

CABINET

16 October 2017 at 5.00 pm

Present : Councillors Mrs Brown (Chairman), Wensley (Vice-Chairman) Bence, Clayden, Haymes and Wotherspoon.

Councillors Bower, Buckland, Cooper, Dendle, Dingemans, Mrs Madeley, Mrs Oakley, Mrs Pendleton, Dr Walsh and Wheal were also in attendance for all or part of the meeting.

218. WELCOME

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

219. APOLOGY

An apology for absence had been received from Councillor Charles.

220. 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.

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221. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

In line with Council Procedure Rules relating to Public Question Time, a number of questions had been submitted prior to the meeting in writing and these were responded to at the meeting by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Mrs Brown. Please note that the questions and answers in these Minutes are a summarised version, with the full version to be published on the Council's website within 10 working days of the meeting.

**Question 1:**

It was asked if Arun would be responding to the Government consultation on proposals to implement provisions in the Housing White Paper and where and when would the response be discussed. Cabinet was asked if the Council shared the questioner's concern that after millions of pounds and thousands of officer hours spent on the submitted Arun Local Plan the proposals seem to suggest a review after 5 years leading to a unachievable housing need figure of 1200 per annum.

**Response from the Leader**

The Leader thanked the questioner for the question. It was stated that she thought the consultation document being referred to was the "planning for the right homes in the right places" consultation, which would finish on 9 Nov.

The Leader and a small officer group from the District Council Network had prepared a draft response on behalf of 201 district councils, which had been sent out to all our Council members asking for comments. It was advised that the collective response would be sent to Government.

The Council was encouraging all Councils to make their own representation as well. Arun would certainly be doing this and the Council's response would be considered by the Local plan sub-committee on 30 October.

**Question 2:**

Before taking its decision under item 9 of today's agenda, on its consultation response for the Arundel A27 Improvements Scheme, Cabinet was asked to comment on the following points:

- Environmental charity MAVES conducted professional ecological surveys during 2015-17. These have been adopted into the National Park Authority's evidence base for Arundel. Highways England had this data but chose to use only older data for their appraisal. Highways England's consultation information has been wholly inadequate as regards ecological and other impacts of 5A.

The newer data shows that Option 5A is the most ecologically damaging option for habitats and for protected species.

- Option 5A is the worst for impact on rural communities. It devastates Binsted's land-based community, deprives walkers of Binsted's tranquil historic landscape, and, severely increases local road traffic in Walberton.
- Option 5A will be over budget as soon as mitigation, revealed by the newer data as essential, is added in, leaving only Option 1 within budget.

### **Response from the Leader**

Firstly the Leader responded to the query regarding the ecological data. It was recommended that this was taken up directly with Highways England. From the Council's perspective the recommendations that were going to be considered later in the meeting would be based on the information provided as part of this non-statutory consultation.

Secondly the Leader stated that this Council recognised all the options would have some measure of benefit and some measure of harm.

The recommendations that the Cabinet was being asked to consider were based on what would be most beneficial for the local community and the wider area as a whole having regard to the potential impacts.

This very analysis had led to a proposed change from the long standing support for what is option 3 to option 5A.

The Leader concluded by advising that when the preferred option had been selected then a lot more study, investigation and design work would be necessary to mitigate everything that needs sorting out, including the issue of Ancient woodland, before work can start.

### **Question 3:**

A question relating to Agenda Item No. 9 on the A27 Trunk Road Improvements at Arundel was asked. The Officers' recommendations, and particularly that the Bypass commissioned in support of the Government's Road Programme should follow the Highways England route Option 5A was welcomed.

My question therefore is to ask that you please consider emphasizing them in your proposed response to Highways England, pointing out:

- First, that the majority of the traffic using or avoiding the A27 at Arundel is nothing to do with the town whatsoever, and therefore that the need for a Bypass is not simply a local problem. It is a national and regional one as well.

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- And, second, that Highways England have looked for route Options outside the National Park and, as stated in their Consultation Document, they have determined that there are no suitable alternatives which are within the Government's already very generous budget for the new road.

**Response from the Leader**

The Leader thanked the questioner for the question.

