

REPORT OF CABINET

(Meeting held on 2 September 2020)

1. COVID-19 RECOVERY – REPORT FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (MINUTE NO 114)

The Cabinet are pleased to announce, as part of the recommended Emergency Budget, an increase in the Councillors Community Engagement Grant budget to £1,000 (currently £600) for one year only, to enable each councillor to provide specific support to those within their own local community that would gain most help from this.

Furthermore, the Cabinet is also pleased to confirm that the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Infrastructure has committed £15,000 of funding to support Hythe Ferry, to help maintain this much valued local service.

Cabinet welcome the positive update on the phased reopening of leisure centres, including comments from both staff and customers on the success of making the facilities “COVID secure.”

2. EMERGENCY BUDGET 2020/21 AND UPDATED MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2020/21 – 2023/24 (MINUTE NO 115)

The Cabinet, having considered the ongoing work and recommendations from the COVID-19 RECOVERY – Finance and Resources Task and Finish Group, is recommending to Council.

The Cabinet would like to thank all Members and Officers who contributed towards the development of such an Emergency Budget following the extraordinary challenges presented by COVID-19.

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) *That the 2020/21 Revised General Fund Budget totalling £20.117m as outlined within the report and Appendix 1 be approved;*
- (b) *That the revised MTFP: 2021/22 onwards, as outlined in the report and Appendix 2-4 be adopted;*
- (c) *That the Revised General Fund Capital Programme of £13.414m as set out in Appendix 5 be approved;*
- (d) *That the Actions Required as set out in the report, be progressed; and*
- (e) *That the reporting timeline as set out in section 10 be agreed.*

3. PARTNERSHIP FOR SOUTH HAMPSHIRE STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND (MINUTE NO 116)

The Cabinet approved the actions and budget requirements to enable work to prepare a Statement of Common Ground for the strategic planning of southern Hampshire, which replaced the partnership for Urban South Hampshire.

Whilst the potential risks of engaging in this partnership are noted, these are outweighed by the benefits to the District and residents from a wider strategic approach to spatial planning policy within the South Hampshire area.

4. CHANGES TO THE CURRENT PLANNING SYSTEM CONSULTATION (MINUTE NO 117)

The Cabinet noted the key elements and implications of the Government consultation on changes to the current planning system, and delegated authority to the Chief Planning Officer to respond, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Infrastructure.

The Cabinet note the concerns raised particularly with regard to affordable housing requirements and welcome the Portfolio Holder's and Chief Planning Officer's commitment to address this as part of the consultation response.

The "Planning for the Future" white paper will be the subject of a future report to Cabinet.

5. VISION FOR THE WATERSIDE (MINUTE NO 118)

The Cabinet endorsed the Vision for the Waterside document, subject to the amendments outlined in Report 8 to the Cabinet Agenda, particularly in relation to graduate retention and investment in arts, culture and heritage.

Authority was delegated to the Chief Planning Officer to make minor amendments to the document in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Infrastructure, in response to any further amendments resulting from the County Council and National Park Authority decision making processes.

The Cabinet welcome this document as a starting point for the aspirations for the Waterside, which will no doubt be followed by supplementary planning documents as plans develop for the area.

6. ELECTORAL REVIEW OF NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL – DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS – CONSULTATION RESPONSE (MINUTE NO 119)

The Cabinet, having considered the work of the Electoral Review of the District Council Task and Finish Group, is recommending to Council. This was supported by both a series of workshops throughout 2019 and 2020 and a questionnaire exercise for all councillors.

Whilst it is noted that the draft recommendations do not please all councillors, the Cabinet considers the consultation response to be sound.

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) That the "Electoral Review – LGBCE Draft Recommendations – Consultation Response" (Appendix 1 to Cabinet Report 9 of the Cabinet Agenda) be approved and submitted to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England as the Council's official response to the LGBCE consultation; and***
- (b) Authority be delegated to the Executive Head of Governance and Housing, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to make further editing changes, corrections and updates to the document prior to submission.***

**COUNCILLOR B RICKMAN
CHAIRMAN**