

Minutes

Policy, Resources & Economic Development Committee Wednesday, 12th February, 2020

Membership/Attendance

Cllr Tumbridge (Chair)	Cllr Kendall
Cllr Mrs Hones (Vice-Chair)	Cllr Lewis
Cllr Barrett	Cllr Mynott
Cllr J Cloke	Cllr Poppy
Cllr Hossack	

Substitute Present

Also Present

Cllr S Cloke
Cllr Jakobsson
Cllr Mrs Pound
Cllr Mrs Pearson
Cllr Mrs Tierney
Cllr Reed
Cllr Hirst

Officers Present

Steve Summers	- Chief Operating Officer & Interim Monitoring Officer
Jacqueline Van Mellaerts	- Director of Corporate Resources
Jonathan Stephenson	- Chief Executive
Philip Drane	- Director of Strategic Planning
Claire Mayhew	- Corporate and Democratic Service Manager
Chris Leslie	- Director of SAIL
Phoebe Barnes	- Corporate Finance Manager
Kim Anderson	- Partnership, Leisure & Funding Manager
Greg Campbell	- Director of Environment
Tracey Lilley	- Director of Housing and Enforcement

365. Apologies for absence

No apologies were received for this meeting.

366. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Policy, Resources and Economic Development meeting were approved as a true record.

Members raised from the minutes the need to circulate the Communication Policy approved at the meeting on 8th January 2020. This will be circulated to all members by the clerk.

367. Budget 2020/21

The Draft Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) considered by Policy, Resources and Economic Development Committee on 8th January 2020 gave Members an update on the various significant changes that would impact on the Council's financial position.

The fundamental principles of the Council's MTFS are to:

- (i) Maintain a sustainable financial position against a background of unprecedented financial uncertainty and reduced government funding, including the delivery of efficiency targets.
- (ii) Support the vision of our Borough through appropriate identification of resources required to deliver the key priorities outlined in the Corporate Strategy.
- (iii) Maximise opportunities and mitigate risks associated with the fundamental change to the way in which local government is financed.

This report considers:

- (i) The General Fund budget proposals for 2020/21 to 2022/23.
- (ii) The Council Tax Requirement for 2020/21
- (iii) The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget proposals for 2020/21 onwards.
- (iv) The Capital and Investment Strategy for 2020/21 including the Councils capital Programme 2020/21 to 2022/23
- (v) Fees & Charges
- (vi) Pay Policy Statement
- (vii) Section 151 Officers Assurance Statement

The Policy, Resources and Economic Development Committee is required to consider the proposals and make recommendations to Ordinary Council for Approval on 4th March 2020.

The figures presented summarise the detailed service budgets, together with known adjustments including the impact of the provisional central government grant funding.

The key elements of the proposed budget are:

General Fund

- 1) A balanced budget to be set for 2020/21
- 2) An increase of Council Tax for 2020/21 in order to deliver a balanced budget and deliver on the required investment outlined within the budget.
- 3) The continuation of reduction in funding made available by Central Government

Housing Revenue Account

- 1) For 2020/21 a budget that delivers a small surplus of £87k.
- 2) Increase in rents of CPI plus 1% per annum
- 3) Continued investment in the delivery of Decent Homes and Development of Housing within the Borough.

Capital

- 1) Total additional capital investment of £10,564 million in 2020/21
- 2) With an additional investment of £14,724 from 2021 to 2023.

Cllr Tumbridge **MOVED** and Cllr Mrs Hones **SECONDED** the recommendations in the report.

Members are asked to

- R1. Approve the proposals for the General Fund Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy as set out in Appendix A and recommend to Ordinary Council for approval on 4th March 2020.**
- R2. Recommend that Council Tax is increased for 2020/21 by £5 per Band D property, increasing the charge for a Band D property from £188.63 to £193.63 per annum. The complete Council Tax Bandings (Brentwood Council Only) are included in Appendix A, Page 23**
- R3. Approve proposals for the HRA budget 2020/21 including the 30 year HRA Business Plan within Appendix B and recommend to Ordinary Council for approval on 4th March 2020.**

- R4. Approve an increase to rents for 2020/21 by CPI plus 1%
- R5. Approve the Capital and Investment Strategy in Appendix C including the Capital Programme and recommend to Ordinary Council for approval on 4th March 2020.
- R6. Approve the Fees & Charges Schedule in Appendix D and recommend to Ordinary Council for approval on 4th March 2020.
- R7. To note the Pay Policy Statement in Appendix E and recommend for approval at Ordinary Council on 4th March 2020.
- R8. Approve the Section 151 Officers Assurance Statement in Appendix F when recommending all for approval to Ordinary Council on 4th March 2020.

A vote was taken by a show of hands and it was **RESOLVED**.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

Effective financial management underpins all of the priorities for the Council and will enable the Council to operate within a sustainable budget environment.

The Council is required to approve the Budget as part of the Budget and Policy Framework

368. Fields in Trust

On 30th January 2020 Planning & Licensing Committee Members approved the planning application for the proposed development of new facilities in King George's Playing Fields.

King George's Playing Fields has a deed of dedication which was agreed on 2nd November 1951 with Fields in Trust. Within the new development proposals, the new pavilion footprint is larger than the existing pavilion. It is proposed to remove the footprint of the new pavilion building from the demise of the existing deed of dedication with Fields in Trust and to allocate this space within another open space in the Borough.

After a full discussion, Cllr Tumbridge **MOVED** and Cllr Mrs Hones **SECONDED** the recommendations in the report., subject to an amendment to recommendation 2.

