

**Finance & Resources Policy Development Advisory Group**  
**18 SEPTEMBER 2023**

- Present: Councillors: Mark Baynham (Chairman), Tony Bevis, Paul Clarke, Mike Croker, Len Ellis-Brown, Warwick Hellawell, Tony Hogben and Richard Landeryou
- Apologies: Councillors: Malcolm Eastwood, Anthony Frankland and Mike Wood
- Also Present: Colette Blackburn, Peter van der Borgh, Dennis Livingstone, Jay Mercer and Roger Noel

10 **NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The notes of the previous meeting were received.

11 **POSSIBLE PURCHASE OF SITE C**

The Environmental Coordination Manager gave a presentation in relation to Site C, which outlined the policy context, and the benefits in relation to biodiversity net gain and improvements, as well as carbon sequestration and flood attenuation and water quality improvements. The options for the management of the site were outlined, and the financial implications and risks were highlighted.

Members discussed the proposal and asked about the risks and uncertainty surrounding the value of biodiversity net gain units. The risks around the site becoming a flood plain were noted, whilst acknowledging the community and moral value of the asset and the importance of biodiversity.

Members advised that further financial modelling would be required to make a decision on the purchase of the site, as well as options for exit strategies.

Although there are benefits to the Council purchasing the site, Members were concerned about the uncertainty around the biodiversity net gain market, as mandatory net gain does not come into force until November. From the current financial modelling there is a higher financial risk to the Council if the biodiversity net gain units from the site are not sold.

12 **PARKING - BUSINESS AND CHARITY DISCOUNT POLICY**

The Parking Manager advised the Group that the aim of the policy was to address discrepancies and ensure a consistent approach in the bulk discount rates for businesses and charities. Not-for-profit organisations would receive discounts at the discretion of the Cabinet Member, due to the variety in types of organisations that are registered as not-for-profit. Members supported the proposal.

13 **PARKING - DAY PASS PRICES AT MULTI STOREY CAR PARKS**

The Parking Manager advised the Group that tariffs for the day pass prices at multi-storey car parks have not been increased in line with other tariffs, which has resulted in a reduction of the use of season tickets. Members supported the proposal, and noted that it was important to manage the car parks commercially.

14 **RURAL CAR PARKING DISC PRICES**

The Parking Manager advised the Group that it was proposed that the cost of the rural car parking disc next year is increased by £2, to £20, and that the discount for additional discs would be removed. It was highlighted that the cost remains competitive and the removal of the discount for additional discs would reduce the administrative burden and increase revenue, which is reinvested into improving the rural car parks. The cost of improvements has increased from previous years.

Members noted that the cost has increased over the last 2 years and that it would be beneficial to be provided with details in the capital expenditure programme as to how the income has been invested. It was questioned whether the additional disc discount should be removed, and the Group were reminded that the disc is not specific to one vehicle, so households with multiple cars can use the same disc in any car.

15 **PARKING ANPR BID - VERBAL UPDATE**

The Parking Manager informed the Group that a tender exercise was underway, and two bids had been received, which were within budget. The opportunity to offer apps, and other technology, as well as have more intelligent information, was important.

The Group discussed the possibility of charging for shorter intervals than 1 hour. The Parking Manager confirmed that this could be explored in the next year.

16 **JOINT PROCUREMENT SERVICE - JOINT PROCUREMENT STRATEGY 2024 - 30**

The Director of Resources provided an update to the Group. An updated Joint Procurement Strategy was proposed that would apply to the Councils in the joint procurement service. The strategy aims broadly aligned with Horsham's policy objectives.

17 **FORWARD PLAN EXTRACT FOR THE FINANCE & RESOURCES PORTFOLIO**

The Forward Plan Extract for the Finance & Resources portfolio was noted.

*The meeting closed at 6.55 pm having commenced at 5.30 pm*

CHAIRMAN