.

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires the Council to have a Statement of Community Involvement, which sets out the consultation and engagement methods that the Council will use to involved interested residents, groups, organisations, businesses and other representatives in the planning process.

The outcome of the consultation will be reported back to the Cabinet in due course.

7. BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN (MINUTE NO 99)

On the basis that the Council at this meeting of 6 July 2020 adopt the Local Plan 2016-2036 Part One: Planning Strategy, the Cabinet agreed to introduce a requirement for 10% Biodiversity Net Gain to all planning permissions granted on or after 7 July 2020. The requirement will apply to all new build developments, except householder applications.

The types of measures that can be secured as part of development, to enhance biodiversity include, but are not limited to, creating areas of new habitat such as woodland, scrubland, coarse grassland or ponds in landscaped areas or public open space, providing street trees, green roofs and green walls and planting of native wildflower meadows attractive to pollinators.

The Cabinet would like to emphasise that these requirements do not retract from those within the Local Plan, and are in fact in addition to these requirements.

8. RE-APPRAISAL OF RECREATION MITIGATION PROJECTS – FAWLEY (MINUTE NO 100)

Having considered the implications of the alternative site for off-lead dog exercise and activity area at the land west of Gang Warily, Fawley, the Cabinet agreed to the revised recreation mitigation project for this area, replacing both projects FA1 and FA3 as outlined in Cabinet Report 9 of the Cabinet Agenda.

**COUNCILLOR B RICKMAN
CHAIRMAN**