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WYCOMBE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Queen Victoria Road
High Wycombe
Bucks HP11 1BB

Council

Date: 16 July 2018
Time: 6.30 pm
Venue: Council Chamber
District Council Offices, Queen Victoria Road, High Wycombe, Bucks

You are hereby summoned to attend the Meeting of the Council to be held in the Council Chamber, District Council Offices, Queen Victoria Road, High Wycombe on 16 July 2018 at 6.30 pm to consider the business set out in the Agenda below.

Ms K Satterford
Chief Executive

Fire Alarm - In the event of the fire alarm sounding, please leave the building quickly and calmly by the nearest exit. Do not stop to collect personal belongings and do not use the lifts. Please congregate at the Assembly Point at the corner of Queen Victoria Road and the River Wye, and do not re-enter the building until told to do so by a member of staff.

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Agenda

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	To receive the minutes of and consider any recommendations from the following meetings:	
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		9 July 2018

For further information, please contact Peter Druce - Democratic Services Officer on 01494 421210, committeeservices@wycombe.gov.uk

Agenda Item 5

WYCOMBE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 16 July 2018

AGENDA ITEM 5

Questions from Members of the Public

1. Question from Mr R B Colomb to the Leader of the Council

Will the closure in 2019 of the House of Fraser anchor store in Eden seriously affect the Councils share of the Eden rents and thus lead to a Council Tax increase for our residents?

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor Ms K Wood (Leader of the Council).

2. Question from Mr T Snaith to the Leader of the Council

I was pleased to see that on the Regulatory and Appeals (R&A) agenda of 2nd July a community Governance review of the unparished wards was to be discussed. This was instigated by the Chairman of High Wycombe Town Committee. I was disappointed to then find that the Chairman of R&A had removed the item giving reasons as “further work is needed and further review of the matter is needed”

Every part of Bucks has a Parish or Town Council except High Wycombe. What importance and urgency does this Council put on delivering a Community Governance review, for the unparished wards, which could lead to a town council for High Wycombe?

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor Ms K Wood (Leader of the Council).

Agenda Item 6

WYCOMBE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 16 July 2018

AGENDA ITEM 6

Questions from Members

1. Question from Councillor R Raja to the Leader of the Council

Draft accounts for 2017/18 show that Bucks County Council ran a £52.8M deficit on provision of services and the other 3 District Councils in Bucks together ran a deficit of £10.1M, while WDC ran a surplus of £10.5M.

WDC's useable reserves are currently £74.4M, about the same as the other 3 District Councils combined. In the event of a unitary authority, WDC's useable reserves risk being consumed to fund deficits elsewhere.

What precautions is the Leader taking now to ring-fence these useable reserves to ensure they will be used for the benefit of Wycombe District residents?

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor Ms K Wood (Leader of the Council).

2. Question from Councillor M Knight to the Leader of the Council

The government dictates how many new homes we should be building in our District, and will continue to do so through the revised National Planning Policy Framework.

Do you think this focus on the quantity of housing we should be delivering is helpful, or even necessary?

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor Ms K Wood (Leader of the Council).

3. Question from Councillor A Hill to the Cabinet Member for Community

Can you please tell us when the correct wording is going to be put into place for our P.S.P.O. (Public Spaces Protection Order) to take effect in the town centre, as the problems seem to be escalating?

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor G Peart (Cabinet Member for Community).

4. Question from Councillor M Hanif to the Cabinet Member for Economic Development & Regeneration

It's been a torrid few days for our High Street as two more shops have closed or are about to close their doors to customers.

Our High Street has to contend with unfair planning regulations, war on motorists, unfair competition from on-line businesses who avoid their taxes, intense competition from the giant supermarket chains, post-Brexit slowdown in consumer spending and high inflationary pressures squeezing profit margins.

What measures do WDC have in mind to stop more boarded-up shops in our High Street?

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor S Broadbent (Cabinet Member for Economic Development & Regeneration).

5. Question from Councillor K Ahmed to the Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources

Would the cabinet member for Finance please confirm what are the total reserves that WDC has accrued to date?

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor D Watson (Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources).

