

**COUNCIL**  
**9 December 2020**  
**CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS**

Recommendations to Council made at the Cabinet meeting held on 26 November 2020

**Update on the Council's financial position**

The Cabinet Member for Finance & Assets gave an overview on the projected scale of the financial impact of Covid-19 in 2020/21, including the impact of the second Lockdown during November. With the current level of uncertainty, it was impossible to prepare a full Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) until January or February 2021. The overspend of £5m this Financial Year, as set out in the report, had risen to £5.4m due to the November lockdown and it was recognised that substantial action was still required to achieve a balanced budget in 2021/22.

Changes put forward in the draft Medium Term Financial Strategy included changes to parking at Southwater Country Park with new standardised parking charges and the transfer of the budget and operational responsibilities to Parking Services for 2021/22. The MTFS also included a capital budget for business waste bin weighing technology and equipment to make this service more accurate and efficient.

**RESOLVED**

- i) To note the changes in the Council's financial position in 2020/21 and the Medium Term.

**RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL**

- i) To approve the new pricing structure at Southwater County Park car park as set out in Appendix A of the report.
- ii) To approve the transfer of the budget and associated operational responsibilities for the Southwater Country Park car park to Parking Services for 2021/22.
- iii) To approve a £89k capital budget in 2020/21 for business waste bin weighing technology and equipment.

**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) To standardise parking hours across the year and help manage demand for car parking at Southwater Country Park during busy periods.

- iii) To streamline internal reporting processes and have all parking related services within the Parking service budgets.
- iv) The bin weighing technology and equipment will help the business waste service more accurately and efficiently manage the service by identifying trends and overloaded bins, ensuring the Council is not subsidising customer disposal costs.

### **Horsham's first Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)**

The Cabinet Member for Horsham Town reported that the Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) was part of the government's ambition to make cycling and walking a more natural choice for shorter journeys. The plan focuses on five cycling corridors and six walking corridors that were the result of evidence based research and consultation. Details of both stakeholder and public consultation have been captured in a Supplementary Document which will sit alongside the Plan. In accordance with Department for Transport (DfT) Technical Guidance, the Horsham LCWIP is focused on cycling and walking routes within the town and routes into the town from surrounding settlements. These corridors are a really good starting point in establishing a cycling and walking network for Horsham.

Having a Plan prepared would enable the Council to bid for government funding in addition to tranches of funding made available through WSCC. The adoption of the LCWIP will feed into the overall West Sussex cycling and walking network and WSCC intends to create a combined prioritised list of routes to be progressed as funding becomes available. Many of the routes are likely to require external funding contributions, and it is envisaged that this list will serve to support future funding bids, as well as directing CIL and s106 contributions.

### **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL**

- i) To adopt the first Horsham Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan.

### **RESOLVED**

- ii) To note the content of the Summary of Stakeholders and Public Consultation document, October 2020.
- ii) Delegate authority for any minor editorial amendments to the Cabinet Member for Horsham Town.

### **REASON**

- i) The LCWIP is a key tool in helping to deliver local improvements to increase both cycling and walking in the District and puts the Council in a strong position when bidding for cycling and walking improvement grants for the Government;
- ii) The Summary of Stakeholders and Public Consultation is an important background document in setting out the proposed response to the comments received;
- iii) To allow minor changes only. Any substantive change would need to be agreed by all Members.

**Approval of amendment to Business Cases for Horsham District Homes for affordable homes in Billingshurst [exempt item]**

The business case, which had been approved by Council in December 2019, needed to be revised to take account of increased costs, including those required to achieve high standards of sustainability, with an EPC rating of A. These changes would not have an adverse impact on the return on capital.

**RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL**

- i) To approve the transfer of s106 funds to Horsham District Homes (Holdings) for the purchase of the three properties in Billingshurst.

**REASON**

- i) Approval of the recommendations will allow the details of the transactions to be completed so that the affordable rental properties can be delivered for the benefit of households on the housing list.