

THE CABINET
24TH JULY 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
Roger Paterson The Local Economy
Sue Rogers A Safer & Healthier District
Claire Vickers Living & Working Communities

Apologies: Gordon Lindsay Resources

Also present: Councillors: Roger Arthur, John Bailey, Peter Burgess, George
Cockman, David Coldwell, Roy Cornell, Leonard Crosbie, Malcolm
Curnock, Frances Haigh, David Holmes, Christian Mitchell, Kate
Rowbottom

EX/11 **RECORD OF THE MEETING OF 5TH JUNE 2014**

The record of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 5th June 2014 was approved as correct and signed by the Leader.

EX/12 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

EX/13 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

EX/14 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

No questions had been received.

REPORT BY THE CABINET MEMBER FOR A SAFER & HEALTHIER DISTRICT

EX/15 **Draft Horsham District Council Housing Strategy 2013-15, Annual Progress Report, draft Homelessness Prevention Action Plan 2013-15 Update and draft Housing Policy Statement**

The Cabinet Member for a Safer & Healthier District submitted a report seeking Cabinet approval for the adoption of the **Housing Policy Statement**. The report also introduced the draft **Horsham District Council Housing Strategy 2013-15 Annual Progress Report** and the draft **Homelessness Prevention Action Plan 2013-15 Update**. The Cabinet Member commended the good work of the Strategic Housing Manager and the Housing Team which had made the

EX/15 Draft Horsham District Council Housing Strategy 2013-15, Annual Progress Report, draft Homelessness Prevention Action Plan 2013-15 Update and draft Housing Policy Statement (Cont.)

achievements set out in the progress reports possible. She introduced the Housing Policy Statement as an aspirational strategy to house all those on the Housing Register and provide sufficient housing each year to meet the housing needs of the District. The Cabinet Member for Living & Working Communities reiterated thanks to the Strategic Housing Manager and emphasised the importance of maintaining the momentum in delivering affordable housing.

The draft Housing Strategy 2013-15 Annual Progress Report reviewed the progress the Council had made in meeting the five objectives set out in the original Strategy. The draft Homelessness Prevention Action Plan 2013 -15 Update identified the specific actions that the Council had undertaken to prevent homelessness during the first year of the Action Plan.

The Council had maintained a delivery programme of affordable homes since the recession began in 2008. In spite of considerable economic pressures, the Council's partners had delivered an increase in affordable homes year on year.

The draft Housing Policy Statement set out options as to how the Council could meet the target through enhanced partnership working, identifying land and possible funding opportunities in order to deliver a range of tenures to meet various needs, particularly for those households who have no option but to join the housing register.

Members discussed the importance of securing affordable housing on strategic sites rather than receiving commuted sums from the developer. Members sought assurance that all opportunities would be taken to achieve the highest levels of affordable housing on all strategic sites.

Members noted the proportion of planning permissions granted that included affordable housing and it was noted that under current local policy smaller sites were not required to provide affordable housing; this issue would be addressed within the proposed Horsham District Planning Framework.

With regards to the 600 affordable homes granted planning permission referred to in the policy statement, the Strategic Housing Manager agreed to supply Members with information regarding how this figure related to other planning permissions.

The Strategic Housing Manager also responded to Members' questions regarding: the need for a range of different tenures and sizes throughout the District; the target of 35% affordable housing on sites providing 15 or more dwellings; Broadbridge Heath Quadrant; rising house prices and social affordable rent; and Housing Associations and the reduction in government subsidy.

The Strategic Housing Manager thanked Members for their support and forward thinking on affordable housing, particularly on the allocations policy.

EX/15 Draft Horsham District Council Housing Strategy 2013-15, Annual Progress Report, draft Homelessness Prevention Action Plan 2013-15 Update and draft Housing Policy Statement (Cont.)

Members welcomed the draft Housing Policy Statement and considered its recommendations to fulfil the objectives of the Policy Statement.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the draft Housing Policy Statement be adopted as submitted, including the following recommendations included within the Statement:
- Establish a Mission Statement to enable the delivery of at least 170 affordable rented homes per year, plus other tenures to meet the housing need of local people at all income levels
 - Support Housing Associations to create balanced communities that provide housing for local residents in various levels of housing need.
 - Explore ways in which the planning system can deliver a proportion of private rented accommodation in new developments.
 - Look at appropriate Council land holdings to identify any potential housing sites. In addition opportunities to acquire land for this purpose should also be considered, as well as joint ventures with landowners.
 - Explore with West Sussex County Council possible opportunities to use the County's land in ways that would meet both Councils' objectives.
 - Explore and investigate whether the Council can extend its capital programme to provide a loan facility to Saxon Weald for the construction of new affordable homes.
 - Hold further seminars and specific meetings for parishes to consider the different types of housing that could form part of neighbourhood planning.
 - Consider investing a proportion of additional New Homes Bonus collected after 2015/16 into specific affordable housing projects that meet identified local need.

