

403

CABINET

6 February 2017 at 5.00 pm

Present : Councillors Mrs Brown (Chairman), Wensley (Vice-Chairman), Bence, Bower, Chapman, Dendle and Wotherspoon.

Councillors L Brown, Charles, Clayden, Cooper, Edwards, Elkins, Northeast, Mrs Oakley, Dr Walsh and Warren were also in attendance for either all or part of the meeting.

440. WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Councillors, representatives of the public, and Officers to the meeting.

441. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Monitoring Officer has advised Members of interim arrangements to follow when making declarations of interest. They have been advised that for the reasons explained below, they should make their declarations on the same basis as the former Code of Conduct using the descriptions of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

Reasons

- The Council has adopted the government's example for a new local code of conduct, but new policies and procedures relating to the new local code are yet to be considered and adopted.
- Members have not yet been trained on the provisions of the new local code of conduct.
- The definition of Pecuniary Interests is narrower than the definition of Prejudicial Interests, so by declaring a matter as a Prejudicial Interest, that will cover the requirement to declare a Pecuniary Interest in the same matter.

Where a Member declares a "Prejudicial Interest" this will, in the interest of clarity for the public, be recorded in the Minutes as a Prejudicial and Pecuniary Interest.

There were no Declarations of Interest made.

442. QUESTION TIME

In line with Council Procedure Rules relating to Public Question Time three questions had been submitted in writing within the permitted deadline. As these questions were on the same subject one response was provided.

Cabinet – 06.02.17

- (1) Councillor Mrs Brown, the Leader of the Council, was asked if she and Cabinet agreed that, given the scale of the ongoing development at Hampton Park in the North of Littlehampton, which is currently being built out at a very fast rate, any new health development at the North of the town - whether at Morrisons or another location - should in fact be a new facility to serve the increase in population of Littlehampton, rather than a replacement for the Arun Medical Group surgery in the Town Centre, which should actually be replaced within the vicinity of the town centre for those patients who were displaced.
- (2) Councillor Mrs Brown, the Leader of the Council, was asked what considerations and progress had been made on enforcement action against Morrisons Supermarkets plc and its agents over the failure to comply with Condition 3 of Planning Application LU/271/11, the discharge of which was refused by application LU/156/13.
- (3) Councillor Mrs Brown, the Leader of the Council, was asked what recent discussions and meetings had Arun District Council/the Cabinet had with Coastal West Sussex Clinical Commissioning Group regarding both the business case for the development of a business case for a GP surgery at Morrisons, and also NHS Section 106 contributions, following the CCG's failure to respond to invitations to participate in the Section 106 negotiations for Planning Application LU/173/16.

Thanking the public for their questions, Councillor Mrs Brown responded to the questions put forward as follows:

*The Council is very committed to trying to facilitate a solution which will provide the health facilities that both the existing residents of Littlehampton need but also the future residents of new developments on the outskirts. That is why in September there was cross party support for a motion at Full Council which stated*

*The Council notes with concern the increasing health crisis across Arun and notes in particular the failure of health bosses at Coastal West Sussex CCG and NHS England over several years to progress plans for the location of general practice services to the Morrison's site in Wick, which has now led to one practice in Littlehampton giving notice of closure, as well as the absence of any plans for the old Littlehampton hospital site. This Council further notes the increasing demand and pressure on existing practices as a result of current and planned house building across the Arun area; and secondly the Council immediately calls on Coastal West Sussex CCG to work with Officers of this Council to expedite the delivery of the long promised*

*improved general practice, mental health and outpatient facilities in the East Arun Area.*

*At that meeting I also announced that I wanted to be a position as soon as possible to invest the necessary capital funds to assist with the delivery of these much needed facilities. I am frustrated that it has still not been possible to yet get agreement to the Council's offer. There is an undoubted commitment and willingness from all to deliver a new surgery but I would encourage all parties to urgently move forward to resolve the outstanding issues for the benefit of residents.*

