

5 April 2016

**Recommendations of the STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
to the Council of the Borough of Epsom and Ewell**

PRESENT-

Councillor Neil Dallen (Chairman); Councillor Clive Woodbridge (Vice Chairman);
Councillors Tony Axelrod, Richard Baker, Rekha Bansil, Kate Chinn, Eber Kington,
Keith Partridge and Mike Teasdale

Absent: Councillor Omer Koukou-Tchri

- 40** CORPORATE PLAN 2016 TO 2020. The Committee received and considered the draft Corporate Plan for 2016 – 2020 and its four Key Priorities.

The adoption of the Corporate Plan for the next four years would provide an important focus for the Council's work to ensure that services to the local community met the areas of greatest importance and need.

The Plan and its four Key Priorities had been developed as a result of consultation carried out with members, the Leadership Team, key stakeholders and Staff. Residents had also been consulted in February 2016 and a total of 450 responses had been received from the online and paper surveys.

It was agreed that the wording of two of the objectives in relation to the Key Priority "Keeping our Borough Clean and Green" should be amended. Firstly, to provide greater reassurance that the Council was committed to the protection of the green belt, the Committee recommended that the objective of "*accommodating sustainable development whilst seeking to preserve the green belt*" should be amended to read: "*accommodating sustainable development whilst protecting the green belt using adopted planning policies*". Secondly, it was agreed that the wording of the objective regarding the introduction of a premium weekly collection service for recycling and waste should be amended to read "introducing a premium weekly collection service for recycling and waste as a standard for all residents and encouraging more household waste to be recycled".

In regard to the four proposed Core Values it was agreed that the word "Respect" should be changed to "Openness", this being a more objective concept than the concept of respect.

Accordingly, **it was agreed to recommend**

E That the Council:

- Approve and adopt the Ambition and four Key Priorities for the Corporate Plan 2016 – 2020 as set out in Annexe 1 to the report subject to the amendments made at this meeting
- Approve and adopt the new Corporate Plan 2016 to 2020

41 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY. The Committee received and considered the scope and content of the draft Economic Development Strategy which had been the subject of a comprehensive briefing for Members on 29 March 2016.

The report highlighted that the Strategy focussed on five themes, selected following consultation with Members and the local business community. These themes sought to reflect and develop the Borough Council's priorities already set out in the Corporate and Local Plans.

The Action Plan associated with these themes identified a variety of different interventions that the Borough Council could undertake. For example, the report highlighted that in order to improve accessibility and infrastructure, this Council could contribute to the delivery of transport schemes such as the Kiln Lane Link and Epsom Town Centre Improvements. In regard to the Kiln Lane Link scheme, it was noted that discussions were on-going with partners regarding the development of the business case in order that the scheme could be put forward as a bid to the Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership.

It was agreed to recommend

F The adoption of the Economic Development Strategy

42 TREASURY MANAGEMENT. The Committee received and considered a report which set out the updated Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2016/17 – 2018/19.

It was highlighted that the Strategy supported the achievement of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy and set out the management of risks associated with the treasury management service. There were very few changes to the Strategy from last year apart from the fact that the new Strategy allowed for a number of options to be explored to generate returns in excess of current levels. This included extending the investment portfolio through longer term investments and the use of property funds. It was noted that there was a slightly higher risk attached to the use of these funds but the Strategy did not commit the Council to anything other than considering such investment.

It was further noted that Capital expenditure was higher in 2015/16 as a result of Plan E but that overall, capital investment was dropping. The "other contribution" of £3m in 2015/16 was from Surrey County Council towards the implementation of Plan E schemes.

Included within the Strategy were the borrowing limits and borrowing investment parameters required by the Prudential Code and approved by Council on 11 February 2016. Should the Council decide to borrow, this would feed into the Capital Prudential Indicators which would need to be amended accordingly.

Having noted that the Treasury Management and Investment Strategies were compliant with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management, the Committee approved:

- the Capital Prudential Indicators and Limits for 2016/17 to 2018/19 contained within the Treasury Management Strategy Statement (Section 2)
- the Treasury Management Strategy 2016/17 to 2018/19 and the Treasury Prudential Indicators contained within it (Section 3)
- the Investment Strategy 2016/17 contained with the Treasury Management Strategy Statement (Section 4)
- the treasury management practices as set out in Appendix 2 to the Treasury Management Strategy Statement

and accordingly,

It was agreed to recommend

- G** the adoption of the updated Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2016/17 to 2018/19

- 43** COMMITTEE RESTRUCTURING. The Committee received and considered a report which set out proposed changes to the Committee structure. The main changes comprised the replacement of the Social and Leisure Committees with a single Community and Wellbeing Committee and modification of the terms of reference of certain committees.

It was noted that the number of seats on each committee was a matter for Council but it had previously been agreed that policy committees would consist of ten members. However, in the opinion of Officers, the reduction in 10 seats on ordinary committees ought not to lead to any disenfranchisement as there remained a sufficient number of seats to fill on committees and panels sufficient to involve all members.

Accordingly,

It was agreed to recommend

- H** (1) the Social Committee and Leisure Committee be disestablished with effect from the next Municipal Year

- (2) A new Community and Wellbeing Committee be established with effect from the next Municipal Year, comprising ten members
- (3) the Terms of Reference of Committees and Panels be amended as set out in the Annexe to the report

NEIL DALLEN
Chairman