Members are asked to:

- R1. Approve the removal of the footprint of the proposed pavilion (Indicated on Appendix A), within King Georges Playing Fields (KGPF), from the current deed of dedication (Appendix B);

R2. To delegate authority to the Director of Law and Governance, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of Policy, Resources and Economic Development, and the Leader of the Council, to negotiate and finalise all agreements with Fields in Trust to remove the new pavilion building footprint from the deed of dedication at King George's Playing Field and consider appropriate alternative deed of dedication, and a deed of trust for Warley Playing Fields.

A vote was taken by a show of hands and it was **RESOLVED**.

Reasons for Recommendation

The negotiation for the removal of the Deed of Dedication for the new pavilion will assist in the development of the facilities and also the future management of the building in respect of any relevant lease arrangements, following on from planning approval on 30 January 2020.

Comments from Sport England as part of the Local Development Plan consultation, stated that a Leisure Strategy is required that assesses Council owned sports and leisure facilities in order that the Council can continue to work with partners to ensure that appropriate provision is made for the residents of Brentwood. The strategy should not only consider how the Council can provide services, but also how other partners can. The strategy should also use current sports facility evidence to identify strategic priorities to then inform what will be included in the Council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

The KGPF improvements support all six workstreams of the Leisure Strategy Built Facilities, Play Areas, Sport, Open Spaces, Health and Wellbeing and Governance Arrangements.

Any delay in the decision-making process may impact on build timelines for the project and therefore impact on the build costs and as a result the financial allocation for the project.

369. King George's Playing Fields - Development Management Agreement

On the 30th January 2020 Planning & Licensing Committee Members approved the planning application for the proposed development of the new facilities in King George's Playing Fields.

In tandem with the planning submission is the work to ensure Cost Certainty Design and Costings through RIBA Stage 4 process. Following planning permission being granted, the Council needs to procure a building contractor to deliver the project. It is proposed that the Council utilises the UK Leisure Framework Agreement to do this. The Council has already used the framework to undertake the feasibility works and to gain the Council Cost Certainty for the project.

Cllr Tumbridge **MOVED** and Cllr Mrs Hones **SECONDED** the recommendation in the report.

Members are asked to agree:

R1. Approves that the Council enters into a Development Management Agreement with Alliance Leisure Services, through the UK Leisure Framework, and delegates to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chair of Community & Health Committee and the Leader of the Council, to conclude all arrangements, for the construction of the King George's Playing Fields development.

A vote was taken by a show of hands and it was **RESOLVED**.

Reasons for Recommendation

As part of the Council's due diligence in delivery a successful Leisure Strategy, Members and officers need to have a complete picture of the current associated costs, risk profiles of the Borough's Leisure facilities and identify opportunities for income generation.

Comments from Sport England as part of the Local development Plan consultation, stated that a Leisure Strategy is required that assesses Council owned sports and leisure facilities in order that the Council can continue to work with partners to ensure that appropriate provision is made for the residents of Brentwood. The strategy should not only consider how the Council can provide services, but also how other partners can. The strategy should also use current sports facility evidence to identify strategic priorities to then inform what will be included in the Council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan. Following this feasibility work, the Council will then be able to determine which projects will be funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and those funded by planning obligations.

The Council's Asset Management Strategy 2014/15 also sets out the need to obtain and maximise income where possible from its asset portfolio.

The KGPF improvements support all six workstreams of the Leisure Strategy Built Facilities, Play Areas, Sport. Open Spaces, Health and Wellbeing and Governance Arrangements.

Both sites will provide a much improved fully inclusive offer of activities and facilities for residents and families.

The new pavilion will provide a more energy efficient and effective building.

Any delay in the decision-making process may impact on build timelines for the project and therefore impact on the build costs as a result and the financial allocation for the project.

370. Economic Development Update

This Economic Development update was provided to Policy, Resources and Economic Development Committee to inform Members about progress regarding the following:

- 2020 Brentwood Business Showcase;
- Economic Development Study;
- Place Audit of Brentwood, Shenfield and Ingatestone;
- Brentwood Fibre First programme; and
- Engagement with local employers.

Jonathan Stephenson gave an update to members on the recent communications with a number of businesses within the Borough.

Action Plan to be an item at Policy, Resources and Economic Development Committee in March 2020.

The Chair informed the committee this was an informational item and requested members to note the report.

371. Member's Training Programme Update

This report was before member's to update them on the Member's Training Programme and the progress made with Member Development. The timetable is attached at Appendix A for Member's information.

Members asked about a summary for the training being delivered be supplied together with training start times been later, so more member's can attended. This was noted by the Officer.

The Chair informed the committee this was an informational item and requested members to note the report.

372. Exclusion of the Press and Public

A motion was **MOVED** by Cllr Tumbridge and **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs Hones that the public be excluded from the meeting on the items of business (10 and 11) on the grounds that the disclosure of exempt information as defined in schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

A vote was taken by a show of hands and was **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY**.

373. Minutes from the Previous Meeting - EXEMPT

The exempt minutes of the Policy, Resource and Economic Development meeting were on 8th January 2020 were approved as a true record.

374. Urgent Business

Investment Property Funding - EXEMPT

Cllr Tumbridge **MOVED** and Cllr Mrs Hones **SECONDED** the recommendations set out in the report.

A vote was taken by a show of hands and was **RESOLVED.**

The meeting concluded at 20:45