*Regarding the enforcement situation, that you have highlighted, for the Enterprise Hub the Council has undertaken a lot of preparatory work to support any enforcement action for non-compliance with the planning condition which has been referred to and also the accompanying section 106 agreement. Whilst dialogue continues the Council needs to consider the appropriate timing for formal proceedings. The proposal to convert part of the building into health facilities has been a complicating factor. If the Council believes that progress has completely stalled then it reserves the right to continue with enforcement action.*

#### 443. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 16 January 2017 were approved by the Cabinet as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### 444. LITTLEHAMPTON HEALTH SERVICES UPDATE BY COASTAL WEST SUSSEX CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP (CCG)

Cabinet received a briefing by Coastal West Sussex CCG from the Chairman, Mr Kieran Stigant and the Interim Finance Director, Mr Neil Cook. The briefing provided an update on the various health service issues in the Arun Locality (the area east of the River Arun and South of the A27).

The CCG Chairman and Interim Finance Director outlined the following key points:

- It was admitted that the CCG needed to do better in their engagement with the Council, the public and other partners. It was stated that the CCG operated in a complex environment with some operational elements outside of their control but the ambition was there to provide an excellent health service.
- The CCG pledged a commitment to work together in order to find health service solutions with providers (hospital services), the Council

Cabinet – 06.02.17

- and partners in order to provide local delivery of local services with effective GP practices.
- It was noted that General Practitioners were mainly independent contractors and the CCG was experiencing difficulty in attracting them to practice in the local area. The CCG would need to find ways to work innovatively, with partners, to achieve this in the future.
- It was stated that the CCG had agreed to produce a strategic, community plan that would be shared with General Practitioners, providers and councils.
- Members were informed that the provision of a GP Surgery at the Morrison's site in Wick was not under CCG control but the CCG would engage with NHS England and hospital service providers. The CCG stated that they were committed to finding a solution.

Following this briefing, with the agreement of Cabinet, both Councillor Northeast and Councillor Dr Walsh spoke on this item and then Cabinet discussed the matter at length. Questions were put forward to the CCG which were responded to at the meeting.

The following key points were made:

- The CCG were asked to resolve the issues at the Morrison's development in Wick so that a GP surgery could be delivered without further delay. The CCG and NHS England were condemned for their inability to move forward with this proposal. It was stated that the Arun locality had a serious lack of adequate health provision facilities and it was felt that the CCG and NHS England should be lobbying the Secretary of State for Health for a solution.
- Members outlined their concern over current health provision in the Arun Locality. Comment was made that there had been a downgrade of health service provision in the Arun Locality. This included the closure of the hospital in Littlehampton, the closure of the GP Surgery at East Street, East Preston and that the Zachary Merton hospital in Littlehampton was nearing the end of its useful life with no plans in place for its replacement should it become unusable. It was felt that this had compounded the issues local residents faced in receiving adequate health care.
- Members also outlined serious concerns over the and long term health provision in the Arun locality. It was pointed out the Council's Local Plan, to be delivered shortly, could agree 8000 new homes to the west of the Arun District which would require adequate health infrastructure.

- It was pointed out that there had been no stability or strategic direction for years, on health provision, and the Council was yet to see a project plan. Members advised that money was available to the CCG from the provision the Council had made through Section 106 agreements and felt that this should be utilised. The CCG were urged to provide an adequate project plan so that the Council could be assured of future plans.
- The Chief Executive also voiced concern that there was no strategic plan for health care provision in the Arun locality. He stated that the lack of a plan when the local population was ageing and the area had one of the highest percentages of poor health was of serious concern. The Chief Executive also urged the CCG to focus on a resolution at the Morrison's development in Wick.

In response to this discussion and the questions that had been asked, the CCG's Chairman and Interim Finance Director welcomed the conversations that had been held with Arun District Council and were aware that the CCG had to deliver for local people. It was reported that future services would be local and include poor health prevention community work in line with clear national expectations. Members were informed that health provision would need to be redesigned for local delivery with the expectation that this would be largely self-financing. The CCG were aware of the current shortfall in adequate health care but could not promise an immediate solution. It was stated that the NHS was on a precipice nationally and radical changes would be required.