As the Leader had indicated in the response to the last questioner the Council recognised that all options would have some measure of benefit and some measure of harm. It was explained that the recommendations that the Cabinet was being asked to consider were based on what would be most beneficial for the local community and the wider area as a whole having regard to the potential impacts. In arriving at these recommendations the officers had given consideration to the issues that this question raises regarding the impact upon the South Downs National Park. It was not considered necessary at this stage prior to any debate which might take place when the Agenda item is heard to make any amendments to the recommendations.

The Leader took the opportunity to thank the residents heard from tonight for your efforts in stimulating engagement and debate amongst the public at large. Regardless of whether, one is a supporter or an objector it was seen as vitally important that people have their say, and for people in the community to come forward and encourage others to make their voices heard.

222. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 31 July 2017 were approved by the Cabinet as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

223. REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUTTURN EXPENDITURE 2016/17

Cabinet received a report from the Group Head of Corporate Support that provided a summary of the revenue and capital outturn expenditure for 2016/17 compared with the approved budget.

Members' attention was drawn to the following key points:

- the revenue and capital outturn expenditure and earmarked reserve transactions for 2016/17 were summarised.
- the level of balances and unused Section 106 sums as at 31 March 31 2017 were outlined.
- the earmarked reserve of £1.547m as contribution to the Littlehampton Leisure Centre was noted.

It was reported that progress against the budget had been closely monitored during 2016/17 and the improved variation against budget was due to robust financial management. It was noted that the Council had achieved significant savings as outlined in the report. During the year a number of expenditure items were identified as corporate underspend which was utilised as a source for virement so that supplementary estimates could be minimised. The Group Head of Corporate Support emphasised that although savings had been made this would be harder to achieve into the future.

In receiving this report, Cabinet praised the achievements of officers and members for their part in producing a positive budget. Of particular note was the success of the Housing Revenue Account where an improved financial position had been achieved with additional income and significant savings on management and repairs.

The Cabinet then agreed the recommendations as set out in the report and then confirmed its decision as per Decision Notice C/016/161017, a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of the Minutes.

#### 224. FINANCIAL PROSPECTS 2017/18

In introducing the report on Financial Prospects 2017/18, the Deputy Leader thanked the Group Head of Corporate Support recognising the hard work of the Finance Team. He explained that the most significant issue was the unprecedented uncertainty over Central Government Funding. It was noted that funding was reliant upon both growth in housing numbers and non-domestic rates and this meant that there were significant risks around the projections for both the New Homes Bonus and the Retention of Business Rates. Members were informed that this would be closely monitored.

The Deputy Leader stated that the assumptions around growth, along with a number of other assumptions highlighted in paragraph 1.3 of the report, had been input into the financial model. Members were referred to a number of further potential risks which were outlined in paragraph 2.1 of the report. It was emphasised that these risks needed to be fully understood within the context of the overall strategy.

Members' attention was then drawn to the current situation, tabled in the report, which would be fine-tuned as more information becomes available. It was noted that it would be important to take the significant risks into account when considering the indicative projections.

In turning to the report's recommendations, Cabinet were satisfied that the Council's financial planning had been prudent and what had been achieved so far was positive. Members were mindful though, that financial strategy would need to take account of the risk and uncertainty to local government finance going forward.

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The Cabinet agreed the recommendations as set out in the report and confirmed its decision as per Decision Notice C/017/161017, a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of the Minutes.

225. WEST SUSSEX COUNCILS' 100% BUSINESS RATES RETENTION PILOT

The Deputy Leader presented the report on West Sussex Councils' 100% Business Rates Retention Pilot that would investigate the feasibility of a County Wide business rates pilot for 2018/19.

Members were informed that the introduction of the business rates retention scheme in April 2013 allowed local authorities to keep a significant share of business rate growth. The scheme had also allowed authorities to form pools and from April 2015 Arun (together with Adur, Chichester, Worthing and West Sussex County Council) formed the West Sussex Pool. It was noted that the current West Sussex Pool is based on 50% local retention of business rate growth but the Government was committed to continuing to give local authorities greater control over the money they raise locally.

The Deputy Leader advised that there were already five pilots for 100% rate retention and the Government was looking to expand on this by inviting local authorities in England to participate in a second round of 100% pilots from April 2018. With this in mind West Sussex Councils (including Arun) were investigating the feasibility of a county wide 100% business rates pilot from April 2018.

