

## CABINET

THURSDAY, 19 JANUARY 2017

### DECISIONS

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Cabinet held on Thursday, 19 January 2017. Decisions made by the Cabinet will be subject to call-in. Recommendations made to the Council are not subject to call-in. The wording used does not necessarily reflect the actual wording that will appear in the minutes.

If you have any queries about any matters referred to in this decision sheet please contact Patrick Adams.

#### 1. LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE SETTLEMENT UPDATE

Cabinet

**NOTED** the Local Government Finance Settlement.

**AGREED** to guide the Head of Finance regarding options to be modelled in the Medium Term Financial Strategy reports to Cabinet and Council in February 2017, including the recommendation that if the Government reduces the New Homes Bonus, the planned allocation to the General Fund and the A14 upgrade contribution should be unaffected and the contribution to the City Deal Investment and Delivery fund should be reduced.

**Other Options Considered:** Members were requested to provide guidance to the Head of Finance regarding options to be modelled in the MTFS reports to Cabinet and Council in February 2017.

**Reason For Decision:** The Local Government Finance Settlement sets out the funding that central Government will allocate to local authorities for the financial years 2017-18 to 2019-20.

#### 2. SHARED INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICE

Cabinet

**AGREED** to approve the Business Case and delegate authority to the Director Health and Environmental Services to make decisions and to take steps which are necessary, conducive or incidental to the establishment of the Shared Internal Audit Service in accordance with the business case.

**Other Options Considered:** To consider alternative arrangements for the provision of our internal audit service.

**Reason For Decision:** Since South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) employs only one Internal Auditor, creation of a Shared Internal Audit Service with Cambridge City Council will provide much needed operational resilience. It will also drive operational efficiencies by standardising processes across the two Councils and greater assurance through better sharing of learning arising from audits across both Councils.

### 3. NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA DESIGNATING - UPDATING THE PROCESS

Cabinet **AGREED**

- A) To approve the process for designation Neighbourhood Areas as set out in paragraphs 12 and 13 of the report.
- B) To approve the decision making process once a Neighbourhood Plan is submitted to the Council as set out in paragraphs 14 and 15 of the report.

**Other Options Considered:** Cabinet considered amending or rejecting the proposals in the report.

**Reason For Decision:** The new national regulations that came into force on 1 October 2016 mean the Council needs to update its procedures regarding neighbourhood planning decision making. The regulations particularly affect how the Council designates neighbourhood areas. Also a number of Parish Councils who have already a designated area, are making progress with their plans and there is a need for clarity on how the Council will make decisions at the key stages in the plan making process once these plans are submitted to the Council.

### 4. CORPORATE PEER CHALLENGE: FEEDBACK REPORT

Cabinet **AGREED**

- A) To receive the Feedback Report from the Corporate Peer Challenge, welcoming the independent external validation of the Council's strengths and achievements it has provided (see Appendix A);
- B) To the Key recommendations set out in Section 2 of the Feedback Report;
- C) To the priorities for the future leadership of place, as set out in paragraph 10 of the report, as the basis for the Council's response to the report; and
- D) To authorise the Interim Chief Executive to prepare action plans to address the priorities identified in recommendation (iii) above, in consultation with the Leader of the Council.

**Other Options Considered:** To amend or reject the recommendations in the report.

**Reason For Decision:** In agreeing these recommendations, the Council can reflect positively upon the independent validation of the Council's strengths and achievements the Peer Challenge has provided. Looking forward, the identification of key priorities will enable the Council to respond to the 'pivotal moment' for its leadership of place, identified by the review team, thus ensuring maximum value can be derived from the challenge process.