Cabinet Minutes

Date: 9 July 2018

Time: 7.00 - 7.42 pm

PRESENT: Councillor Ms K S Wood (Executive Leader of the Council - in the Chair)

Councillor Mrs J A Adey	- Cabinet Member for Environment
Councillor D H G Barnes	- Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Engagement and Strategy
Councillor S Broadbent	- Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration
Councillor D J Carroll	- Cabinet Member for Youth and External Partnerships
Councillor G Peart	- Cabinet Member for Community
Councillor D M Watson	- Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources
Councillor L Wood	- Cabinet Member for Digital Development & Customer Services

By Invitation

Councillor Z Ahmed	- Deputy Cabinet Member for Strategy and Communications
Councillor M E Knight	- Leader of the East Wycombe Independent Party
Councillor D Knights	- Chairman of the Improvement and Review Commission
Councillor R Raja	- Leader of the Labour Group
Councillor S Saddique	- Deputy Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources
Councillor A Turner	- Deputy Cabinet Member for Planning

Also present: Councillor A D Collingwood

12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Miss S Brown (Deputy Cabinet Member for Community), C Etholen (Deputy Cabinet Member for Digital Development and Customer Services), T Green (Chairman of Council), M Harris (Deputy Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration), G Hall (Deputy Cabinet Member for Environment), D Johncock (Cabinet Member for Planning) and Mrs J Langley (Cabinet Member for Housing).

13 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 4 June 2018 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

15 RELEASE OF FUNDING FOR ABBEY BARN LANE REALIGNMENT

The report before Cabinet sought approval to forward fund improvements to the road infrastructure, including the design work and establishment of the project team for the Abbey Barn Lane realignment scheme. The report outlined the delivery of the scheme, the current progress and the next steps.

Cabinet recalled that the Council had submitted its proposed Local Plan to the Planning Inspectorate for examination in March 2018. The Council had received approval for the realignment of Abbey Barn Lane from the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) Scheme. It was noted that whilst an announcement that the Council had secured the HIF funding was made in February 2018, the Council had not yet received the funding, including Homes England's terms and conditions. It was reported that Homes England were further scrutinising successful bids in more detail.

As a result, approval was sought to forward fund early work to keep on track with the programme for delivering the Housing Infrastructure Fund scheme. The report before Cabinet also sought delegated authority to release the Housing Infrastructure Funding, when available, back to the Council.

The following decisions were made as the Council had received an "in principle" approval of £7.5m for a scheme to realign Abbey Barn Lane and reconfiguration of the junction with Kingsmead Road/Abbey Barn Lane through the Housing Infrastructure Fund; this was subject to detailed terms and conditions and receipt of the funding. To ensure that the Council could keep on track with the programme for delivering the HIF scheme, some forward funding for design work and establishment of the project team was sought. This would then be reclaimed once the HIF funding was received. If the HIF funding was not ultimately released then the funding would likely be at risk as the scheme as currently envisaged could not go ahead due to funding shortfalls.

RESOLVED: That (i) Cabinet agree to forward fund design work and project team costs relating to the Housing Infrastructure Fund bid for the realignment of Abbey Barn Lane up to £250,000 on the basis that this would be recovered from the Housing Infrastructure Fund if and when the funding was released to the Council from Homes England. Delegated authority be granted to the Head of Finance in consultation with the Head of Democratic Legal and Policy Services to release these funds;

(ii) delegated authority be granted to the Corporate Director in consultation with the Head of Finance, Cabinet Member for Finance and the Cabinet Member for Planning, to release Housing Infrastructure Fund monies, once the funds had been released to the Council and subject to detailed terms and conditions (when available); and

(iii) Delegated authority be granted to the Head of Finance in consultation with the Head of Democratic Legal and Policy Services to agree the Housing Infrastructure Fund terms and conditions, once they become available.

16 BUDGET MONITORING REPORT FOR PERIOD 2 ENDING 31 MAY 2018

The report before Cabinet set out the position for all revenue accounts and capital spending for the first 2 months of 2018/19. Cabinet considered the actions set out in the report and whether any further action was necessary.

The following decisions were made as the Cabinet approved a budget each year within the context of a Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) to achieve the Council's priorities. The report updated Cabinet Members on the 2018/19 forecast position as at period 2.

RESOLVED: That (i) the forecast outturn position for the financial year 2018/19 as at end of May 2018 be noted;

(i) a virement of £175k between contingency and capital financing charges to correct the baseline budget be approved; and

(ii) the revised capital programme for 2018/19 as set out in paragraph 15 table 1 of the report and virements as detailed in paragraph 17 of the report be approved.

17 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY REFRESH

Cabinet was provided with an update on the medium term financial projection for the Council's General Fund Revenue account to 2022/23, including the key budget assumptions which required Cabinet approval.

The following recommendations were made as the preparation of a Medium Term Financial Strategy was the first stage in the annual budget planning cycle, leading to the budget and council tax setting for 2019/20. The Strategy also provided a framework for delivering corporate priorities and addressing issues arising from risks and opportunities identified within the Strategy.