It was reported that the key advantage of a 100% pilot was that all business rate growth would be locally retained but there were risks in that any losses (for example businesses closing) would also need to be met entirely locally, although there would be a measure of protection for more significant losses through an enhanced Government safety net.

It was advised that financial modelling was currently being carried out with a view to getting as clear a picture as possible of the risks and rewards of the proposed pool. Decisions would need to be taken as to how these risks and rewards were distributed and what part of any additional income would be retained for County wide projects.

The Deputy Leader then passed the presentation of the report to the Group Head of Corporate Support for comment. It was stressed that the pilot was a competitive process across the Country and so Arun District Council needed to give their bid an edge. He warned Members that time was short as the bid had to be submitted by 27 October 2017. It was reported that financial modelling was being carried out with a view to getting a clear a picture as possible of the risks and rewards of the proposed pilot.

In discussing the report's recommendations, Cabinet noted that the Council was entering into a feasibility discussion with other West Sussex

Council's and the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) at this stage and a further report to Full Council or Cabinet, at a future date, would decide whether Arun District Council joins the Business Rates Retention Pilot.

The Cabinet then agreed the recommendations as set out in the report and confirmed its decision as per Decision Notice C/018/161017, a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of the Minutes.

226. LOCAL DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF SCHEME TO PROVIDE REVALUATION SUPPORT TO ARUN BUSINESSES

In introducing this report the Deputy Leader thanked the Benefits Manager, Councillor Tyler and the now retired Director of Transformation for their hard work in devising the Local Discretionary Rate Relief Scheme. This scheme would assist businesses facing an increase in their bills for 2017/18 arising from revaluation.

Cabinet were pleased to welcome the report's proposals and agreed that it was an important initiative and that this fund should exist. It was recognised that the scheme would offer much needed support to small and medium sized businesses in Arun who faced increases in their business rates bills in excess of £300.

The Cabinet then agreed the recommendation in the report, and confirmed its decision as per Decision Notice C/019/161017, a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of the Minutes.

227. CONSULTATION RESPONSE - A27 TRUNK ROAD IMPROVEMENTS AT ARUNDEL

*(During the course of this item Councillor Dr Walsh declared a personal interest as a Littlehampton Town and West Sussex County Councillor.)*

The Leader advised Cabinet that, since publishing the report and following consultation by the Chief Executive and Group Head of Council Advice & Monitoring Officer on 13 October 2017, the Chairman of the Council and Chairman of the Overview Select Committee had given their approval to this decision being classed as urgent in accordance with Decision Notice Procedure Rule 4 (Urgent Decisions) and Scrutiny Procedure Rules 13.18 and 13.19 (Call-in).

The reason for the urgency was to meet the timetable for Highways England's consultation. The deadline for responses was 16 October (the day of this meeting) and they had given the Council an extension until 17 October to respond. If the call-in procedure was allowed, it would seriously prejudice the Council's interest in being able to formally respond to this consultation on what was such an important strategic issue for the Arun District.

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For this reason, both Chairmen had confirmed their approval that the call-in procedure would not apply to this decision.

In introducing the report, the Leader referred the meeting to the options that had been put forward by Highways England (HE), the Government Company responsible for operating, maintaining and improving England's major A roads (and motorways) to meet the Government's current Road Investment Strategy (RIS). From a long list of options, three had been put forward into the current consultation. These were:

Option 1 - follows a north-westerly line across the water meadows, crossing the River Arun with a new two lane bridge (alongside the existing bridge), meeting up with the existing A27 at Ford Road (new signal controlled roundabout with pedestrian overpass) and then is dualled towards Chichester;

Option 3 – follows a westerly line across the water meadows to a new River crossing south of Tortington Priory, then north-westerly through the Ancient Woodland to re-join the existing A27 near to Havenwood Park. The by-passed section of the existing A27 would revert to single carriageway with an enhanced cycle-way into Arundel.

Option 5A – follows a similar route to Option 3 but tracks further west, around most of the Ancient Woodland and closer to Binsted, before turning north-west to re-join the existing A27 north of Walberton. Existing road as Option 3.

Members were reminded that there had been a number of previous proposals and studies around improvements to the A27 at Arundel and it was generally agreed that action was required to resolve the ongoing congestion at Arundel A27. The Leader made it clear that the options presented for consultation by Highways England (HE) were time limited and time was of the essence as this was likely to be the only opportunity, in the near future, to make use of the earmarked £250m.

