

383

CABINET

12 February 2018 at 5.00 pm

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

Councillors Blampied, Buckland, Chapman, Edwards, Elkins, Mrs Oakley, Mrs Pendleton and Mrs Porter were also in attendance for all or part of the meeting.

399. WELCOME

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

400. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

401. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Chairman confirmed that no public questions had been received.

402. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2017 were approved by the Cabinet as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

403. NEW CORPORATE PLAN AND SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN INDICATORS – 2018/2022

In introducing the report, the Chairman informed Members that, following the Local Government Association (LGA) Corporate Peer Challenge Review in March 2014, the Council had been considering how it would need to change to reflect the predicted shift in the population and business needs for the future, in the knowledge of the Council's reducing financial stability. The 2020 Vision programme had been established to provide the strategic direction required to help the Council become a more effective and sustainable one and to enable it to meet future demands that are placed upon it.

The Chairman highlighted the Council's three priorities as:

- Your Future - Strengthening our economy through regeneration and better infrastructure

Cabinet – 12.02.18

- Your Council Services - Serving our communities well by delivering the best services we can afford
- If you and your family need help - Supporting those people in our district who need our help

It was proposed that the priorities remained the same as they worked for the Council and changing them would be unnecessary.

Members were reminded that the Corporate Management Team (CMT), under the Chief Executive's guidance, had been working with Senior Managers and Cabinet Portfolio Holders over several months, to form a new set of Corporate Plan and Service Delivery Plan (SDP) indicators. The Chairman stated that she believed that these indicators would help to set the strategic direction for the Council and provide targets to enable the measurement of how the Council is performing. It was noted that we can only measure what we (the Council) have control over, and that we need to be consistent with our target over the four year period.

The Group Head of Policy presented the report for the new draft Corporate Plan and Service Delivery Plan (SDP) indicators. It was noted that the Council had worked hard to present a suite of indicators that were smarter, in line with the Council's priorities and the Council's Vision.

Members' attention was drawn to the proposed list of Corporate Plan indicators and Service Delivery Plan (SDP) indicators at Appendix A and B to the report. There were 11 Corporate Plan draft indicators to consider. Five are under the Theme 'Your Services', three under the Theme 'Supporting you' and three under the Theme 'Your future'. There were 23 draft Service Delivery Plan (SDP) indicators.

It was noted that the proposals had been presented to the Overview Select Committee on 21 November 2017 and their comments were highlighted. Although there had been a great deal of discussion about the suggested indicators, there were no recommendations from the Overview Select Committee to change any performance indicator's wording or targets. However, it was pointed out that the Overview Select Committee had strongly requested an annual review of the targets for the indicators in case these needed to be altered based on the previous year's performance. This request had been incorporated into the two recommendations now put forward to Cabinet. Members were also referred to Appendix C, tabled at the meeting that provided a clear summary of the comments made by the Overview Select Committee during the discussion about this report.

The Group Head of Policy concluded by informing Cabinet that once approved the Corporate Plan and Service Delivery Plan (SDP) indicators would be put forward to the Full Council meeting on 7 March 2018 for confirmation before being adopted with effect from 1 April 2018.

In discussing the report, Cabinet welcomed the strong targets and smarter indicators. The Cabinet Member for Residential Services requested assurance that when data was collected for performance indicator, 'SDP 19 Rent Collected on Council Housing' that commentary would reflect any difficulties caused by outside influences such as the introduction of Universal Credit in 2018. It was assured that such commentary would be taken into consideration and added in future performance reporting.

There was also discussion on performance indicator 'CP5 – Number of Visits to Council Leisure Centres per annum'. The Cabinet Member for Planning requested that the number of new visitors as well as repeat visitors be included in performance figures. The Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing and the Director of Services both confirmed that the issue of customer 'smart' cards should make the collection of such data possible.

The Vice-Chairman recorded his thanks and praise for the Residential Services team in achieving a 99% collection of Business Rates during a time of economic difficulty. He emphasised that this was essential income for Arun District Council and he congratulated those responsible.

