

CABINET

Meeting held on Tuesday, 10th August, 2021 at the Council Offices, Farnborough at 7.00 pm.

Voting Members

Cllr D.E. Clifford, Leader of the Council

Cllr Marina Munro, Planning and Economy Portfolio Holder
Cllr A.R. Newell, Democracy, Strategy and Partnerships Portfolio Holder
Cllr M.L. Sheehan, Operational Services Portfolio Holder
Cllr P.G. Taylor, Corporate Services Portfolio Holder
Cllr M.J. Tennant, Major Projects and Property Portfolio Holder

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Cllr K.H. Muschamp.

The Cabinet considered the following matters at the above-mentioned meeting. All executive decisions of the Cabinet shall become effective, subject to the call-in procedure, from **23rd August, 2021**.

20. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –**

Having regard to the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors, Cllr P.G. Taylor notified the Cabinet that he would be making a declaration in respect of Minute No. 25.

21. **MINUTES –**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 28th July, 2021 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

22. **BUSINESS RATES - DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF APPLICATIONS –** (Cllr Paul Taylor, Corporate Services Portfolio Holder)

The Cabinet considered Report No. FIN2112, which set out details of applications for rate relief from nDreams Limited (Spectrum Point, No. 279 Farnborough Road, Farnborough) and Mr Hardik Sorathiya (Aldershot Post Office, Nos. 63-68 Wellington Street, Aldershot).

The Cabinet RESOLVED that

- (i) 50% discretionary relief be awarded to nDreams Limited for a period of one year; and
- (ii) 34% discretionary relief be awarded to Mr Hardik Sorathiya from 21st July, 2021 to 31st March, 2022.

23. **COUNCIL BUSINESS PLAN QUARTERLY UPDATE APRIL - JUNE 2021/22 –**
(Cllr Adrian Newell, Democracy, Strategy and Partnerships Portfolio Holder)

The Cabinet received Report No. ACE2105, which set out progress in delivering the Council Business Plan projects during the first quarter of 2021/22. Members were informed that progress against eighteen key projects was included in the Report, along with the Council's business performance monitoring information and the Council's Corporate Risk Register. It was reported that good progress was being made against an ambitious programme of work, taking account of the impact of the current pandemic and ongoing resource constraints.

The Cabinet NOTED the progress made towards delivering the Council Business Plan, as set out in Report No. ACE2105, and the risks identified within the Corporate Risk Register in July, 2021.

24. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC –**

RESOLVED: That, taking into account the public interest test, the public be excluded from the meeting during the discussion of the under mentioned item to avoid the disclosure of exempt information within the paragraph of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972 indicated against the item:

Minute No.	Schedule 12A Para. No.	Category
25	3	Information relating to financial or business affairs

**THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS CONSIDERED
IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC**

25. **REGENERATION PROGRAMME - POTENTIAL ACQUISITIONS IN FARNBOROUGH TOWN CENTRE –**
(Cllr Martin Tennant, Major Projects and Property Portfolio Holder)

The Cabinet considered Exempt Report No. RP2107, which set out a proposal to progress negotiations to acquire land and property to enable the progression of regeneration in part of Farnborough town centre.

Members were informed that an opportunity had arisen to acquire land and buildings that were considered to be important in providing a joined-up approach to the regeneration and development of the town centre and Civic Quarter areas. Details of the potential acquisitions were set out in the Report. It was reported that, at this stage, the proposal was to provide funding to progress the necessary due diligence, legal work and options assessment and to commence work on a detailed business case to enable the progression of the regeneration of this part of the town centre. Members were informed that the suggested approach carried a range of potential risks to the Council and that a summary of these was contained within the Report. It was reported that, if agreed, the Council would continue to use Lambert Smith Hampton Investment Management as its property advisors for the

acquisition.

In discussing the proposals, the Cabinet expressed strong support for the suggested approach and the continued involvement of Lambert Smith Hampton Investment Management. Members noted the risks associated with the scheme but, overall, felt that this represented an excellent opportunity for the Council to intervene directly in the regeneration of Farnborough town centre. This would allow the Council to ensure that any future development in this area and the Civic Quarter site was both complementary and of a sufficient quality to provide the best outcome for local residents and other users of the town.

The Cabinet

- (i) **RESOLVED** that the undertaking of further negotiations with the vendor to secure the best price and commercial offer for the land interests, as set out in Exempt Report No. RP2107, be approved, with appropriate work being undertaken to progress the associated due diligence, legal assessment, feasibility study, development options and business case; and
- (ii) **RECOMMENDED TO THE COUNCIL** that an initial budget of up to £250,000 be allocated to enable the progression of the steps set out at Resolution (i) above.

NOTE: Whilst not a declarable interest under the Code of Conduct, as this decision did not directly relate to his registered disclosable pecuniary interest, nor directly relate to or affect his financial interests or well being, Cllr P.G. Taylor advised, in the interests of transparency in respect of this item, that he was currently a tenant of one of the properties within the site under discussion.

The Meeting closed at 7.34 pm.

CLLR D.E. CLIFFORD, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
