

CABINET DECISION NOTICE

Wednesday 28 June 2017



The following decision(s) were taken by Cabinet at its meeting held on **Wednesday 28 June 2017** :-

1. NEW HOMES BONUS (HADDENHAM GRANT)

(a) Decision(s)

That the recommendation of the New Homes Bonus Advisory Grants Panel to award a grant of £102,225 to Haddenham Parish Council for a community path.

(b) Reason(s) for Decision(s)

The NHB Advisory Grants Panel had previously decided that the project should be supported but had felt that further detailed information was required before a firm recommendation could be made to Cabinet. That information had now been received and the Panel was satisfied that the project complied with the grants criteria. Funds had been set aside in anticipation of the receipt of the additional information requested.

(c) Alternative Options Considered

Not to fund the scheme. However, it was felt that the project met the criteria for grant aid from the funds set aside for this purpose.

(d) Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Finance and Services.

(e) Conflicts of Interest / Dispensation(s)

None.

2. NEW HOMES BONUS (HADDENHAM GRANT)



(a) Decision(s)

That the recommendation of the New Homes Bonus Advisory Grants Panel to award a grant of £102,225 to Haddenham Parish Council for a community path be approved.

(b) Reason(s) for Decision(s)

The NHB Advisory Grants Panel had previously decided that the project should be supported but had felt that further detailed information was required before a firm recommendation could be made to Cabinet. That information had now been received (as set out in the Cabinet report) and the Panel was satisfied that the project complied with the grants criteria. Funds had been set aside in anticipation of the receipt of the additional information requested.

(c) Alternative Options Considered

Not to fund the scheme. However, it was felt that the project now met the Panel's requirements for the release of the grant funds and Cabinet concurred with this view.

(d) Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Finance and Services.

(e) Conflicts of Interest / Dispensation(s)

None.

3. A REVIEW OF THE ORIGINAL NHB CRITERIA AND THE INTRODUCTION OF A NHB MICROGRANT SCHEME FROM SEPTEMBER 2017

(a) Decision(s)

(1) That the original NHB funding scheme be continued without any change.

(2) That the NHB funding scheme criteria be expanded to include a "microgrants" scheme as described in the Cabinet report, subject to a minor amendment to the proposed criteria to the effect that it would apply to projects costing up to £10,000, and the removal of the requirement that the project should demonstrate a link to growth, which in the case of small Parishes might preclude consideration for assistance.

(3) That the operation of the "microgrants" scheme be reviewed in twelve months time.

(b) Reason(s) for Decision(s)

The changes to the New Homes Bonus Scheme at a national level and the closure of the Community Chest scheme have presented an opportunity to review the NHB Parish Funding Scheme. The above decision will enable the scheme to be more inclusive, allowing smaller Parishes to benefit from the funding available.

(c) Alternative Options Considered

To maintain the status quo. However, it has been identified that amending the scheme as described in the Cabinet report will extend the range of Parish orientated organisations that might be helped.

(d) Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Finance and Services.

(e) Conflicts of Interest / Dispensation(s)

None.

4. SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL PLAN

(a) Decision(s)

That the production of the updated Sustainable Travel Plan be noted and that the views expressed by the Environment and Living Scrutiny be taken into account in relation to the importance of ensuring that provision was made for the provision of electric charging points in new developments within the context of the VALP.

(b) Reason(s) for Decision(s)

To facilitate continuance of the Council's aspiration to pursue initiatives designed to mitigate climate change.

This matter was considered by the Environment and Living Scrutiny Committee which had felt that the demand for EV charging points was likely to grow over the next few years and that there would be merit in emerging planning policy documents taking account of this fact. The Chairman of the Committee attended the meeting and elaborated upon the Committee's deliberations. Another Member of that Committee also attended and spoke on this item during the non-Cabinet Member question time.

It was confirmed that the emerging VALP would deal with the provision of EV charging points within new developments. It was also noted that officers would, in partnership with other relevant agencies, actively pursue the collection of empirical evidence of the demand for more on street EV charging points, thus enabling full advantage to be taken of Government funding incentives.

Officers would also explore the feasibility of avoiding wherever possible the removal of EV charging points from new development schemes during negotiations around the facilities to be provided in accordance with S106 agreements.

(c) Alternative Options Considered

Not to update the travel plan, but this would be contrary to the Council's aspirations as indicated in (b) above.

(d) Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Environment and Living. As mentioned above that Committee had received a similar report at its meeting on 13 June, 2017, and the above decision takes account of the views expressed by that Committee.

(e) Conflicts of Interest / Dispensation(s)

None.

5. EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS / PROGRESS REPORT

(a) Decision(s)

That the position on the Council's progress with addressing climate change through emission's reductions be noted and officers be asked to continue to work towards seeking reductions in the Council's carbon footprint and hence assist the Council to achieve significant financial savings.

Reason(s) for Decision(s)

The Cabinet report provides all Members with an update on the progress made by the Council in this area of activity.

(c) Alternative Options Considered

None as such.

(d) Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Environment and Living. That Committee received a similar report at its meeting on 13 June, 2017. The Committee had been supportive of the work being done to reduce the Council's carbon footprint.

(e) Conflicts of Interest / Dispensation(s)

None.

6. HECA REPORT

(a) Decision(s)

That the Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) update report be noted and published.

Reason(s) for Decision(s)

Production and publication of the Council's HECA report is a mandatory requirement for District Councils.

(c) Alternative Options Considered

None.

(d) Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Environment and Living. That Committee had received a similar report at its meeting on 13 June, 2017. The Committee had been supportive of the work being done by the Council to address issues such as affordable warmth and fuel policy.

(e) Conflicts of Interest / Dispensation(s)

None.

7. LOCAL CLIMATE IMPACTS

(a) Decision(s)

That the updated Local Climate Impacts Profile (LCLIP) addressing climate change adaptation issues, be noted and published.

Reason(s) for Decision(s)

The report served as an update for all Council Members and advises of them about the work continuing to take place towards addressing solutions to improve the Council's resilience to climate change.

(c) Alternative Options Considered

None.

(d) Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Environment and Living. That Committee received a similar report at its meeting on 13 June, 2017. The Committee was supportive of the work being done by the Council.

(e) Conflicts of Interest / Dispensation(s)

None.

8. CORPORATE RISK REGISTER

(a) Decision(s)

That the Corporate Risk Register be noted and continue to be regularly reviewed by Cabinet, with particular reference to the most significant risks identified and the mitigation actions being taken.

Reason(s) for Decision(s)

The report provided Cabinet with an opportunity to review progress and actions associated with the Risk Register which Cabinet considered to be an essential element in the continued successful delivery and funding of services.

(c) Alternative Options Considered

None.

(d) Relevant Scrutiny Committee

None. This is a matter which is reported regularly to the Audit Committee, which had previously recommended that Cabinet review risks at suitable intervals as part of its role in budget setting and monitoring. (As this is a matter within the remit of the Audit Committee, it is not subject to call-in).

(e) Conflicts of Interest / Dispensation(s)

None.

CALL-IN TIMESCALES

Any requests for call-in must be received by the Democratic Services Manager by **5pm** on **Thursday 6 July 2017**. The request must be made by the Chairman of the relevant Scrutiny Committee or any 3 Members of that Scrutiny Committee.

Contact Officer: Bill Ashton (01296) 585040