In considering the report's recommendations, the Cabinet Member for Technical Services suggested that the target figure for CP2 (Food businesses with food hygiene ratings of 3 (satisfactory) and above) be increased from 90% to 93% following the Overview Select Committee discussion. This was agreed. Following this amendment and having taken into consideration the views of the Overview Select Committee in the meeting on 21 November 2017 Cabinet agreed the list of Service Delivery Plan and Corporate Plan performance indicators.

The Cabinet

RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL – That

- (1) the current draft list, as amended by Cabinet, of 11 Corporate Plan indicators for the period 2018-2022 on the basis that all of the indicator targets are reviewed annually by Overview Select Committee and Cabinet, be approved; and
- (2) the current draft list of 23 SDP indicators for the period 2018-2022 on the basis that all of the indicator targets are reviewed annually by Overview Select Committee and Cabinet be approved.

The Cabinet then confirmed its decision as per Decision Notice C/040/120218, a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of the minutes.

404. BUDGET MONITORING REPORT TO 31 DECEMBER 2017

The Vice-Chairman introduced the Budget Monitoring Report to 31 December 2017. He stated that financial performance was monitored on a regular basis to ensure that spending is in line with Council policies and that net expenditure is contained within overall budget limits. Performance against approved budget to the end of December 2017 in relation to General Fund, Housing Revenue Account and capital was reported as on track.

Members were informed that the General Fund was showing an underspend against expected year to date of £641,000, which would allow the supplementary estimates approved this year to be met from within existing resources provided that the current trends continued. The General Fund balance at the end of the financial year was anticipated to remain around £8million.

It was explained that the capital budget included £2.1 million for self-contained temporary homeless accommodation the purchase of which was due to be completed soon. This made financial sense as the cost was lower than Bed and Breakfast accommodation but also would provide quality temporary accommodation to those in greatest need.

The Financial Services Manager then presented the Budget Monitoring Report and explained key items contained within the report as follows:

- The General Fund showed a favourable variation against the expected spend of £641k. Members' attention was drawn to the table at 2.2 which detailed variations plus/minus £20k.
- Development Control Fees continued to be favourable (£112K) against expected. It was pointed out that this figure did not include the 20% increase in Statutory Planning Fees that did not come into effect until 17 January and was outside the period under consideration. It was noted that the additional income was subject to being reinvested in the service and would not affect the outturn variation. However, it was emphasised that the delay had resulted in significantly less additional resources being available to the Service in the current year with an estimated reduction of £100k to around £20k for the current year.
- Attention was drawn to another significant variation related to the establishment of the Savings Target which was set at £450k for the current year and was an additional £233k above target.
- Members were referred to Table 2.10 of the report which detailed the anticipated General Fund position at the end of the financial year. It was noted that once the supplementary estimate approved in January of £350k and the request for the planning supplementary estimate was approved at this meeting it was anticipated that there would be a broadly neutral General Fund position at around £8 million forecast to the end of the year. This meant that the revenue supplementary estimates

could be funded from the General Fund underspends subject to the continuation of current conditions.

- It was reported that the criteria for awarding small business rate relief changed from the beginning of this financial year which led to more relief being awarded and resulted in a reduction in Business Rate Income. Proposals to reimburse the authority were out to consultation but this was expected to lead to a favourable variation at the end of the year.
- It was also reported that the Council would need to revisit the Business rates appeals provision for this year as the methodology had changed meaning that appeals were subject to negotiation before they are lodged and appear on the Valuation Office list.
- The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) was reappraised as part of the budget process and as a result £252k of savings were identified from supervision and management. This sum would increase the HRA balance at the end of the year and would be used in future years towards the financing costs related to the enhanced acquisition and build programme.
- The current Budget contained three capital supplementary estimates: The Littlehampton Leisure Centre budget was now £19.5m after an increase approved at Full Council of £3.455m. The project was on track and it was pointed out that the Leisure Centre was directly linked to significant revenue savings in the budget. Bognor Regis Arcade was purchased at a cost of £1.92m. This was the first purchase under the Property Investment Strategy and had resulted in significant additional income to the Council. A supplementary estimate of £2.1m was approved by Full Council for the purchase of Temporary Accommodation for the Homeless.

In discussing the Budget Monitoring report, the Chairman referred to Section 106 funds and her concern that monies be used, particularly monies allocated to the National Health Service (NHS). Cabinet were in agreement that it was very important to monitor Section 106 funds and ensure they were spent within the agreements made. The Group Head of Planning assured that Section 106 funds were monitored and reported to the Corporate Management Team on a regular basis and Cabinet welcomed this close monitoring.

