

THE CABINET
20TH MARCH 2014

Present:	Councillors:	
	Ray Dawe	Leader
	Helena Croft	Deputy Leader and Communication, Horsham Town & Special Projects
	Andrew Baldwin	The Environment
	Jonathan Chowen	Arts, Heritage & Leisure
	Gordon Lindsay	Resources
	Sue Rogers	A Safer & Healthier District
	Claire Vickers	Living & Working Communities
Apologies:	Roger Paterson	The Local Economy

Also present: Councillors: Roger Arthur, John Chidlow, George Cockman, David Coldwell, Leonard Crosbie, Malcolm Curnock, Duncan England, Frances Haigh, David Holmes, Kate Rowbottom

EX/38 **RECORD OF THE MEETING OF 30TH JANUARY 2014**

The record of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 30th January 2014 was approved as correct and signed by the Leader.

EX/39 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

EX/40 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

EX/41 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

No questions had been received.

REPORT BY THE CABINET MEMBER FOR LIVING & WORKING COMMUNITIES

EX/42 **The Horsham District Sport, Open Space and Recreation Assessment**

The Cabinet Member for Living & Working Communities advised that consideration of this report would be deferred to the next meeting. This would give Members time to review the full Sport, Open Space and Recreation Assessment report, which was available to read in the Members' Room and would be the subject of discussion at an advisory group to be arranged by the Cabinet Member for Arts, Heritage & Leisure.

EX/43 **The Horsham District Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment**

The Cabinet Member for Living & Working Communities reported that the National Planning Policy Framework required local authorities to maintain an adequate supply of housing sites in their area. The Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) was the process of gathering together information to create a portfolio of housing sites which might be picked for future planning purposes. The assessment helped the Council to identify potential locations for housing to be allocated through either the emerging Horsham District Planning Framework or Neighbourhood Plans.

The SHLAA was a core piece of evidence that would be used to support the development of the Horsham District Planning Framework. The current SHLAA report summarised the assessment of the deliverability and developability of sites submitted to the Council up to 8th July 2013.

The SHLAA did not set policy or designate sites for housing development and the inclusion of sites did not mean that they would be granted planning permission, should an application for housing be submitted.

The updated SHLAA followed on from the work undertaken for the Interim SHLAA Report 2009 and contained a review of the sites originally submitted together with any additional sites put forward (up to 8th July 2013) since the 2009 Report had been published. Sites included in the SHLAA assessment came from a range of sources including refused applications, sites submitted to the Council by developers or landowners and broad locations of search.

As part of the work to update the 2009 Interim SHLAA Report, a targeted consultation had been undertaken with Parish Councils in June 2013 to review the information held by the Council on the SHLAA database and to invite them to suggest any alternative sites they considered suitable for development. A series of drop in sessions had also been held to enable Members to review the SHLAA information for sites within their parish or neighbourhood.

The next step in the production of the SHLAA would be to publish the document on the Council's website as part of the evidence base informing the Horsham District Planning Framework. Following the publication of the current report, the SHLAA sites would be reviewed and new sites assessed in order to produce an updated assessment to be published alongside the Submission version of the Horsham District Planning Framework. The SHLAA would then be updated annually as part of the Annual Monitoring Report process.

Members acknowledged the extensive work undertaken by officers to date in producing the SHLAA.

In response to Members' queries, the Cabinet Member emphasised again that the SHLAA currently before Cabinet was based on sites put forward by 8th July 2013

EX/43 The Horsham District Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (cont.)

and that, once approved for publication, these sites would be reviewed and new ones assessed in order to produce an updated assessment for publication with the Submission version of the Horsham District Planning Framework. She also reiterated that the SHLAA simply listed sites that were available for development and did not in any way allocate these sites for development. The inclusion of a site in the SHLAA did not mean it would be either allocated or developed. The SHLAA had been produced using the standard methodology employed by all Councils.