The Leader emphasised that there was no ideal scheme with a number of challenges and constraints applying to all three options but it was stated that whilst there were challenges the Council needed to remain positive about the consultation and embrace the benefits of improving the A27 including the reduction of queues, improved journey times, air quality and road safety, helping businesses and supporting tourism growth.

The Leader pointed out that since publication of the report, recommendation 3 had been amended to include additional wording following the word 'environment' for clarification purposes. This would now read (*amendments shown in Bold*):

- (3) The Council would urge Highways England to consider any potential revisions to the Option 5a route corridor to the North, which would further reduce the impact upon residents and the environment **and continue to improve the National Strategic Road Network.**



Cabinet agreed this amendment.

The Engineering Services Manager then outlined the report's recommendations, including the amendment at recommendation 3, and referred to the Council's preferred option of 5A. Option 5A had been chosen, and was now recommended in the report, as a united response from Arun District Council and its partners. Members were referred to an error at 3.1 of the report and it was noted that Option 1 should read, 'follows a **north westerly** line across the water meadows' and not 'follows a north easterly line across the water meadows'.

Prior to debating this report, the Leader with Cabinet agreement, invited a number of Members to speak as requests had been made prior to the meeting.

Councillor Dingemans spoke, as an Arun District Councillor and not as a Member of the South Downs National Park, against Option 5A, preferring Option 3, and raised concern that ecological damage would be far greater using Option 5A.

Councillors; Bower, Dendle, Wheal and Dr Walsh all spoke in favour of Option 5A with united, cross party, support. Opinion was expressed that there should be no further delay to A27 improvements for the good of the whole community. Requests were made that the consultation response included provision for a junction at Ford Road as it was felt that this would be an essential part of making the A27 improvements a success.

In debating the report, Cabinet was in agreement that Option 5A was the best way forward. The creation of a cycleway was discussed and an amendment to Recommendation 6 was considered. It was agreed this recommendation should be broadened to deliver more than one cycle way.

Following Cabinet agreement recommendation 6 was amended to (*changes shown in Bold*):

- (6) The Council would encourage Highways England to support, through their 'Designated Funds', the creation of a cycleway between the South Downs National Park via Arundel and the coast along **both** the River Arun and **Ford Road** and provide improved parking for commuters, tourists and residents at Ford railway station.

The Cabinet then agreed the recommendations in the report, and as amended at the meeting, and confirmed its decision as per Decision Notice C/020/161017, a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of the Minutes.

## 228. AGENCY AGREEMENT RELATING TO CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT AND TENDER FOR LABOUR ONLY

In introducing the report, the Deputy Leader notified Members that the contract with West Sussex County Council for carrying out Civil Parking

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Enforcement (CPE) and other associated services was due to expire on 31 March 2018. The Deputy Leader advised that West Sussex County Council were pleased with Arun District Council's performance and had requested that the Council continued its role until 2023 with a possible further four year extension.

In discussing the report Cabinet agreed that the contract had worked well and were happy to endorse a contract renewal.

The Cabinet confirmed its decision as per Decision Notice C/021/161017, a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of the Minutes.

229. AUTHORITY FOR FUNDING TO CREATE PERMANENT HOUSING FRAUD INVESTIGATOR POST

Cabinet received a report from the Group Head of Residential Services that requested authority to make the post of Housing Fraud Investigator permanent.

In presenting the report, the Cabinet Member for Residential Services was in support of the report's request and referred members to a number of successful outcomes that the post holder had achieved. This included over 100 investigations with fraud detection in Social Housing, Right to Buy applications, Housing Register applications and residual Council Tax/Benefit Fraud.

It was advised that the Council had achieved significant monetary return from this post with the Audit Commission estimating that nationally the value of Social Housing recovery to the public purse was £18K per annum per unit and in reality this figure could be much higher.

The Group Head of Residential Services highlighted that in the future more work on fraud investigation would be done with the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) as housing and benefit fraud frequently occurred simultaneously.

In discussing the report Cabinet praised the dedicated approach that had proved effective and were particularly pleased to note that fraud detections meant that several homes had been brought back into Council use for those in legitimate need of housing.

