

## Minutes of the Meeting of the STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE held on 22 December 2020

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### PRESENT -

Councillor Eber Kington (Chairman); ; Councillors Steve Bridger, Kate Chinn, Nigel Collin, Hannah Dalton, David Gulland, Colin Keane, Barry Nash and Phil Neale

In Attendance: Councillor Neil Dallen

Absent: Councillor Clive Smitheram and Councillor Arthur Abdulin

Officers present: Kathryn Beldon (Chief Executive), Damian Roberts (Chief Operating Officer), Lee Duffy (Chief Finance Officer), Amardip Healy (Chief Legal Officer), Judith Doney (Head of Digital and Service Transformation), Shona Mason (Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development), Mark Shephard (Head of Property and Regeneration), Brendan Bradley (Chief Accountant), Siobhan Gavigan (Revenues Manager) and Sarah Keeble (Democratic Services Officer)

### 51 QUESTION TIME

No questions were submitted or asked by members of the public.

### 52 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

### 53 CHRISTMAS STAFFING ARRANGEMENTS 2020

The Committee received a report requesting that in recognition of the extraordinary work and dedication by the officer team in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic, that an additional day's leave be granted on 30 December 2020.

The following matters were raised by the Committee:

- a) **Allocated discretionary day's leave:** Members noted the proposed discretionary day's leave over the Christmas period. It was noted that this had been practise for a number of years.
- b) **Time of publication:** Members noted that this report had been published in advance of the Government's announcement to move Epsom and Ewell into Tier 4 at the weekend, and raised concerns over whether the report would require any amendments. Officers noted that additional measures

had been put into place from the weekend, including the agreement of a Leadership Team roster, as well as Parking and Communications, and the re-implementation of the Community Hub as formal shielding for vulnerable residents had come back into effect. It was noted that all Members would be notified of the Council's plans for the Christmas period in the final Members Update of the year.

Following consideration, it was resolved unanimously that the Committee:

- (1) Awarded officers an additional day's leave to be taken on the 30 December 2020;**
- (2) Noted that officers will be required to take a compulsory day's leave from their annual entitlement on the 31 December 2020, to enable the Council Officers to be closed of the week commencing Monday 28 December.**
- (3) Noted that where the operational needs of the Council require services to operate over the Christmas period, affected officers will receive an additional day's pay in lieu of the award of an additional day's leave.**

#### **54 BUSINESS GRANTS DISCRETIONARY SCHEMES**

The Committee received a report detailing the discretionary grant schemes for businesses in the Council's area.

Following consideration, it was resolved unanimously that the Committee:

- (1) Agreed the two discretionary schemes.**

#### **55 ALLOCATION OF FUNDING FOR PLANNING APPEALS**

There are two appeals which have now been submitted against the refusal of planning permission by Planning Committee and a third is expected shortly. The Planning Service does not have a budget for defending planning appeals and therefore resources are being requested to enable the Council to defend its position on the current and anticipated appeals.

The following matters were raised by the Committee:

- a) Calculation of figures:** Members noted the estimated £96,000 figure of appeal. It was noted that the figure is derived through Officers experience of handling many appeals over a number of years.

Following consideration, it was resolved unanimously that the Committee:

- (1) Allocated up to £96,000 to support the Council in defending planning appeals on the three major applications described in the report.**

- (2) Agreed that the £96,000 allocation will be financed from new burdens planning grants held in the corporate projects reserve.**

**56 BOURNE HALL PARKING CHARGES FOR COMMUNITY VACCINATION SCHEME**

The Committee received a report requesting its support for a Covid vaccination hub with discounted parking for staff and volunteers who are involved in delivering the vaccination programme.

The Committee was addressed by the Chairman of the Environment and Safe Communities Committee, Councillor Neil Dallen, who spoke in support of the recommendations.

The following matters were raised by the Committee:

- a) Number of proposed parking spaces:** Members raised concerns regarding the number of proposed car-parking spaces. It was noted that only 10 spaces were to be allocated due to the minimal length of time the scheme was to be passed for.
- b) Users:** It was noted that the car-parking spaces would likely be used by users of Bourne Hall, those coming for their Covid19 vaccinations and parents dropping their children off at the local school.

Following consideration, it was resolved with 7 Members voting for, 1 abstention and the Chairman not voting that the Committee:

- (1) Delegated to the Head of Operational Services to implement a parking permit scheme at Bourne Hall for Fitznells Manor Surgery, as set out in paragraph 2.6 of this report.**

**57 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Committee passed a resolution to exclude the public from the meeting for Part Two of the Agenda 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.

**58 COMMERCIAL PROPERTY LEASE VARIATION**

The Minute for this Item is reordered in a separate (not for publication) Restricted Minute.

*The meeting began at 7.00 pm and ended at 8.10 pm*

COUNCILLOR EBER KINGTON (CHAIRMAN)