

Cabinet
Wednesday 21 November 2018

Comments from the Overview and Scrutiny Commission
at its meeting on Monday 19 November 2018
OSC/277

1. Cabinet Agenda Item 7 – Treasury Management Mid-Year Review 2018/2019

Comments and Recommendations

The Commission considered report FIN/457 of the Head of Corporate Finance.

Councillors made the following comments:

- Clarification sought and obtained on the investment portfolio, in particular property and land acquisition. It was queried whether assets could be individually listed. It was stated that the ongoing revenue stream was an important factor.
- Acknowledgement provided on the investments with various authorities, together with the detailed holdings and nature of the Council's borrowings.

RESOLVED

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

2. Cabinet Agenda Item 8 – Abandoned Shopping Trolleys

Comments and Recommendations

The Commission considered report HCS/10 of the Head of Community Services.

During the discussion, the following points were expressed:

- It was noted that some trolleys had a locking mechanism which prevented them travelling beyond a certain point. However the issue was still a concern due to the timings of collection.
- Acknowledgement that some retailers subscribe to the Trolleywise scheme but it was hoped that the new initiative would result in a significant improvement.
- Recognition that the charges could be reviewed subsequent to the scheme being introduced.
- General support for the scheme, to improve the appearance of the town. However it was hoped there would not be a disproportionate effect on the Neighbourhood Patch Teams due to the fact that the issue was more prevalent in certain areas of the town.

RESOLVED

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

3. Cabinet Agenda Item 9 – Station Gateway Programme Update

Comments and Recommendations

The Commission considered report PES/307 of the Head of Economy and Planning.

Councillors made the following comments:

- Acknowledgement that the delivery of the detailed designs of the scheme would be delivered as part of the Crawley Growth programme. The Council had signed a partnership agreement with West Sussex County Council, which confirmed the Crawley Growth programme governance, budget and delivery arrangements and the responsibilities of each authority for management of the programme. The overall co-ordination and strategic management of the Crawley Growth Programme was undertaken by the Crawley Growth Board.

- Confirmation that the procurement tendering exercise would be undertaken in accordance with the Council's Procurement Code.
- Clarification was obtained regarding the station bridges including confirmation that the accessibility bridge would likely be completed during 2019.
- Recognition that the Council would be working closely with partners, stakeholders and the Arora Group to ensure a consistent and efficient approach to the design and works delivery of public realm improvements along Station Way and on Friday Way/Haslett Avenue West to achieve synergies and an attractive, high quality public station gateway site.
- Support for the scheme, together with recognition of the partnership working and funding involved, with an acknowledgement that the timescales were critical.

RESOLVED

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

4. Cabinet Agenda Item 10 – Public Space Protection Order (PSPO)

Comments and Recommendations

The Commission considered report CH/181 of the Head of Crawley Homes.

During the discussion, the following points were expressed:

- Acknowledgement that the PSPO would relate to the anti-social behaviour associated with car cruise activity. In excess of two cars constituted a gathering.
- Concerns were expressed that the anti-social behaviour would simply transition from one area to another.
- Clarification was sought as to the consultation undertaken, particularly with registered car owners of vehicles involved in such activity. It was stressed not to vilify all those with "*a passion for cars*".
- Recognition that some instances of car cruising took place on private land and collaboration has been taking place with various partners and stakeholders.
- Confirmation provided regarding the evidence gathering and issuing of the fixed penalty notices.
- Whilst there was general support for the principles of the scheme, it was remarked that the Home Office guidance suggested the decision could be put to the Cabinet or Full Council. The majority of the Commission were of the opinion that given the town wide issue and to ensure all Members have the opportunity for direct involvement, it would aid democracy, openness and accountability for the Cabinet to refer the decision itself to Full Council, and following a vote this proposal was declared as Carried.
- Members also felt it would be beneficial for the Commission to receive a review report after 6 months of implementation in order to effectively evaluate the impact of the PSPO.

Having considered all the matters in detail, and as a result of the comprehensive discussion and subsequent voting, the Commission felt that the following recommendations were appropriate to be referred to the Cabinet:

RESOLVED

That the Commission:

1. Indicates its broad support for the report to Cabinet
2. Recommends that Cabinet refer the decision to Full Council for their consideration and approval. (In line with the flexibility provided within the Guidance)
3. Requests to receive a review report after 6 months of implementation in order to effectively evaluate the impact of the PSPO.

Councillor Chris Cheshire
Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Commission
19 November 2018