The Cabinet confirmed its decision as per Decision Notice C/022/161017, a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of the Minutes.

230. FUNDING FOR THE PROVISION OF SELF-CONTAINED TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

The Cabinet Member for Residential Services introduced this report by pointing out the increase in homeless pressures in the District and the subsequent use and cost of temporary accommodation.

Members were reminded that Cabinet had approved a supplementary estimate of up to £1 million for the purchase of suitable properties that could be used for temporary accommodation. The opportunity had arisen for the Council to purchase additional homes to use as self-contained temporary accommodation and this report sought Cabinet's approval for an additional supplementary estimate to cover purchase costs. It was noted that this would have no ongoing financial burden on the Council's General Fund and would yield revenue through reduced bed and breakfast costs.

In discussing the report, Members congratulated and thanked the Finance, Surveying & Estates and Housing teams for their hard work in achieving such a good deal for the Council that would also be supportive of those in housing need.

With the agreement of Cabinet, Councillor Buckland spoke on this item. He thanked and congratulated Cabinet and Arun District Council's staff for a considerable service improvement in tackling homelessness through the provision of temporary accommodation.

In turning to the report's recommendations Cabinet were in full support.

The Cabinet then,

RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL

that an additional supplementary estimate up to £1.1 million (equivalent to a Band D Council Tax of £18.50) be approved for the purchase of temporary accommodation.

The Cabinet confirmed its decision as per Decision Notice C/023/161017, a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of the Minutes.

231. GIGABIT WEST SUSSEX – AN ULTRAFAST BROADBAND MODEL FOR THE COUNTY

In introducing this report, the Leader outlined the Gigabit West Sussex Project which aimed to extend the delivery of ultrafast fibre networks in towns in the County. It would deliver ultrafast speeds to as many urban centres as possible, with the funding available, across West Sussex. District and Borough Councils would act as anchor tenants, committing their sites to long term leases through the capital procurement of a 'dark fibre' network.

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It was explained that the development of the project so far had been supported with a grant of £400,000 from the Pooled Business rates and had focussed on developing the business case and procurement options. In March 2017, the Chancellor announced £200m to fund a programme of local projects to test ways to accelerate market delivery of new full fibre broadband networks. In early September it was confirmed that the Gigabit West Sussex project had been successful in securing £4.66m of grant funding, from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Local Full Fibre Networks Programme, to enable the dark fibre procurement and delivery.

It was noted that the pilot would deliver new end-to-end dark fibre networks in 8 locations across West Sussex including Bognor Regis. The report asked Cabinet to support West Sussex's procurement of a supplier and commit to a 20 year lease of new dark fibre infrastructure, as part of the contract. This would take advantage of central government gap funding and be on a cost neutral basis.

The Group Head of Economy drew Members' attention to the report's recommendations and informed Cabinet that, at the time of writing this report, Littlehampton was not identified as a location but, after further discussions with the project lead, Littlehampton would be included in the first phase of the pilot. As a result an amendment to recommendation 1 was put forward with additional wording (*shown in bold*) as follows:

- (1) The Council commits, subject to the necessary due diligence, the relevant sites listed in Appendix 1 to a 20 year lease of new dark fibre infrastructure, as part of a contract between West Sussex County Council and the selected supplier, taking advantage of central government gap funding, and on a cost neutral basis. **Following the agreement of West Sussex County Council and the Chief Executive Forum Littlehampton will be included in the list of anchor sites covered by the wave 1 procurement.**

Cabinet then agreed this amendment.

In considering the report's recommendations, including the agreed amendment, Cabinet were in full support.

The Cabinet confirmed its decision as per Decision Notice C/024/161017, a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of the Minutes.

## 232. SCRAP METAL DEALERS – POLICY AND DELEGATIONS

The Cabinet Member for Technical Services and the Licensing Team Manager presented the report concerning the proposal to adopt a new Scrap Metal Policy following the introduction of the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013. The report dealt with the delegation of functions, fee setting and proposed constitutional amendments. In presenting the report, it was pointed out that, in

error, the report's proposals had not been updated in line with the report's recommendations.

In discussing this report, it was asked if an abridged version of the policy could be made available on Arun District Council's website so that salient points were made clear to all concerned. The Licensing Team Manager confirmed that a summary document had been prepared.

