

REPORT OF CABINET

(Meeting held on 5 October 2016)

1. LEADER'S STATEMENT (MINUTE 24)

Together with 5 other District Councils in Hampshire, this Council has commissioned Price Waterhouse Cooper to undertake an independent and detailed analysis of options for the delivery of services to people and communities. This is in response to the consultations undertaken by the 3 unitary authorities around the Solent and Hampshire County Council with respect to devolution.

It is also understood that the Government's Autumn Statement is due on 23 November 2016. The Leader has therefore asked for both of these items to be included on the agenda for the meeting of the Cabinet on 7 December 2016. Consideration is also being given to the best way of sharing this information with members and the wider community. Current thinking is that a detailed briefing session, open to all members, the public and media, will be held prior to the December meeting of the Cabinet.

2. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2016 ONWARDS (MINUTE 25)

Following consideration of the Medium Term Financial Plan in July (minute 14 refers), the Government's offer of guaranteed funding levels to 2019/2020 has been accepted and, as required, the Council's Efficiency Plan will be published on the website by 14 October 2016. This will give increased certainty for the Council's financial planning up to 2019/20.

A key issue for the future will be the redistribution formula that will be used with respect to business rates, and the degree to which local authorities retain the sums collected. In this District the Council retains only a small proportion of the Business Rates collected. It is understood that, by the end of this parliament, local government will not receive any government grant but will be 100% funded by business rates, with the change being fiscally neutral over the medium term.

The Local Government Finance Settlement Technical Consultation Paper for 2017/18 was published in September and a summary of the key points is set out in Section 3 of the report.

In summary, the anticipated reduction in grant funding over the next 3 years is £3.051 million, a 37% reduction from 2016/17. Increasing Council Tax in line with the thresholds allowed by Government would reduce the deficit to £1.898 million (a 10% reduction in the Council's funding). A breakdown of the funding assumptions is set out in Appendix 1 to the report. A summary of estimated budget movements is set out in Appendix 2 to the report. The financial projections are based on the working assumption that the Council will increase Council Tax in line with Government limits. Council tax will however be set at the appropriate time.

The budget stabilisation process is continuing and other reviews are underway to achieve further savings. The Cabinet is satisfied that, by continuing to undertake efficiency reviews and to seek savings, the Council is remaining in a strong financial position, responding to financial constraints, while maintaining healthy balances to allow flexibility for investment to achieve greater efficiencies. The emphasis remains on protecting the delivery of front line services.

Resource plans have been produced for each portfolio, as attached as Appendices 3-8 of the report.

The asset maintenance and replacement programme to 2018/19 will be partly funded from reserves but will be mostly revenue funded. The programme of work is being developed to remain within the financial parameters that have been agreed, and the summary programme will be reported to the Cabinet as part of the next Medium Term Financial Plan report.

RECOMMENDED:

That the actions and the development of plans for options to support the Medium Term Financial Plan, as set out in Report Item 4 considered by the Cabinet, be supported.

3. ASSESSMENT OF BRING BANKS IN THE DISTRICT (MINUTE 26)

The Cabinet has reviewed the coverage of recycling bring banks across the District. Following the district-wide introduction of the kerbside collection of materials, including glass, the demand and need for bring sites has reduced over recent years. Currently the public has access to 106 public bring sites, in a variety of types of location. These collect dry mixed recyclable materials (paper, card, plastic bottles, metal tins/cans, and glass bottles/jars). A map of the sites is attached as Appendix 1 to the report considered by the Cabinet.

Following the introduction of the kerbside collection of glass, some 65% of glass for recycling is now collected directly from properties. A review has established that there is spare capacity in the vehicles used for the kerbside collection of both dry mixed recyclables and glass. In addition the markets are changing, for example with the reduction in printed media such as newspapers and magazines leading to reduced tonnages being collected and the closure of 2 UK based paper re-processors in the last year.

It is proposed to reduce the number of bring sites from 106 to around 20 through a phased approach, with considerable publicity over the coming winter to advise the public of the impending changes. The proposed 20 sites, which are those identified as satisfying the highest demand, including during the peak Christmas/New Year period, are set out in the plan attached as Appendix 2 to the report. Some additional sites, located at business premises where the public also have access, could also continue through the trade waste and recycling collection service. The Cabinet is satisfied that this proposal is a logical outcome from the successful introduction of the kerbside collection of materials, which is proving increasingly popular with local residents. The data collected demonstrates that kerbside collection is strongly supported in rural communities, where access to bring sites is more limited. Residents without cars also favour the kerbside collection service.

One specific issue that will need to be the focus of publicity is that, in future, shredded paper will need to be disposed of through the black sacks and sent for energy recovery, or composted at home. The Materials Recycling Facilities cannot handle shredded paper and consequently the kerbside collection service will not be able to offer this service.

The opportunity will be taken to explore the collection of additional materials through the remaining bring banks, such as the collection of waste electrical and electronic equipment. It is proposed that a trial collection will be introduced at identified bring sites. In addition, there are privately operated textile banks at many bring sites and it would be opportune to review their future operation. The Cabinet has supported the appointment of a working group to look at this issue.

It is projected that, by reallocating vehicle resources, it will be possible to dispense with one collection vehicle and the associated crew. This can be achieved without redundancies. Overall, it is anticipated that the proposal will achieve savings of £143,000, with the full breakdown set out in paragraph 5.5 of Report item 5 considered by the Cabinet.

4. DELEGATION OF POWERS TO OFFICERS (MINUTE 27)

The Cabinet considered revisions to the Scheme of Delegation of Powers to Officers to take account of the recent significant changes to the staffing structure.

RESOLVED:

That the updated scheme of delegation of powers to the officers that are the responsibility of the Cabinet, as attached to the minutes of the Cabinet, be agreed.

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) *That the updated scheme of delegation of powers to the officers, that are not the responsibility of the Cabinet, as attached to the minutes of the Cabinet, be agreed; and*
- (b) *That the following additional Proper Officer appointment be made:*

*Public Health
(Control of Disease)
Act 1984, s48 as
amended by Health
and Social Care Act
2008*

*To seek an Order from a
Justice of the Peace for
removal of a body to a
mortuary and burial
within a prescribed time
or immediately*

*A Consultant in
Communicable
Disease Control or
Health Protection
employed by
Public Health
England South
East*

**Councillor B Rickman
CHAIRMAN**