

Cabinet
Wednesday 26 June 2019

Comments from the Overview and Scrutiny Commission
at its meeting on Monday 24 June 2019
OSC/281

1. Cabinet Agenda Item 7 – Treasury Management Outturn 2018-2019

Comments and Recommendations

The Commission considered report FIN/473 of the Head of Corporate Finance.

During the discussion, the following points were expressed:

- Acknowledgement that the Council's policy was to invest accordingly whilst providing an appropriate balance between security, liquidity, yield and ethical considerations.
- Recognition of the higher than expected return of the internally managed funds.
- Explanation sought and obtained on the details provided within appendices.
- It was noted that with within page 4 of the report, "The maturity structure of the debt portfolio", should have read £23,000 and not £13,000.

RESOLVED

That the Commission noted the recommendations to the Cabinet.

2. Cabinet Agenda Item 8 – Review of the Statement of Licensing Policy Gambling Act 2005 (2020-2022)

Comments and Recommendations

The Commission considered report HCS/14 of the Head of Community Services.

During the discussion, Members made the following comments:

- Recognition that the local authority was responsible for the issuing of licences for premises that are covered under the Gambling Act 2005. Licences for operators and game types, together with controls concerning gambling machines were the responsibility of the Gambling Commission.
- The proposed revised Statement of Licensing Policy Gambling Act 2005 did not take into account on-line gambling as this was the responsibility of the Gambling Commission. However there had been consultation and lobbying within this area.
- Acknowledgement that there were minor changes to the policy.
- Explanation sought and obtained as to representations that may be considered frivolous, vexatious or irrelevant.
- It was noted that changes had been made in terms of gambling and "player protection", for instance fixed odds betting terminals maximum stake being reduced to £2. There was support for further work, particularly surrounding sports advertising and assisting young people.
- Officers were commended for their work in responding to consultations.

RESOLVED

That Commission agreed the recommendations to the Cabinet.

3. Cabinet Agenda Item 9 – Crawley Growth Programme – Next Phase of Projects, Update to S106 Allocations & Funding Governance

Comments and Recommendations

The Commission considered report PES/316 of the Head of Economy and Planning.

During the discussion, Members made the following comments:

- Recognition that the report sought approval for consultation, the allocation of S106 monies and those within the Crawley Growth Programme budget and together with the transfer of lead authority for the Town Centre Commercial Space development project to CBC, together with capital funding.
- Support for the report and the further development of the Crawley Growth Programme.

RESOLVED

That the Commission agreed to support the recommendations to the Cabinet.

4. Cabinet Agenda Item 10 – District Heat Network Operations, Maintenance & Billing Contract

Comments and Recommendations

The Commission considered report HPS/20 of the Head of Major Projects & Commercial Services.

During the discussion, the following points were expressed:

- The report has been brought before the Commission at this stage so the project team could commence the procurement process in time to appoint a contractor in advance of the practical completion of the energy centre. The operations, maintenance and billing contractor could assist in the testing and commissioning of the plant and handover of the scheme once the practical completion stage had been met.
- Support for the tender exercise to appoint specialists within this field.
- Explanation sought and obtained as to the policy on excess capacity on supply production and how this sale of excess capacity would be handled.
- Clarification provided that once the tender evaluation was complete, a review of the business case would be undertaken. At that point, should either the capital cost or the projected revenue return not be acceptable, appropriate authority would need to be sought or the option to cancel the DHN project remained open.
- Recognition that the contract required specialist experience, skill and knowledge of delivering the service which was not currently available in-house, it required organisational capacity. The local authority needed to draw on the organisational expertise that those establishments would offer.

RESOLVED

That the Commission agreed the recommendations to the Cabinet.

5. Cabinet Agenda Item 11 – Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) Agreements

Comments and Recommendations

The Commission considered report SHAP/78 of the Head of Strategic Housing.

During the discussion, Members made the following comments:

- Acknowledgement that negotiations can be complex.
- Support for the grant funding to be received across both schemes which would assist in providing an acoustic barrier in Forge Wood, together with access, site decontamination and public realm works at Telford Place.

RESOLVED

That the Commission agreed the recommendations to the Cabinet.

6. Cabinet Agenda Item 16 – Occupational Sick Pay for Crawley Homes' Contractor Staff

Exempt Paragraphs 3 & 4

Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under the authority.

Comments and Recommendations

The Commission considered report CH/184 of the Leader of the Council.

During the discussion, the following points were expressed:

- Members' views were divided on this item.
- Advantages and disadvantages were discussed over the proposals.

(A detailed Part B comment sheet is included separately on the Council's website)

RESOLVED

That the Commission agreed the recommendations to the Cabinet.

Councillor Rana
Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Commission
24 June 2019