

**Cabinet**  
**Wednesday 31 October 2018**

**Comments from the Overview and Scrutiny Commission**  
**at its meeting on Monday 29 October 2018**  
**OSC/275**

**1. Cabinet Agenda Item 7 – Budget Strategy 2019/20 – 2023/24**

**Comments and Recommendations**

The Commission considered report FIN/417 of the Head of Corporate Finance.

Councillors made the following comments:

- Acknowledgement that the local government finance system had become increasing complex.
- Clarification on whether businesses could be approached for sponsorship or revenue generating opportunities.
- Explanation sought on the capital programme and on the processes used.
- Recognition that there was a need to ensure an effective use of capital. Whilst the current strategy incorporated bids for capital based on expenditure required to maintain the Council's assets in addition to spend to save projects or spend to earn investment, many Members felt there was a need for further prioritisation and a flexible, broader approach, on a case by case basis if appropriate. It was felt that there should be a requirement for schemes to consider 'social value'. It was initially suggested that Recommendation 'e' be removed. However following further discussions, it was subsequently recommended that Recommendation 'e' remain with an explicit reference to 'social value'. It was suggested that Cabinet be requested to consider this addition and Recommendation e' would now read:

*Note that items for the Capital Programme are driven by the need for the upkeep of council assets and environmental obligations and schemes will also be considered that are spend to save or spend to earn, but that such prioritisation should not preclude the initial consideration of capital projects that could deliver social value.*

**RESOLVED**

That the Commission noted the report and requested Cabinet to consider the proposed amendment to Recommendation 'e' above.

**2. Cabinet Agenda Item 11 – District Heat Network**

**(Exempt Paragraph 3)**

**Comments and Recommendations**

The Commission considered report HPS/15 of the Head of Major Projects and Commercial Services.

During the discussion, the following comments were made:

- Confirmation that the District Energy Centre would provide heating and electricity to the buildings included within the wider Town Hall re-development, and other developments within Crawley Town Centre.
- Policy ENV7 within the Crawley Borough Local Plan 2015-2030 highlighted the site as a priority area for the delivery of District Energy Network as identified on the Local Plan Map.
- Confirmation sought and provided on the financial implications and governance arrangements.
- Planning application work was underway and whilst there were risks that needed to be monitored, it was noted that the proposal represents a form of sustainable development, providing a low-carbon form of energy, and was considered to provide environmental and financial benefits.

**RESOLVED**

That the Commission agreed to support, in principle the recommendations to the Cabinet.

**Councillor Tina Belben**  
**Vice Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Commission**  
**29 October 2018**