

CABINET

WEDNESDAY, 2 OCTOBER 2019

DECISIONS

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Cabinet held on Wednesday, 2 October 2019. 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 Ian Senior.

1. CORPORATE ASSET PLAN

Cabinet approved and adopted the Corporate Asset Plan 2020-2024 attached as Appendix A attached to the report from the Interim Director of Finance.

Options Considered: The option of not adopting the Corporate Asset Plan is not considered to be appropriate. It seeks to establish a plan to ensure the efficient and effective management of the Council's non-Housing Revenue Account property assets and it is consistent with the aims and priorities identified in the approved Business Plan.

Reason For Decision: To ensure that efficient and effective arrangements exist for the management of the Council's property assets; that the implementation of the approved Corporate Asset Plan and supporting Asset Management Action Plan is monitored on a regular basis and that the Corporate Asset Plan continues to directly support the delivery of the Council's key Business Plan objectives.

The proposed Corporate Asset Plan relates to non-Housing Revenue Account (HRA) assets. The Council's HRA assets, including Council Homes and other HRA landholdings, are managed through a separate HRA Asset Management Strategy and HRA Asset Management Plan that is currently under review. It is intended that an updated version will be reported to a future meeting of Cabinet for consideration.

2. INVESTMENT STRATEGY – NOT FOR CALL-IN

Cabinet recommended to Full Council:

- (a) The updated Investment Strategy attached at Appendix A to the report from the Interim Director of Finance, which includes
 - (i) a range of investment indicators to comply with the Statutory Guidance on Local Government Investments and
 - (ii) the governance arrangements that enable the Council to seek approval for priority investments in a timely manner in response to market conditions.
- (b) The consequent changes to the Scheme of Delegation to enable the Head of Commercial Development & Investment to progress investment opportunities, including due diligence checks, and to authorise the Section 151 Officer to submit non-binding offers in line with market practice.

Options Considered: The option of not reviewing the Investment Strategy is not considered to be appropriate. Local authorities are required to have regard to guidance issued in relation to investments and are accountable to their communities for the

performance of them. Local politicians and officers operate within local governance frameworks of checks and balances to ensure that decision-making is lawful, informed by objective advice, transparent and consultative. Good governance means that proper arrangements are in place to ensure that an authority's intended objectives are achieved, and the security, liquidity and yield of investments are paramount commitments. The Council is required to obtain approval for the Investment Strategy each financial year and, where the Council proposed to make a material change to its Strategy during the year, a revised Strategy must be presented to Council for approval before the change is implemented.

Reason For Decision: To establish and approve an updated Investment Strategy that complies with CIPFA's revised Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (2017 edition) and Prudential Code Guidance Notes for Practitioners (2018 edition), CIPFA's Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice and Cross-Sectoral Guidance Notes (2017 edition), and revised Statutory Guidance on Local Government Investments (3rd Edition) issued in February 2018.

3. GENERAL FUND REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET PROVISIONAL OUTTURN 2018/19 – NOT FOR CALL-IN

Cabinet

- (a) Acknowledged the 2018/2019 General Fund revenue outturn position and the net overspend on day to day services in the year of £0.541 million and the explanations provided for the variances compared to the approved 2018/2019 revenue budget;
- (b) Acknowledged the additional surplus primarily from Business Rates and related Grants of £6.519 million and how this has occurred;
- (c) Acknowledged the consequent increase in the General Fund Balance as at 31 March 2019 of £5.978 million to £17.446 million;
- (d) Recommended to Council that the Business Efficiency Reserve be re-designated to the Transformation Reserve and that the sum of £3 million be appropriated from unallocated General Fund Reserve to enable the service transformation and organisational change programme to be resourced, noting that the General Fund unallocated reserve would then be £14.446 million;
- (e) Recommended to Council the General Fund Revenue Carry Forwards in the sum of £1.227 million as outlined in Appendix A;
- (f) In relation to the Capital Programme:
 - (i) Noted the 2018/2019 capital budget outturn of £27,190 million;
 - (ii) Recommended to Council the carry forwards of £6.464 million in relation to General Fund capital projects due mainly to slippage as outlined in the report;
 - (iii) Noted that a full review of the Capital Programme will be submitted to Cabinet at its November 2019 meeting to include re-phasing of the existing programme and new Capital bids for the next budget cycle.

Options Considered: NONE SPECIFIED

Reason For Decision: To advise the Cabinet of the 2018/2019 revenue and capital outturn position, the impact that this will have on the General Fund and to consider and, if satisfied, support the carry forward of slippage within the 2018/2019 capital programme. To note that a further review of the Capital Programme performance will be carried out and presented to Cabinet at its meeting on 6 November 2019.

4. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) REVENUE AND CAPITAL PROVISIONAL OUTTURN 2018/19 – NOT FOR CALL-IN

Cabinet

- (g) Acknowledged the 2018/2019 revenue outturn position and the net underspend in the year of £2.042 million, and the explanations provided for the variances compared to the approved 2018/2019 revenue budget;
- (h) Acknowledged the consequent increase in the Housing Revenue Account balance as at 31 March 2019 of £1.051million to £11.148 million;
- (i) Recommended to Council the Housing Revenue Account Revenue Budget Carry Forwards in the sum of £0.739 million, identified at Appendix A;
- (j) In relation to the Capital Programme:
 - (iv) Noted the 2018/2019 capital budget outturn of £15,625 million;
 - (v) Recommended to Council the carry forwards of £1.124 million in relation to HRA capital projects due mainly to slippage.
 - (vi) Noted that a full review of the Capital Programme will be submitted to Cabinet at its November 2019 meeting to include re-phasing of the existing programme and new Capital bids for the next budget cycle.