Recommended: That (i) the financial projections within the 5-year MTFS be noted, and the Strategy approved;

(ii) A revenue savings target of £331k be approved for the 2019/20 budget-setting process;

(iii) A further revenue savings target of £1.822m for the three years 2020/21, 2021/22 & 2022/23 be approved for the duration of this MTFS;

(iv) The Head of Finance & Commercial to work with the Council's Strategic Management Board (SMB) and Portfolio Holders to deliver

options that would achieve the saving targets identified within the Strategy;

(v) The Budget Setting Process be approved to support the delivery of this process for 2019/20;

(vi) The Head of Finance & Commercial be requested to revise the MTFS and re-present to Cabinet and Council for approval if material changes to forecasts were required following future Government announcements;

(vii) The revised Capital Plan incorporating the adjustments set out in section 8 of the report be approved; and

(viii) The key principles, as set out in section 8.4 of the report, that any new Capital proposal needed to demonstrate that it provided Value for Money, was affordable within a prescribed Capital budget envelope, was clearly aligned with the Council's strategy, and, in the case of "Invest to Save" or investment proposals, delivered a return above a prescribed threshold, be approved.

18 STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT UPDATE

The report before Cabinet sought approval to adopt revisions to the Statement of Community Involvement to meet the requirements of the Town and Country Planning Act 2017. The requirement to review the Statement of Community Involvement every 5 years from adoption came into force in April 2018.

It was noted that the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) set out the Council's approach to community involvement in planning. Members were informed that the Statement had been updated in relation to the Council's policies for giving advice or assistance on neighbourhood planning. Cabinet were informed that the Statement would be updated again, following the adoption of the Local Plan.

The following recommendations were made as the Council had a statutory obligation to review its Statement of Community Involvement every 5 years from adoption. Following the review the Council was required to either update the Statement of Community Involvement or if it would not do so, to publish reasons for their decision. To comply with new statutory requirements it was recommended that a minor update to the Statement of Community Involvement was adopted now, but that a fuller review of the Statement of Community Involvement was undertaken once the Local Plan was adopted.

Recommended: That (i) the outcome of the Statement of Community Involvement ("SCI") review as set out in the report be agreed; and

(ii) the Statement of Community Involvement update as set out at Appendix A of the report be agreed and the revised Statement of Community Involvement adopted.

19 LOCAL GOVERNMENT OMBUDSMAN DECISION - SECTION 5A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING ACT 1989

Cabinet was advised that the Local Government and Housing Act required the Monitoring Officer to report to Cabinet, if any decision or omission had given rise to maladministration. The Ombudsman had recently found that the Council was at fault in relation to the way in which it had dealt with the recording of the postal address for a Wycombe District resident. As recommended by the Ombudsman, the Council had apologised and made a compensation payment.

The following decisions were made as the Local Government Ombudsman (“the Ombudsman”) had made a finding of fault with injustice, which required the Monitoring Officer, having consulted with the Head of Paid Service and Section 151 Officer, to present a report to Cabinet.

RESOLVED: That (i) the Ombudsman’s findings be noted;

(ii) the action already taken to comply with the Ombudsman’s recommendations be noted; and

(iii) the steps that had been taken to address the finding be noted.

20 FILE ON ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

Cabinet received the following files on actions taken under delegated powers:

Community	C/29/18 – C/38/18
Finance	F/05/18 – F/06/18
Housing	H/04/18
Planning & Sustainability	PS/08/18 – PS/16/18

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That pursuant to Regulation 4(2)(b) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of Minute Nos 16, 17 and 21, because of their reference to matters which contain exempt information as defined as follows:

Minute 16 – Budget Monitoring Report For Period Ending 31 May 2018 – Appendix B

Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) (Paragraph 3, Part 1 of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972)

(The need to maintain the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure, because disclosure could prejudice the Council’s position in any future tender process or negotiations)

**Minute 17 – Medium Term Financial Strategy Refresh –
Appendix A CAP1, Appendix A CAP2 and
Appendix A CAP3**

Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) (Paragraph 3, Part 1 of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972)

(The need to maintain the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure, because disclosure could prejudice the Council's position in any future tender process or negotiations)

Minute 21 - File on Action taken under Exempt Delegated Powers

**Economic Development and Regeneration sheet nos:
EDR/21//18 – EDR/31/18**

Environment sheet no: E/02/18

Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) (Paragraph 3, Part 1 of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972)

(The need to maintain the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure, because disclosure could prejudice the Council's position in any future tender process or negotiations)

21 FILE ON ACTION TAKEN UNDER EXEMPT DELEGATED POWERS

Cabinet received the following files on exempt actions taken under delegated powers:

Economic Development & Regeneration Sheet Nos: EDR/21/18 - EDR/31/18
Environment Sheet No: E/2/18

Chairman

The following officers were in attendance at the meeting:

Karen Satterford - Chief Executive
Ian Hunt - Democratic Services Manager
Catherine MacKenzie - Principal Democratic Services Officer