In turning to the report's recommendations, Cabinet welcomed this Policy that would ensure that the Council complied with the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013.

The Cabinet confirmed its decision as per Decision Notice C/025/161017, a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of the Minutes, and;

RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL – That

- (1) the Scheme of Delegation at Part 4, Section 3, paragraph 3.2 to add reference to the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 and to add delegation to determine all applications, renewals, transfers, variations and other matters in respect any licences, permissions, registrations and approvals in accordance with policy be amended; and
- (2) the Group Head of Council Advice & Monitoring Officer be authorised to make any further consequential changes to the Constitution

233. ESTABLISHMENT OF ADVISORY GROUPS TO ASSIST WITH DELIVERY OF LARGE SCALE DEVELOPMENTS

Cabinet received a report from the Director of Place regarding the Establishment of Advisory Groups to assist with delivery of large scale developments.

It was reported that the Council currently had three advisory groups that brought together key infrastructure providers to consider infrastructure delivery priorities, on-going delivery, alongside detailed design of individual schemes.

It was proposed that 3 additional Advisory Groups should be established to consider the implementation of strategic development sites in Bersted, Aldwick/Pagham and Ford/Yapton & Clymping to be formed following the model of previous groups. It was also proposed that the Fontwell and West Bank proposals be added to the terms of reference of existing groups.

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Members' attention was drawn to an error within the Terms of Reference (Appendix A) for the North Littlehampton Steering Group where Membership was listed to include 2 Town Councillors. This was corrected to read **3 Town Councillors**.

In discussing the report, Cabinet praised the good work of the advisory groups which included memberships that were drawn from councillors and officers at all levels of Local Government as well as representatives from the NHS, the Highways Agency, Network Rail and site developers. Comment was made that in order for a District Councillor to Chair an Advisory Group the Member should be a Councillor that had a planning background or who had undertaken planning training. The Director of place stated that this was a sensible idea and this was duly noted.

The Cabinet then confirmed its decision as per Decision Notice C/026/161017, a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of the Minutes.

234. UPDATE ON THE COUNCIL'S 2020 VISION – WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER FUTURE

The Leader introduced this report that updated Cabinet on the Council's 2020 Vision – Working Together for a Better Future. Members were reminded that work on the Council's 2020 vision started some time ago following the Local Government Association's (LGA) Peer Challenge Review in March 2014. The 2020 Vision programme was the response to the Peer Challenge to provide the strategic direction the Council needed to become more effective, sustainable and able to meet future demands. The report updated Members on the outcome and savings identified from Members and Officers working together over the last year, leading towards the 2018/19 budget that would be put forward to Full Council in February 2018.

In handing over to the Chief Executive to continue the update, the Leader praised the 2020 Vision Programme that had achieved a notable number of successes. The Chief Executive drew Members' attention to the 2020 Vision Programme Schedule which detailed progress against the Vision priorities of:

- Offering an improved customer experience
- Building better relationships with other organisations and the community
- Providing more digital opportunities to make dealing with us easier
- Becoming smaller but more effective

Example outcomes from individual projects were outlined which showed significant savings as well as income generation.

Cabinet welcomed this report and congratulated the Chief Executive and his team on the remarkable progress that the Council had made. It was

recognised that excellent team work across Members and Officers had produced good results. It was noted that the 2020 Vision work would continue and be overseen by the Arun Improvement Programme Board with quarterly reviews.

The Cabinet then confirmed its decision as per Decision Notice C/027/161017, a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of the Minutes.

### 235. JOINT AREA COMMITTEES

In receiving the minutes from the Joint Area Committees the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services drew Members' attention to the Joint Eastern Arun Area Committee Minutes dated 11 July 2017 and referred them to Minutes 18 to 25. He recorded his extreme disappointment that a representative from Arun District Council, who represented only the District Council, would not be able to contribute to the Highways and Transport Sub Group. Cabinet echoed this disappointment and agreed that it was not democratic. It was felt that each tier of local government should be represented individually and it was noted that Arun District Council contributed financially to the Area Committees to help fund democratic processes.

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

Joint Western Arun Area Committee – 28 June 2017

Joint Eastern Arun Area Committee – 11 July 2017

(The meeting concluded at 6.40pm)