

Council

Thursday, 23 September 2021

Decisions

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Council held on Thursday, 23 September 2021. 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 Democratic Services.

Presentation

Cabinet, 6 September 2021: 2020/21 Provisional General Fund Revenue and Capital Outturn

Council

Agreed to

- (a) Acknowledge the 2020/21 general fund revenue outturn position and the net underspend (after income from Taxation and Government Grants) in the year of £0.281 million and the explanations provided for the variances compared to the revised 2020/21 revenue budget;**
- (b) Acknowledge the consequent decrease in the General Fund as at 31 March 2021 of £1.994m to around £14.5m;**
- (c) In relation to the Capital Programme:
 - (i) Note the 2020/21 capital outturn of £43,252 million;**
 - (ii) Approve the carry forwards of £2.081 million in relation to General Fund capital projects due mainly to slippage.**
 - (iii) Approve additional lending of £5.237 million in 2021/22 to enable Ermine Street housing to meet its target of 500 property purchases.****

Cabinet, 6 September 2021: 2020/21 Provisional Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Outturn

Council

Agreed to

- (d) Note the 2020/21 revenue outturn position and the net underspend in the year of £1.091 million, and the explanations provided for the variances compared to the approved 2020/21 revenue budget;**
- (e) Note the overall reduction in the Housing Revenue Account balance as at 31 March 2021 to £4.639 million;**

- (f) Approve the Housing Revenue Account Revenue Budget Carry Forwards in the sum of £0.035 million, in relation to Consultancy costs.**
- (g) In relation to the Capital Programme:**
 - (iv) Note the 2020/21 capital outturn of £15.987 million;**
 - (v) Approve the carry forwards to 2021/22 of £1.822 million in relation to HRA Housing improvements due mainly to slippage.**
 - (vi) Approve carry forward amounts of £1.213 million to 2021/22 in relation to HRA housebuilding during 2020/21, due to slippage.**

Licensing Committee, 7 September 2021: Gambling Act 2005 - Review of Statement of Licensing Policy

Council

- Agreed** to adopt the revised Statement of Licensing Policy under the Gambling Act 2005 for a period of up to three years from 31 January 2022, with the inclusion of the following sentence: "The Gambling Act defines "child" as an individual who is less than 16 years old, and "young person" means an individual who is not a child who is less than 18 years old."

Civic Affairs, 9 September 2021: Adoption of Model Code of Conduct

Council

- Agreed** to adopt the Model Code at Appendix 2 of the report and Guidance at Appendix 3 to take effect from May 2022 and authorised the Chief Executive to make the necessary changes to the Constitution.

Medium Term Financial Strategy

Council **Agreed** to

- A)** Acknowledge the projected changes in service spending and the overall resources available to the Council over the medium term.
- B)** Approve the refreshed Medium Term Financial Strategy at Appendix A and updated financial forecast at Appendix B.

Making of Foxton Neighbourhood Plan

Council **Noted**

- A)** That the referendum for the Foxton Neighbourhood Plan took place on 22 July 2021;
- B)** The decision made by the Chief Executive under delegated powers to make the Foxton Neighbourhood Plan as it was a successful referendum on 5 August 2021;
- C)** The final made version of the Foxton Neighbourhood Plan has been agreed and published on the Council's website on the Foxton Neighbourhood Plan page.

Appointments to Committees and other bodies

Council **Noted** and **Endorsed** that the Chief Executive has appointed the Head of Climate, Environment & Waste (Olabode Esan) to replace the previous Head of Environment and Waste (Trevor Nicoll) as the officer representation on the Investment Partnership Boards.

Standing in the name of Councillor Dr Ian Sollom

Council **agreed** the following motion:

Council notes that the draft First Proposals for the Greater Cambridge Local Plan identifies an urgent need for new strategic water supply infrastructure to provide for the longer-term needs of the plan and protect the chalk aquifer that supplies much of the area with water.

Council further notes that Water Resources East timeline to address these issues through their new integrated water management strategy will only see new water supply infrastructure available from the mid 2030's, resulting in further deterioration of both the aquifer itself, and the chalk stream habitats it feeds.

Council also notes the requirement by the Environment Agency for the integrated water management strategy to include long-term nature recovery and resilience.

Council therefore resolves that the Leader and Chief Executive write to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Secretary of State for Housing Communities and Local Government highlighting these issues and urging them to find ways to support the water industry to deliver both the new water supply infrastructure and the improved water catchment management to restore the chalk stream habitats for South Cambridgeshire on a much faster timeline by the end of the decade.

Standing in the name of Councillor Dr Richard Williams

Council **Rejected** this motion.

Standing in the name of Councillor Geoff Harvey

Council **agreed** the following motion:

The latest reports from the National Committee for Climate Change such as the "UK Housing. Fit for the Future?" and the UK's Sixth Carbon Budget "warn that the UK's legally-binding climate change targets will not be met without the near-complete elimination of greenhouse gas emissions from UK buildings" and that UK homes are woefully unprepared for climate change". The Council's Zero Carbon Strategy also recognises the high level of emissions from existing housing. In order to meet our district-wide ambitions for net zero within the applicable legal frameworks, there is a need for practical outcomes which reduce carbon emissions. Listed and historic buildings form part of our building stock and a special part due to their cultural importance individually and within the wider setting. Many homeowners are interested in contributing to the fight against climate change. There is a need to ensure the vital cultural assets are preserved whilst enabling homeowners to adapt these homes to the changing climate. Following a recommendation from CEAC, the Council committed to adopting a proactive approach to the retrofitting of listed and historic buildings and to the weighing of the balance between conservation and the reduction of carbon emissions.

This Council notes that

Planning law establishes the principle that 'harm' to a heritage asset should be weighed against 'public benefit'.

and

that though the weighting of the balance is subject to statutory guidance, the assessment of 'public benefit' cannot be blind to climate change nor to the context of the Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency and its adoption of a Zero Carbon Strategy.

It is for this reason that this Council resolves that:

- i. In the officer reports accompanying applications for Planning and Listed Building Consent the reports will contain information making clear the way in which the balance has been made between public benefit, including where that benefit includes climate considerations, and the preservation of historic fabric.
- ii. Where appropriate officers will seek the advice of the Council's sustainability officer in addition to experts in conservation to contribute to the assessment exercise.

Standing in the name of Councillor Heather Williams

Council agreed to refer the following motion to the Scrutiny and Overview Committee:

At the next meeting of full council a report will be presented to council in relation to planning performance. It will clearly show the number of applications determined within the statutory time period, how many of those had extensions agreed and how many applications were awaiting determination at the end of each month. This report will cover the last 24months (September 2019 to September 2021)