EX/15 Draft Horsham District Council Housing Strategy 2013-15, Annual Progress Report, draft Homelessness Prevention Action Plan 2013-15 Update and draft Housing Policy Statement (Cont.)

- Promote new affordable housing schemes that can be funded by commuted sums and review governance issues around the distribution of commuted sums to ensure that the process of grant funding schemes is rigorous and in line with the Council's constitution.
- (ii) That the Council continues to promote all opportunities to achieve the highest levels of affordable housing to meet housing need on all strategic sites.
- (iii) That the Horsham District Council Housing Strategy 2013-15 Annual Progress Report be noted.
- (iv) That the Homelessness Prevention Action Plan 2013-15 Update be noted.

REASON

- (i) Social and affordable housing is a scarce resource in the Horsham District. The Housing Policy Statement sets out specific actions and Council can take to deliver homes to meet housing need in the District in an increasingly challenging environment.
- (ii) It was agreed to review progress against the Horsham District Council Housing Strategy 2013-15 after one year.
- (iii) It was agreed to review progress against the Homelessness Prevention Action Plan 2013 -15 after one year.

REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE WORKING GROUP

EX/16 **Performance Indicators for Quarter 4 and Full Year 2013/14, District Plan Priorities and Tracked Project List Progress**

The purpose of the report submitted by the Chairman of the Finance and Performance Working Group was to inform Cabinet of concerns raised by the working group at their quarterly review meeting in June 2014, and to seek comments on the particular areas of concern. The working group considered the Council's performance against performance indicators, the tracked projects list and progress against the District Plan priorities. The Key Performance Indicators were currently undergoing an extensive review.

EX/16 Performance Indicators for Quarter 4 and Full Year 2013/14, District Plan Priorities and Tracked Project List Progress (Cont.)

Cabinet Members noted the areas of concern as printed in the report, in particular the number of Planning Appeals allowed and the financial consequences of this. The increase in the number of planning applications processed in time was noted and Cabinet Members welcomed the significant improvements that had been achieved. The other area of concern noted within the report was Planning Enforcement performance, which had been highlighted as a concern by some Parish Councils. It was noted that a Report by the Development Manager would be submitted to a future Finance & Performance Working Group.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the new Director of Planning, Economic Development & Property would be joining the Council in August. Improvements had been made to the areas of concern by the Interim Planning Manager and further progress would be made once the new Director was in post.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

REASON

Performance Management is part of the duty of Best Value to drive up service improvement.

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE RESOURCES

EX/17 **Budget 2014-15 – Progress Report to end of June 2014 and Outturn Forecast**

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report that compared expenditure and income with the profiled budget for the period 1st April 2014 to 30th June 2014 and provided a forecast for the full year outturn. It was reported that the original revenue budget for 2014/2015 had been increased by £1,391,000 through carry forward budgets and a residual balance of the repairs and renewals reserve.

The original budget had been recoded to accommodate the management restructure to ensure that service budgets are managed and monitored appropriately. The capital programme budget of £11,801,000 included unspent budgets carried forward from 2014/15 of £1,473,000 and a supplementary estimate of £625,000 for Mill Stream Surgery.

The Director and the Chief Executive responded to Members' queries in respect of the salary and wages budgets, in particular the expenditure on casual and temporary staff. Members noted the exceptional circumstances of this particular quarter caused by the organisational restructure.

EX/17 Budget 2014-15 – Progress Report to end of June 2014 and Outturn Forecast (Cont.)

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

EX/18 **SCRUTINY & OVERVIEW COMMITTEE – MATTERS REFERRED TO CABINET**

There were no matters currently outstanding for consideration.

EX/19 **MATTERS OF SPECIAL URGENCY**

There were no matters of special urgency to be considered.

The meeting closed at 7.00pm having commenced at 5.30pm.

LEADER