Options Considered: NONE SPECIFIED

Reason For Decision: To advise the Cabinet of the 2018/2019 revenue and capital outturn position, the impact that this will have on the Housing Revenue Account and to consider the carry forward of slippage within the 2018/2019 capital programme. To note that a further review of the Capital Programme performance will be carried out and presented to Cabinet at its meeting on 6 November 2019.

5. BOURN AIRFIELD SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

Cabinet:

- (a) considered the main issues raised in the public consultation, and the comments of Scrutiny and Overview Committee;
- (b) agreed responses to the representations received and agreed consequential proposed changes to the SPD as set out in the Consultation Statement and Schedule of SPD Changes (attached as Appendices A and B to the report from the Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development);
- (c) subject to (a), adopted the amended Bourn Airfield New Village SPD; and
- (d) delegated to the Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development in

liaison with the Deputy Leader, the authority to make any necessary editing changes to the SPD prior to publication including to the figures and spatial framework diagram to ensure consistency with the agreed text of the SPD.

Options Considered: Members may decide to:

- Approve the Consultation Statement including the proposed changes to the SPD;
- Approve the Consultation Statement including the proposed changes to the SPD with amendments;
- Not approve the Consultation Statement including the proposed changes to the SPD;
- Not delegate to the Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development in liaison with the Deputy Leader, the authority to make any editing changes prior to publication including to the figures and spatial framework diagram to ensure consistency with the agreed text of the SPD.

1. **Reason For Decision:** Scrutiny and Overview Committee considered a report on the outcome of the public consultation on draft SPD on the 10 September 2019. Committee were also advised of a letter sent from Bourn Parish Council concerning the draft SPD which is attached for information as Appendix C. The comments of the Committee were as follows:

- The committee considered and commented upon the summary of representations made during the public consultation on the draft SPD, which the committee noted reflected the concerns it had raised during its consideration of the draft SPD in May 2019. The main points discussed were as follows.
- A letter was received from Bourn Parish Council in advance of the meeting, raising concerns regarding lack of direct access to the A428, the transport modelling in the Local Plan and traffic volumes estimated by the developers.
- Councillor Tumi Hawkins addressed the committee as the Local Member representing Caldecote. She set out concerns regarding:
 - The current problem with congestion in Caldecote.
 - The lack of direct access to the A428.
 - The treatment of the separation between the new village and Caldecote.
 - That the SPD should not allow any housing in the north east corner of the Major Development Site.
- The committee expressed concerns that the lack of a junction to access the A428 would lead to rat running through villages and emphasised the need to protect the surrounding villages from this.
- While there was still concern from committee members that proposals did not include direct access to the A428, the committee acknowledged that this was in line with the policy of the approved Local Plan and with which the SPD must be consistent.
- Committee members acknowledged the Council's zero carbon policy and highlighted the need for public transport options to be available from the outset for new developments. The use of public transport needed to be made easy and appealing for residents in order for them to use it.
- The Committee draws Cabinet's attention to the comments set out above.

2. The comments of Scrutiny and Overview Committee reflect many of the

comments summarised and assessed in the Consultation Statement (Appendix A) and accordingly no separate response is provided. A short response is provided for completeness in respect of the comments included in the letter from Bourn Parish Council at Appendix C.

3. To ensure that the SPD is changed to take account of the outcome of the recent consultation as appropriate and to ensure that the adopted SPD is available to assist the determination of planning applications for the site.

6. COUNCILLOR APPOINTMENT TO THE A505 ROYSTON TO GRANTA PARK STRATEGIC GROWTH AND TRANSPORT STUDY STEERING GROUP

Cabinet:

- a. appointed Councillors Peter McDonald (Liberal Democrat), Peter Topping (Conservative) and Aidan Van de Weyer (Liberal Democrat) to the A505 Royston to Granta Park Strategic Growth and Transport Study Member Steering Group and;
- b. appointed Councillors Henry Batchelor and Brian Milnes (both Liberal Democrats) as substitutes;
- c. at Councillor Peter Topping's request, declined to appoint a Conservative substitute; and
- d. requested that officers ask Cambridgeshire County Council whether meetings of the Steering Group would be held in public.

Options Considered: Cabinet may decide to agree or not agree to the appointment of members and substitute members to the Steering Group.

Reason For Decision: Member and stakeholder involvement throughout the study, which is in the early stages of development, will help to ensure its success. To this end, the Cambridgeshire County Council led project team wish to set up a Member Steering Group in preparation for Councillor involvement being required. The proposal is for the advisory group to comprise three Cambridgeshire County Councillors, and the same number from South Cambridgeshire District Council.

2. A communication and engagement strategy will be developed by Cambridgeshire County Council to guide stakeholder and public input.