It was agreed that the Budget position reflected the hard work of the council's officers and was a good achievement given the economic climate.

The Chairman thanked the Financial Services Manager for the comprehensive report and referred Members to the report's recommendation to note the Budget Monitoring Report which was duly noted.

The Cabinet confirmed its decision as per Decision Notice C/041/120218, a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of the Minutes.

Cabinet – 12.02.18

405. COUNCIL BUDGET 2018-19

In introducing the report the Vice-Chairman stated that the Budget for 2018/19 was good news. It was noted that, in spite of operating in a challenging financial environment, the Council had achieved a balanced budget and commended the finance team on their professional work.

It was reported that property related issues formed a key element of the new budget with additional income from the purchase of Bognor Regis Arcade and the rent from the Civic Centre having made significant contributions towards the Council becoming more self-sufficient.

The Vision 2020 programme had resulted in significant savings through smarter working practices, more efficient contract management and senior management restructure without affecting the high level of front line services. These services would continue to be provided in 2018/19 with a Council Tax increase of £5.13 per annum (just 10p per week) for a typical Band D property. Recognising that increase is below the rate of inflation.

The Group Head of Corporate Support then presented the Council's Budget 2018/2019. In doing so, it was explained that the Budget was a positive one but the risks and main strategic issues were highlighted as follows:

- Proposed Business Rates reset by 2020/21 – there were no further details currently available but it was reported as likely that the baseline would be increased which would wipe out some or all of the gains that we have accrued through business growth.
- New Homes Bonus – this scheme incentivised Housing Growth but the qualifying period had gradually reduced from 6 to 4 years. Last year the Government introduced a dead weight of 0.4% which meant 290 houses would need to be built before the Council could start accumulating the New Homes Bonus. There was also a risk that the 0.4% could be increased.
- The effect of the reduction of Central Government Finance was highlighted with a reduction of £1.142m and risks of further reduction in the future.
- It was noted that the balanced Budget 2018/19 was good news and it was estimated that the Council's balances would be maintained at approximately £8m which would help to mitigate risk. The Group Head of Corporate Support emphasised the need for the Council's budget to produce healthy balances as this was essential in the current financial climate.
- HRA – it was reported that there was £15m included in the budget to finance the first three years of the Stock Development Programme to ensure flexibility.

- Members were referred to the Capital Programme 2018/19. Apart from the phased IT investments there was also £300k to finance the initial costs of the Linear Park.

In conclusion the Group Head of Corporate Support stated that this was essentially a positive budget but stressed that the Council must continue to make savings to address reductions in Central Government Funding.

In discussing the Budget 2018/19 Cabinet particularly welcomed the investments the Council was making in housing stock development and improvement programmes and agreed it would continue to provide good value for money to residents receiving the Council's services.

Members were pleased to note the Council's Budget 2018/19 and thanked the Group Head of Corporate Support and his team for their hard work.

As recommended in the report, Cabinet

RECOMMEND TO SPECIAL COUNCIL (21.02.18) - That

- (1) The General Fund Revenue budget as set out in **Appendix 1** be approved.
- (2) Arun's band D council tax for 2018/19 is set at £176.40, an increase of 2.995%.
- (3) Arun's Council Tax Requirement for 2018/19, based on a Band D Council Tax of £176.40, be set at £10,654,913 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 2018/19 be set at 1% below the current year's level in accordance with the provisions of the Welfare Reform and Work Act.
- (6) HRA garage rents be increased by 5% to give a standard charge of £11.16 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 confirmed its decision as per Decision Notice C/042/120218, a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of the Minutes.

Cabinet – 12.02.18

406. PROJECT FUNDING FROM THE STRATEGIC INVESTMENT FUND

Cabinet received an introduction, from the Chairman, on the Project Funding from the Strategic Investment Fund report. Members were informed that a bid for funding for three projects had been submitted to the West Sussex Strategic Investment Fund. The bids had all been successful and this report advised Cabinet of those projects and sought agreement for the Council to take various roles in those projects.