The Cabinet Member also explained how the status of sites in the SHLAA was determined, including changes in status of certain sites from the 2009 Interim SHLAA. Where possible, the officers' individual site assessments would incorporate Members' suggested comments.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the report be noted.
- (ii) That the publication of the report as part of the evidence base being used to inform the preparation of the Horsham District Planning Framework be approved.

REASON

To enable the preparation of the Horsham District Planning Framework.

REPORT BY THE CABINET MEMBER FOR A SAFER & HEALTHIER DISTRICT

EX/44 **Approval of the West Sussex Local Flood Risk Management Strategy**

The Cabinet Member for a Safer & Healthier District reported that West Sussex County Council, as the Lead Local Flood Authority, had prepared a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) for West Sussex.

The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 placed a duty on all flood risk management authorities, which included Horsham District, to co-operate with each other.

The purpose of the LFRMS was to set out how flooding was managed in West Sussex. Whilst it focused on local flood risk from surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses, it also considered flooding from rivers and the sea. It identified the responsibilities for managing flood risk and flooding within the County and enabled a range of organisations to work together to improve the management of flood risk.

EX/44 Approval of the West Sussex Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (cont.)

The LFRMS identified the main flood risk areas as 'wet spots', of which there were six in the District that were susceptible to surface water and river flooding. None of these areas had been designated as priority wet spots.

The LFRMS had been prepared to ensure there was a clear and fair framework for managing local flood risk within the County and was accompanied by a work programme that would be maintained and updated by the West Sussex Drainage Strategy Team, on which this Council was represented. The work programme contained projects to be undertaken by all risk management authorities, not only West Sussex County Council.

The Strategy had also been considered by the West Sussex Scrutiny Task & Finish Group, set up to examine the aftermath of the June 2012 flood event, and this Council's response to the Chairman of the Group supporting its recommendations was submitted for information.

The Cabinet Member also briefly updated Members on the availability of grant funding for properties that had been affected by flooding between 1st December 2013 and 31st March 2014.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) and associated work programme be supported and endorsed.
- (ii) That the Horsham District potential flooding areas, as detailed in the report, be noted.
- (iii) That officers be authorised to continue to input and improve the LFRMS and annual work programme, working alongside WSCC colleagues.
- (iv) That it be noted that a future budget request may be made to the Council, pending the outcome of the associated work programme.

REASON

To assist West Sussex County Council, as the Lead Local Flood Authority and Horsham District Council, as a Flood Risk Management Authority, to comply with their responsibilities under the Flood & Water Management Act 2010 - which is to co-operate and co-ordinate the managing local flood risk.

REPORT BY THE CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES

EX/45 **Business Rates Retail Relief**

The Cabinet Member for Resources reported that the Government had announced in the Autumn Statement that it would provide relief of up to £1,000 for a full year (pro rata for part years) to certain categories of occupied retail properties with a rateable value of £50,000 or less in each of the years 2014 -15 and 2015-16.

As this was a temporary measure, the Government would not be changing the legislation around the reliefs available to properties. Instead the Government would, in line with the eligibility criteria set out in guidance, reimburse local authorities that used their discretionary powers, introduced by the Localism Act (under section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, as amended) to grant relief. It was for individual local billing authorities to adopt a local scheme and decide in each individual case when to grant relief under section 47.

RESOLVED

- (i) That it be agreed that businesses broadly similar in nature to those shown on the eligibility list provided by the Government would qualify for retail rate relief.
- (ii) That the implementation of the policy be delegated the Director of Corporate Resources.

REASON

To set up a local business rates retail relief scheme in accordance with Government expectations.

EX/46 **SCRUTINY & OVERVIEW COMMITTEE – MATTERS REFERRED TO CABINET**

There were no matters currently outstanding for consideration.

EX/47 **MATTERS OF SPECIAL URGENCY**

There were no matters of special urgency to be considered.

The meeting closed at 6.50pm having commenced at 5.30 pm.

LEADER