The CCG Chairman and Interim Finance Director stated that there were no current detailed plans but a broad outline was being worked on and it was expected that a strategic plan could be achieved within 4 months. The CCG committed to working closely with the Council and other partners to progress matters.

In concluding their discussion, Cabinet were in agreement that the CCG needed to produce a clear plan for health provision in the Arun Locality as action was urgently required. The CCG were informed that the Council was under pressure to deliver housing but adequate health care had to be in place to cover the population.

The Cabinet made it clear that Arun District Council's offer to fund the surgery building at Morrisons was subject to a time limit and the timescale of that offer was running out unless a positive response was received from the CCG. Cabinet advised that they would need to urgently speak with the CCG again to try and resolve the problem of the length of any potential lease.

Cabinet – 06.02.17

The Chairman thanked the CCG's Chairman and Interim Finance Director for attending the meeting and answering questions. It was hoped that matters would now progress.

*(During the course of this item, Dr Walsh declared a personal interest as a Member of West Sussex County Council and Vice-Chairman of the Health and Adult Services Select Committee.)*

#### 445. COUNCIL BUDGET 2017/18

Cabinet received the report from the Head of Finance & Property setting out the Council's Capital, Housing Revenue and General Fund Revenue Budgets for 2017/18. This included Council Tax and Rent Levels.

The Head of Finance & Property informed Cabinet that the Council's Budget 2017/18 provided good news as it was virtually balanced.

#### Central Government Funding

Sources of Central Government Funding had been either unclear or reduced causing difficulty when budget planning. Members were referred to summary information on the changes in Government Grant Funding. The New Homes Bonus for 2017/18 at £3.677m, had a reduction of £337k, which included an affordable homes premium of 13k. It was noted that the allocation for 2017/18 was subject to a 0.4 percent deadweight adjustment for growth. A reduction was also seen in the Revenue Support Grant for 2017/18. The difference in budget for Retained Business Rates was explained as being mainly due to the phasing of income and the scheme would now level out.

The Head of Finance & Property informed Members that more certainty was emerging with respect to Government funding which would make it easier to assess any deficit.

#### Council Tax

It was noted that the Council Tax income figure was based on an increase on Arun Band D Council Tax of £171.27 which represented an increase of £4.95 (2.98%). This had started to redress the reduction of the Council Tax Income Base which had been frozen for 5 years.

#### General Fund Revenue Budget

It was pointed out that the Council's revenue balance was starting to erode and balances were going down. The saving that had been made on the Council's major Contracts (£998K) had helped as had a reduction in posts (£251K).

### Housing Revenue Account(HRA)

The Head of Finance & Property informed Members that the Council had more clarity over the Housing Revenue Account from Government and the HRA Business Plan was being updated, any financial model would need to reflect the policies and priorities of the new plan. The 2017/18 HRA budget was broadly in line with the current HRA financial model.

### Capital Budget

Members were referred to a summary of the Capital Budget and the new capital programme for 2017/18 together with the proposed financing method. This was dominated by the new Littlehampton Leisure Centre investment programme.

Members were pleased to note the Council's Budget 2017/18 and thanked the Head of Finance and his team for their hard work. Councillor Bence particularly praised and thanked the Head of Finance and his team for the support the finance department had given to Housing.

In turning to the report's recommendations Cabinet were pleased with the Council's Budget 2017/18 particularly noting the Council's levels of investment bearing in mind the financial savings that had to be made. Comment was made that the budget was prudent and reflected a set of financial strategies that would keep the Council in control.

As recommended in the report, the Cabinet,

RECOMMEND TO SPECIAL COUNCIL (22.2.2017) – That

- (1) The General Fund Revenue budget as set out in **Appendix 1** be approved.
- (2) Arun's band D council tax for 2017/18 is set at £171.27, an increase of 2.98%.
- (3) Arun's Council Tax Requirement for 2017/18, based on a Band D Council Tax of £171.27, is set at £10,183,029 plus parish precepts as demanded, to be transferred to the General Fund in accordance with statutory requirements.
- (4) The HRA budget as set out in **Appendix 2** be approved.
- (5) The HRA rents for 2017/18 are set at 1% below the current year's level in accordance with the provisions of the Welfare Reform and Work Bill.

