

MINUTES OF THE CABINET OVERVIEW WORKING GROUP HELD ON

20 October 2016

7.30 - 8.59 pm

PRESENT

Overview Working Group Members

Councillor Ian Beckett (Chair)
Councillor Mark Ingall (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Simon Carter
Councillor Michael Garnett
Councillor Stefan Mullard
Councillor Clive Souter

Officers

Graeme Bloomer, Head of Place
Jane Greer, Head of Community Wellbeing
Will Hales, Property Manager
Simon Freeman, Head of Finance
Lisa Purse, Corporate and Governance Support Officer

7. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Maggie Hulcoop and Rod Truan.

8. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Simon Carter declared the following non-pecuniary interests:

- Agenda Item 5, Non Housing Asset Management Strategy, for his role as Trustee of Steets2Homes which leases a council property.
- Agenda Item 8, Medium Term Financial Strategy, for his role as Council appointed Director of HTS (Property and Environment) Limited.

9. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2016 be agreed as a correct record.

10. MATTERS ARISING

None.

11. **NON HOUSING ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN SCOPING REPORT**

The Overview Working Group received a scoping report that detailed the Council's Asset Management Plan review which can play a fundamental role in the delivery of corporate and local priorities.

Graeme Bloomer, Head of Place introduced Will Hales, Property & Facilities Manager who explained that the Council has responsibility for circa 400 non housing properties as well as land assets and infrastructure networks.

RESOLVED that the Overview Working Group agreed the scope for the Asset Management Plan Review as set out in the report.

12. **TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY REVIEW SCOPING REPORT**

Simon Freeman, Head of Finance explained that in previous years the Treasury Management Strategy Review had been considered by the Cabinet Overview Working Group as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

The Committee thanked Simon for his useful summary of the scoping report.

RESOLVED that the Overview Working Group agreed the scope for the Treasury Management Strategy Review as set out in the report.

13. **LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME - RESULTS OF CONSULTATION & PROPOSALS FOR 2017/18 SCOPING REPORT**

The Overview Working Group received a scoping report that detailed the review of the Local Council Tax Support Scheme.

Simon Freeman, Head of Finance summarised the minor changes from previous years.

RESOLVED that the Overview Working Group agreed the scope for the Local Council Tax Support Scheme review noting that a final report, including outcomes of recent a consultation, would be presented to the Group at its next meeting.

14. **MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY**

Simon Freeman, Head of Finance, gave a presentation to the Group on the MTFs which outlined the current financial position of the Council.

The Group then discussed the current financial situation.

RESOLVED that:

A the report and the underpinning principles that support the MTFS is noted.

B The Cabinet is requested to ensure that the details of the 2016 Autumn Statement are considered fully including the impacts of the Governments proposals for full Business Rates Retention and any impacts that the Brexit decision on investment returns may have in the development of the Council's financial planning for 2017/18 and future years.

15. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY - SCOPING REPORT**

The Overview Working Group received a scoping report that detailed the review of the Council's Economic Development Strategy.

Jane Greer, Head of Community Wellbeing explained the linkages between this piece of work and the Non Housing Asset Management Plan review.

RESOLVED that the Overview Working Group:

A agreed the scope for the Economic Development Strategy Plan Review as set out in the report subject to the inclusion of references to the South East Local Enterprise Partnership and a potential key witness from the Chamber of Commerce.

B agreed that a working party be established, with Terms of Reference to be determined, to produce a draft Economic Development Strategy, hear evidence from external experts and conduct citizen engagement activity and business/community consultation.

C Councillors Stefan Mullard, Mark Ingall and Clive Souter, be appointed to the Economic Development Strategy Working Party.

16. **WORK PLAN**

The Overview Working Group received a report that outlined its Work Plan for the current year.

RESOLVED that the 2016/17 Work Plan is noted.

17. **MATTERS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

CHAIRMAN OF THE OVERVIEW
WORKING GROUP