

# CABINET

Meeting held on Tuesday, 19th October, 2021 at the Council Offices, Farnborough at 7.00 pm.

## **Voting Members**

Cllr D.E. Clifford, Leader of the Council  
Cllr K.H. Muschamp, Deputy Leader and Customer Experience and Improvement  
Portfolio Holder

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

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 **1st November, 2021**.

### **36. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –**

Having regard to the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors, no declarations of interest were made.

### **37. MINUTES –**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 19th October, 2021 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

### **38. BUDGET STRATEGY 2022-23 –**

(Cllr Paul Taylor, Corporate Services Portfolio Holder)

The Cabinet considered Report No. FIN2122, which set out the budgetary framework to support the preparation of the Council's 2022/23 budget.

The Cabinet was informed that Covid-19 had continued to have a significant impact on the Council's financial position in 2021/22 and that the Council, along with many other local authorities, faced significant financial challenges over the medium term. The Report set out the Council's current financial position and explained how Members would be kept informed of the strategy for addressing the projected core budget deficit highlighted in the Medium Term Financial Strategy, which had been published in February, 2021. The Report, at Section 3 in Appendix A, outlined the approach that would be taken when setting the detailed revenue and capital budgets for 2022/23.

It was reported that Surrey County Council, with contributions from a number of local authority partners, was bidding to purchase Tice's Meadow, Badshot Lea, from Hanson Aggregates. It was recommended that the Council should make a

contribution of up to £50,000. Members heard that the site was heavily used by Rushmoor residents, despite not being located in the Borough.

### **The Cabinet**

(i) **RESOLVED**

- (a) that the Budget Strategy for 2022/23, as outlined in Section 3 of Appendix A of Report No. FIN2122, be approved;
- (b) the forecast for capital receipts and the pooling of capital receipts to support the capital programme, as outlined in Section 5 of Appendix A of the Report, be noted; and

(ii) **RECOMMENDED TO THE COUNCIL** that a contribution of up to £50,000 towards the purchase of Tice's Meadow by Surrey County Council, as set out in Section 5 of Appendix A of the Report, be approved.

39. **FARNBOROUGH LEISURE CENTRE - DEMOLITION UPDATE AND BUDGET –**  
(Cllr Martin Tennant, Major Projects and Property Portfolio Holder)

The Cabinet considered Report No. REG2101, which set out a request for additional funding from the approved capital programme to enable the completion of the demolition and clearance of the Farnborough Leisure Centre site.

The Cabinet was reminded that it had agreed the funding for the demolition in June, 2021 and had appointed Willmott Dixon Construction Limited as contractors. Since that time, intrusive demolition and asbestos surveys had been carried out and significant additional asbestos had been found. Members were informed that this, along with additional works that were required to reroute utility cables on the site, had led to the increase in the costs of the demolition. The Council's Technical Advisor and Cost Consultants, Artelia UK, had interrogated the revised figures supplied by Willmott Dixon and had recommended acceptance of the final revised contract sum.

The Cabinet expressed strong support for the progression of the project to provide residents with a new, modern leisure centre on the site.

**The Cabinet RESOLVED** that

- (i) the update in relation to the revised contract sum and programme for demolition, as set out in Report No. REG2101, be noted; and
- (ii) the release of a further £204,000 funding from the approved Capital Programme, to increase the demolition project budget to £1,339,000 as a result of the removal of the additional asbestos and other additional costs, as set out in the Report, be approved.

40. **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:

<b>Minute No.</b>	<b>Schedule 12A Para. No.</b>	<b>Category</b>
41	3	Information relating to financial or business affairs

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

41. **PROPERTY ASSET DISPOSAL –**

(Cllr Martin Tennant, Major Projects and Property Portfolio Holder)

The Cabinet considered Exempt Report No. PETS2119, which sought approval to dispose of the freehold interest in a property owned by the Council.

Members were informed that the disposal of the property should be seen in the context of the Commercial Investment Property Strategy. The property had not performed as expected and it was considered that the asset was management intensive and that the income received was risky in comparison to other assets. The Council had received an offer for the purchase of the property and, in answer to a question, it was confirmed that the proposed sale price was higher than the purchase price that had been paid by the Council.

**The Cabinet RESOLVED** that the sale of the property, on the terms set out in Exempt Report No. PETS2119, be approved.

The Meeting closed at 7.27 pm.

CLLR D.E. CLIFFORD, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

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