

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Cabinet held in the Lower Hall, Icknield Centre,
Icknield Way, Letchworth Garden City
on Tuesday, 13th June, 2017 at 7.30 pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Julian Cunningham (Vice-Chairman) and Michael Weeks.

2 MINUTES - 28 MARCH 2017

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 28 March 2017 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

In response a Member's question in respect of progress with the acquisition of 14/15 Brand Street in connection with the North Hertfordshire Museum project (Minutes 128 and 129 refer), the Chief Executive stated that, pursuant to the Cabinet meeting on 28 March 2017, legal documentation regarding the conveyance of the property had been prepared and sent to Hitchin Town Hall Limited and Hitchin Town Hall Finance Limited. The matter was currently with their solicitors, but despite regularly chasing, progress appeared slow. The Council would continue to push for the legal documentation to be signed and the Chief Executive would keep Cabinet Members updated with progress.

3 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was no notification of other business.

4 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) The Chairman announced that Members of the public and the press may use their devices to film/photograph, or do a sound recording of the meeting, but she asked them to not use flash and to disable any beeps or other sound notifications that emitted from their devices. In addition, the Chairman had arranged for the sound at this particular meeting to be recorded;
- (2) The Chairman reminded Members that, in line with the Code of Conduct, any Declarations of Interest needed to be declared immediately prior to the item in question;
- (3) The Chairman asked that, for the benefit of any members of the public present at the meeting, Officers announce their name and their designation to the meeting when invited to speak.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

6 ITEM REFERRED FROM FINANCE, AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE: 12 JUNE 2017 - RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE AND ANNUAL REPORT ON RISK MANAGEMENT

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the reduction in the score for the "Increased Homelessness and use of B & B" risk from a 7 to a 5 be approved;
- (2) That the reduction in the score for the "Office Accommodation" risk from a 7 to a 5 be approved;
- (3) That a reduction in the likelihood score for the "Sale of Materials" sub-risk to a 2 – Medium – be approved; and

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RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL: That the Annual Report on Risk and Opportunities Management 2016/17, as set out at Appendix B to the report, and as amended, be approved.

REASON FOR DECISION: To comply with the requirements of the Risk and Opportunities Management Strategy.

7 STRATEGIC PLANNING MATTERS

RESOLVED: That the report on Strategic Planning Matters be noted.

REASON FOR DECISION: To keep the Cabinet informed of recent developments on strategic planning matters and progress on the North Hertfordshire Local Plan.

8 REVENUE BUDGET OUTTURN 2016/17

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the contents of the report be noted;
- (2) That a decrease of £1.294million in the 2016/17 General Fund expenditure, as identified in Table 2 and Paragraph 8.1 of the report, to a total of £15.974million, be approved;
- (3) That the requested changes to the 2017/18 General Fund budget, as identified in Table 2 and Paragraph 8.2 of the report, of a £227,000 increase in net expenditure and the total carry forward into 2017/18 of budgets from 2016/17 of £642,000, be approved; and

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL: That the net transfer to earmarked reserves of £4,000, as identified in Table 6 and Paragraph 8.14 of the report, be approved.

REASON FOR DECISION: To monitor and request appropriate action of Services who do not meet the budget targets set as part of the Corporate Business Planning process; and to ensure that changes to the Council's balances are monitored and approved.

9 ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW 2016/17

RESOLVED: That the position of Treasury Management activity as at the end of March 2017 be noted.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

- (1) That the actual 2016/17 prudential and treasury indicators be approved; and
- (2) That the Annual Treasury Management Report for 2016/17 be noted.

REASON FOR DECISION: To ensure the Council's continued compliance with CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management and the Local Government Act 2003 and that the Council manages its exposure to interest and capital risk.

10 CAPITAL PROGRAMME OUTTURN 2016/17

RESOLVED:

- (1) That expenditure of £5.686million in 2016/17 on the Capital Programme (Paragraph 8.2 refers), and in particular the changes detailed in Table 3 which resulted in a net decrease on the working estimate of £0.190million, be noted;
- (2) That the changes to the Capital Programme for 2017/18 and onwards as a result of the revised timetable of schemes detailed in Table 2, increasing the estimated spend in 2017/18 by £3.354million and 2019/20 by £0.200million (re-profiled from 2016/17), be approved;
- (3) That the position of the availability of Capital resources, as detailed in Table 4, Paragraph 8.6, and the requirement to keep the Capital Programme under review for affordability, be noted; and

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- (4) That the application of £2.328million of Capital receipts towards the 2016/17 Capital Programme, and the drawdown of £2.185million from set aside receipts, as referred to in Paragraph 8.6 of the report, be approved.

REASON FOR DECISION: To approve revisions to the Capital Programme; and to ensure that the Capital Programme is fully funded.

11 CORPORATE OBJECTIVES FOR 2018-2023

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL: That the following Corporate Objectives be continued for 2018 to 2023:

1. To work with our partners to provide an attractive and safe environment for our residents, where diversity is welcomed and the disadvantaged are supported:
2. To promote sustainable growth within our district to ensure economic and social opportunities exist for our communities, whilst remaining mindful of our cultural and physical heritage; and
3. To ensure that the Council delivers cost effective and necessary services to our residents that are responsive to developing need and financial constraints.

REASON FOR DECISION: To allow Cabinet and Council to review the Corporate Objectives which will guide the Corporate Business Planning process for 2018/19 through to 2023.

12 FUTURE SUPPORT AND FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS RE: CO-ORDINATION OF TOWN CENTRE INITIATIVES AND COMMUNITY EVENTS WITHIN BALDOCK

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the funding previously allocated to Baldock Town Partnership be withdrawn, as they have failed to provide appropriate accounts and information requested to support on-going provision of public money;
- (2) That funding be provided to the newly formed Baldock Community Forum CIC on a contractual basis to assist the revival, co-ordination and delivery of future town centre initiatives within the Baldock and District area;
- (3) That it be noted that the Chairman of the newly formed BCF is currently a serving Councillor, and that his action in making a personal deposit of £2,000 to help with start-up costs results in a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, in relation to which he has sought appropriate advice from the Monitoring Officer; and
- (4) That funding be provided on the basis that it must all be used to support the community events and should the Chairman of BCF be seeking reimbursement of the personal deposit, it shall not be made from the Council's grant.

REASON FOR DECISION: To ensure that community events & initiatives within Baldock and the surrounding area are maintained and enhanced to help secure and sustain town centre vibrancy and community cohesion.