Cabinet – 06.02.17

(6) HRA garage rents are increased by 5% to give a standard charge of £10.63 per week (excluding VAT), and heating and water/sewerage charges increased on a scheme by scheme basis, with a view to balancing costs with income.

(7) The Capital budget as set out in **Appendix 3** be approved

The Cabinet then confirmed its decision as per Decision Notice C/049/060217, a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of the Minutes.

446. DEVELOPMENT OF A BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (BID) FROM BOGNOR REGIS

The Littlehampton Town Centre Regeneration Officer and Toyubur Rahman, representing Bognor Regis Town Centre Management, were welcomed to present the report on the Bognor Regis Business Improvement District Proposal (BID).

It was reported that Bognor Regis Town Centre Management had put forward a proposal to establish a Business Improvement District in Bognor Regis. It was noted that the Bognor Regis Town Centre Management was currently funded primarily from Section 106 funding. This would cease in October 2018.

Cabinet were advised that if the Council supported the BID proposal it would thereby accept its statutory functions as Billing Authority and as Ballot Holder.

In considering the report's recommendations Cabinet supported the proposal and passed thanks to Toyubur Rahman for the excellent work of Bognor Regis Town Centre Management.

As recommended in the report, Cabinet

RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL – That

- (1) the Council supports and accepts the Bognor Regis BID proposal, and thereby accepts its statutory functions as Billing Authority and Ballot Holder, and;
- (2) the Council agrees to post a Notice of Ballot in the week commencing 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2017 pursuant to the Business Improvement District (England) regulations 2004.

The Cabinet then confirmed its decision as per Decision Notice C/050/060217, a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of the Minutes.

447. LITTLEHAMPTON ECONOMIC GROWTH AREA (LEGA) – WEST BANK

The Director of Place presented the report which sought Member approval for the Council, as landowner, to agree to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with other relevant landowners on the West Bank so that the delivery of strategic housing allocation could be jointly addressed.

It was noted that the Council, as one of the main land holders on the West Bank, would have an important role that would help facilitate land assembly and agreement in the delivery a significant contribution to the strategic housing allocations in the District.

In discussing the report's recommendation Cabinet commended the report and were in full support.

The Cabinet then confirmed its decision as per Decision Notice C/051/060217, a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of the Minutes.

448. JOINT FUNDING TO ESTABLISH A SINGLE, COUNTY-WIDE TEAM TO RESPOND TO ISSUES CONCERNING IMMIGRATION, ASYLUM-SEEKING AND REFUGEES

Cabinet received a report, from the Chief Executive, that concerned the Council's contribution to the funding of a countywide team to respond to issues concerning immigration, asylum-seeking and refugees.

In discussing the report's proposal for the Council to commit to the sum of 10k per annum Cabinet were in agreement as long as an annual review was undertaken.

The Cabinet then confirmed its decision as per Decision Notice C/052/060217, a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of the Minutes.

448. JOINT AREA COMMITTEES

The Cabinet received and noted the Minutes of the meetings of the Joint Arun Area Committees as follows:-

Joint Eastern Arun Area Committee – 29 November 2016  
Joint Downland Area Committee – 21 November 2016  
Joint Western Arun Area Committee – 30 November 2016

449. OVERVIEW SELECT COMMITTEE

The Cabinet received the minutes of the meeting of the Overview Select Committee held on 24 January 2017.

Subject to approval at the next Cabinet meeting

412

Cabinet – 06.02.17

The Minutes contained recommendations at Minute 432 (The Council's 2020 Vision – Shared Services Update) and Minute 433 (Council Budget 2017/18).

It was pointed out that recommendation (2) at Minute 433, recommending, '*a further review be sought of the proposed level of HRA garage rents as set out in recommendation (VI) of the Head of Finance & Property's report*' had been dealt with under the Agenda Item on the Council Budget 2017/18 as a recommendation to Full Council.

The Cabinet then confirmed its decision as per Decision Notice C/053/060217, a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of the Minutes.

(The meeting concluded at 6.21pm)