

COUNCIL
14 October 2020
CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

Details of recommendations to Council made at the Cabinet meeting held on
23 July 2020

**EX20 Purchase of property in Slinfold by Horsham District Homes
(Holdings) Limited**

The Cabinet Member for Community Matters and Wellbeing advised that the shareholder agreement for HDH reserved certain matters for Cabinet approval, including the approval of business cases for projects and approval of any loans to be made by the Council to the companies. The Directors of HDH have prepared a business case for an opportunity that requires the approval of Cabinet. The opportunity is the purchase of four flats being developed by a third party developer in Spring Lane, Slinfold.

RESOLVED

That the business case for the purchase of the affordable rental homes in Slinfold by Horsham District Homes (Holdings) be approved.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

To approve the transfer of s106 funds to Horsham District Homes (Holdings) for the purchase of the homes.

REASON

Approval of the recommendations will deliver four affordable rental homes for the benefit of households on the housing list.

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EX/28 Update on the Council's Financial Position

The Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance & Assets presented an update on the projected scale of the financial impact from Covid-19 in 2020/21 and how the medium term financial planning scenarios and assumptions have changed since the report in July.

Substantial action would be needed to achieve a balanced 2021/22 budget. Measures to address the financial gaps would be worked up, with an update to Cabinet in November with possible further updates before the budget is agreed in February 2021.

RESOLVED

- i) To note the changes in the Council's financial position in 2020/21 and the Medium Term.
- ii) To enter into a four year £0.75m scheme to deliver supported accommodation for rough sleepers, providing full funding is approved by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

- iii) To approve a £50K capital budget for the refresh and refurbishment of the museum whilst it remains closed during 2020/21.
- iv) To approve a £125K capital budget increase to the £180K Henfield Library car park capital project, to address significant issues in the foundations.
- v) Subject to ii) above, to approve a £69K capital budget and £25.5K revenue expenditure budget in 2020/21 and the associated matching income obtained from MHCLG.

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REASON

- i) The Council needs to acknowledge the highly unpredictable nature of the national and local situation occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic and the huge impact this is having on its financial position both in the short and longer term. This has moved the Council from what has been a long term healthy financial position to one with predicted large deficits unless action is taken.
- ii) & v) establishing supported accommodation will help support and reduce the number of rough sleepers in the district.
- iii) Work is needed to modernise and refresh museum displays, introduce a digital cultural heritage offer, and improve the customer experience.
- iv) The more expensive dig-out and rebuild of the car park in Henfield will address structural defects and make the asset last much longer and is therefore more economical in the long term.

EX/34 Update to Building Control Charges Scheme

The Cabinet Member for Planning & Development presented the report on the updated Building Control Charges Scheme. Following a review of the costs and income, an update of the current scheme, published in October 2017, was required in order to reflect the current level of costs and maintain cost recovery in line with regulations. The proposed implementation date of the updated scheme was 1 November 2020.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

To approve the revised Charges Scheme as set out in appendix A of the report to Cabinet.

REASON

To ensure Building Control Charges are able to recover the costs associated with the relevant functions and kept in line with inflation.