

Minutes of the Meeting of the STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE held at the Council Chamber, Epsom Town Hall on 12 December 2023

PRESENT -

Councillor Neil Dallen (Chair); Councillor Hannah Dalton (Vice-Chair); Councillors Chris Ames, Graham Jones, Alison Kelly, Robert Leach and Alan Williamson

In Attendance: Councillor Arthur Abdulin, Councillor Christine Cleveland, Councillor Alex Coley, Councillor Julian Freeman, Councillor Rachel King, Councillor Steven McCormick, Councillor Bernie Muir and Councillor Clive Woodbridge

Absent: Councillor Shanice Goldman

Officers present: Jackie King (Chief Executive), Andrew Bircher (Interim Director of Corporate Services), Victoria Potts (Director of Environment, Housing and Regeneration), Brendan Bradley (Head of Finance), Piero Ionta (Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer), Mark Shephard (Head of Property and Regeneration), Tim Richardson (Democratic Services Manager), Phoebe Batchelor (Democratic Services Officer) and Dan Clackson (Democratic Services Officer)

28 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made in relation to items of business to be discussed at the meeting.

29 LOCAL PLAN BUDGET RESOURCES

The Committee received a report providing an updated financial position for the Epsom and Ewell Local Plan (2022-2040), towards its submission and subsequent adoption in accordance with the timescales defined in the recently published Local Development Scheme (November 2023).

The Licencing and Planning Policy Committee on the 22 November 2023 agreed to report the estimated shortfall in funding for completing the Local Plan to the Strategy and Resources Committee with a request to secure funding for the £629,000 shortfall.

The Strategy and Resources Committee considered the following matter:

- a) **Work scheduling and resource requirements.** A Member of the Committee asked for further information regarding why it was proposed to extend the contracts of two temporary members of staff to the end of

2026, given that the Regulation 19 documents would need to be submitted by mid 2025. In response the Interim Director of Environment, Housing and Regeneration informed the Committee that following the submission of the Regulation 19 documents there would be an examination period and an implementation period, and these were anticipated to occur during 2026. The contract extensions were proposed to ensure that the Council had sufficient resource to complete the whole process.

Following consideration, the Committee unanimously resolved:

- (1) To agree to allocate £629,000 funding from the Corporate Projects Reserve to enable the completion of the Epsom and Ewell Local Plan (2022-2040).**

30 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Committee unanimously resolved to exclude the Press and Public from the meeting in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act (as amended) and that pursuant to paragraph 10 of Part 2 of the said Schedule 12A the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

31 COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

The Committee received a report providing the Strategic Outline Business case for a new civic office in 70 East Street, Epsom.

The Committee's consideration of this item is recorded in a separate (not for publication) restricted Minute.

Following consideration, the Committee unanimously resolved to:

- (1) Recommend to Council that:**

- a) The update in respect to 70 East Street be noted.**
- b) The Strategic Outline Business case to establish the Council's new Civic Offices at 70 East Street, Epsom be agreed and:
 - I. the relocation of the Council Chamber and ancillary functions to Bourne Hall be approved.**
 - II. the relocation of the civic office to 70 East Street be approved.****
- c) an indicative capital budget of up to £7.0 million and a revenue budget of up to £0.5m for programme delivery are approved.**

- d) Funding Option 3, as set out in the Strategic Outline Business Case, be adopted to fund the relocation, noting the specific agreements regarding the optimal use of the existing Town Hall site.**
 - e) An implementation programme, supported with appropriate governance, be established to oversee the mobilisation to the new building.**
 - f) The Chief Executive and Interim Director of Environment, Housing and Regeneration (or subsequent permanent Director), in consultation with the S151 officer, be delegated specific authority to approve all necessary project/procurement expenditure and release of funds from budgets/reserves (up to the approved limit above) through to completion and delivery.**
- (2) Resolve that authority be given to the Head of Property and Regeneration to commence procurement for the refurbishment works to 70 East Street.**

The meeting began at 6.30 pm and ended at 6.52 pm

COUNCILLOR NEIL DALLEN (CHAIR)