

**COUNCIL**  
**22 June 2022**  
**CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS**

Recommendations to Council made at the Cabinet meeting held on 9 June 2022

**(a) Using the 2021/22 surplus to help support local residents in need, topping up the 2022/23 Transformation Fund, and earmarking an inflation reserve. Plus increases to the Drill Hall and Community Development revenue budgets and Horsham Park skate park capital 2022/23 budgets and utilising the UK Shared Prosperity Funding**

The report to Cabinet explains the background to a £2.1m operational surplus in 2021/22 and recommended how this surplus could be used, including the use of £0.3m to further fund existing discretionary schemes, and the transfer of £1m into an inflation fund for 2022/23 should current price and salary increases cause an overspend.

The report also sets out details of other proposed changes to budgets in 2022/23. These include: the proposed increase in budget for the Drill Hall to enable it to remain open while the Royal British Legion finalise the new arrangements; an increase in Community Development budgets; an increase in the budget for the Horsham Park skate park to help deliver a better facility; and recommendations on the use of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

**RESOLVED**

- (ii) To approve the transfer of £106,499 from the General Fund reserve to the earmarked transformation reserve.
- (iii) To delegate to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Parking, the authority to use the transformation fund as appropriate.
- (iv) To approve the transfer of £1m of the surplus into an earmarked inflation fund, for use in 2022/23 should current price and salary increases cause an overspend.

**RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL**

- (i) That £0.3m of the 2021/22 surplus is used to further fund existing discretionary schemes in 2022/23 as set out in Appendix A of the Cabinet report.
- (v) To approve an increase in the revenue budget in Leisure services for the Drill Hall of £17,000 income and £37,000 expenditure, which is a net cost increase of £20,000 in the 2022/23 budget.
- (vi) To approve a £300,000 increase in the revenue income and expenditure budgets in Community Development in 2022/23.
- (vii) To add an additional £20,000 to the £0.25m already in the 2022/23 capital programme to help deliver a better skate park in Horsham Park.

- (viii) That £50,000 of income from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and corresponding expenditure is added to the Economic Development. 2022/23 revenue budget.
- (ix) That £120,000 is added to the 2022/23 capital programme which will be fully funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

#### REASON

- (i) Additional funding will help those on low incomes and / or are vulnerable as well as supporting Young People.
- (ii) & (iii) To top up of the earmarked transformation reserve for projects that will help transform the Council in the future; effectively funded from the 2021/22 budget surplus.
- (iv) Inflation is over 6% and is causing significant price rises, and this, coupled with high salary pressures, is likely to cause a deficit in the 2022/23 outturn.
- (v) The budget will enable the Council to continue to operate the Drill Hall through to the end of the calendar year whilst discussions with the Royal British Legion are finalised.
- (vi) To help the resettlement and community support of Ukrainian families across the Horsham District.
- (vii) Feedback from the consultation with users at the Horsham Park skate park requested higher ramps and an improved plaza area that would be more accessible to more users.
- (viii) To develop and then help deliver a local investment plan for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.
- (ix) To enable capital investment spending under the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to support local businesses, Communities and Place and people and skills.

#### **(b) Forum Fountain upgrade**

The report to Cabinet seeks approval for a capital budget to upgrade The Forum fountain treatment system to support interactive play. The installation of this system will minimise bacterial risks so that the fountain can be kept operational, rather than needing to be shut down for cleansing.

#### RESOLVED

- (i) That the Forum fountain should be upgraded to a splash pad.

#### **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL**

- (ii) That a capital budget be created for £120,000 in 2022/23 for this purpose.

## REASON

- (i) The Forum fountain is located within a public open space without controls on its use as an interactive facility. An upgrade of the treatment system will mean that residents can enjoy the feature safely.
- (ii) The constitution states that only full Council can approve changes to the budget.

### **(c) WEEE and Textiles continuation of service and introduction of Podback**

The services for the collection of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), textiles and batteries, which the Council has run since May 2021, has proved very successful. The report to Cabinet recommends that they continue, in line with the Council's Corporate Plan objectives as well as Government requirements. Introducing Podback, a new coffee pod recycling service, would offset approximately one-third of the running costs.

## RESOLVED

- (i) To approve the introduction of the Podback scheme and continue the WEEE & Textiles Service in its current format.
- (ii) To delegate authority to the Director of Community Services, in consultation with the Head of Legal & Democratic Services, to finalise terms and conditions and to enter into the contract with Podback.

## RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

- (iii) To approve a revenue income budget of £14,440 from Podback for the recycling and waste service in 2022/23.

## REASON

- (i) Podback funding will reduce the costs of the scheme and increase recycling rates.
- (ii) Under the constitution, only full Council can approve budget changes.

### **(d) Development of a District-wide climate change Action Plan**

The report to Cabinet recommends the establishment of a Climate Change Panel consisting of experts on a range of subjects associated with reducing carbon emissions and preparing for a changed climate. Consultants would be used to run meetings of the panel and facilitate workshops with Council officers. The outcome would be an achievable and realistic climate change plan for the District.

## RESOLVED

- (i) To approve the establishment of a Climate Change Panel which will input to the development of a District wide climate change action plan.

- (iii) To approve the procurement of a consultant to facilitate a workshop with Council officers, as well as the meetings of the Climate Change Panel, and assist with the production of a District wide climate change action plan

#### **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL**

- (ii) To approve a revenue budget of £70k in 2022/23 to support the development of the plan.

#### **REASON**

- (i) A new Panel of experts will give external input to the development of a District wide strategy and plan to generate new ideas and increase the legitimacy of the plan.
- (ii) Budget is required to secure a consultant to facilitate the meetings of the Climate Change Panel, support the drafting of the action plan and the follow up engagement to gain support from partners and the wider community to deliver the action plan.
- (iii) Ensure that the Councils procurement process are followed.

#### **(e) Evidence Resourcing – Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) in development**

A statutory requirement is being introduced for new development to deliver 10% biodiversity net gain. In order for the Council to deliver its environmental priorities, there is an aspiration to exceed the biodiversity net gain target above this national standard.

Further evidence is required to enable a requirement for biodiversity net gain above the national standard to be supported by a Local Plan inspector. The report to Cabinet seeks an additional budget of up to £20,000 to fund the additional specialist ecological work required.

#### **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL**

- (i) That a revenue expenditure budget of £20,000 in Strategic Planning in 2022/2023 be approved to enable the commissioning of consultants to assess the deliverability of a higher percentage threshold than the statutory 10% biodiversity net gain target.

#### **REASON**

- (i) Additional resourcing is required to provide robust evidence to enable the Council to justify setting a higher biodiversity net gain target in the Local Plan than the statutory 10%. This will ensure that the Council delivers against its high environmental aspirations as set out in the Corporate Strategy.