It was explained that the LEAP Grant fund would provide a second round of grants for small businesses across the Arun District. It was proposed to use a similar panel of business people to consider each grant and make appropriate recommendations. Some applicants would also be offered less funding but the services of a former Marketing Director, free of charge, to help them market their company. This funding also provided apprenticeship grants and it was proposed that £15k should be ring-fenced for that purpose.

The Journey to Work project was described as a project that aimed to continue the work that Arun District Council, and others, had successfully delivered on behalf of the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP). It would work with those who are furthest away from obtaining work, both in groups and on a one to one basis, as well as employing a co-ordinator on a one year, fixed term contract to work across the participating West Sussex authorities, to bring together good practice as well as running Job Fairs and other events to join employers with those looking for opportunities.

Members were informed that the Retail Training project would provide retail workshops for independent retailers. These would be tailored to meet the conditions and requirements of each local town, Arundel, Bognor Regis and Littlehampton. It was planned that the first workshop would cover the new General Data Protection Regulations that so many businesses seem to be unaware of and unprepared for.

In presenting this report to Cabinet, the Group Head of Economy added that it was pleasing that the Council had worked collaboratively with its partners to achieve funding for the three projects.

In turning to the report's recommendations Cabinet were fully supportive and the Cabinet confirmed its decision as per Decision Notice C/043/120218, a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of the Minutes.

407. GRANT TO ARUN ARTS, BOGNOR REGIS

The Chairman introduced the Grant to Arun Arts Report that requested a grant of £15,000, per annum, for two years, be made to Arun Arts to support the continued provision of the Alexandra Theatre in Bognor Regis.

It was advised that this theatre was a popular community venue providing a wide range of cultural activities. It was noted that as well as an ever growing performance programme, it also provided an important

community service that engaged with all ages and parts of the Arun community. This included working with 15 community groups, a programme of family events, a Youth Theatre, Classical music concerts, and 'Relaxed' performances of the annual Pantomimes.

Members were informed that, over the last 2 years, and due to the new governance and management arrangements at the theatre, the financial stability of the theatre had greatly improved. The number of performances had increased as had audience figures and the theatre had generated new income streams. In 2017, the theatre presented 95 productions and sold over 45,000 tickets. This was seen as impressive and improving figures and audience numbers had doubled since 2011. The introduction of a new Marketing Manager post in 2015 had also had a noticeable impact. A new box office system had been installed and the theatre was now successfully marketing its performances and using social media to promote its shows with 40% of tickets booked online.

The decision to relocate the Charity Shop at the theatre to new retail premises at Place St Maur was noted as this had allowed for the provision of additional rehearsal space to be provided. The Council's recent decision to move its Bognor Regis Visitor Information Point into the Foyer of the Theatre had also further enhanced the diversity of service that the Centre offers.

It was pointed out that the Regis Centre and Alexandra Theatre formed part of the Winter Gardens regeneration proposals and that included the provision of a cultural hub. The Chairman emphasised that in order to achieve continuity and a successful transition of the theatre to the new facility it was important that, in the meantime, the existing provision continued to be supported and would work towards financial independence. It was noted that the grant would support the activities of the theatre and ensure it remained open to provide a valued service to the community whilst it worked towards securing its longer term financial sustainability.

The Chairman stated that the grant was welcome news to support the regeneration intentions of this area and ensure the continuance of a popular and well used community provision. Cabinet were in full support of the report's recommendation.

The Cabinet then confirmed its decision as per Decision Notice C/044/120218, a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of the Minutes.

408. FUEL POVERTY: DRAW DOWN OF FUNDING FROM WARM HOMES FUND

In introducing this report, the Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing announced that the Council's Home Energy Visitor, Emma Pagett had received a National Energy Action Award for her work on fuel poverty and with vulnerable residents in Chichester and Arun. The Cabinet recorded a vote of thanks to Emma and congratulated her on the well-deserved award.

Cabinet – 12.02.18

The Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing then introduced a report from the Partnership Manager and the Fuel Poverty Coordinator that described a submission which would be made to Affordable Warmth Solutions later this year.

Members were informed the bid would be for a 1.5 million pound project to sustain the Home Energy Visitor project, which was currently delivered in the Arun District, for additional years, and also extend it to the other District and Borough Councils across West Sussex. In addition, the bid would propose that we work in partnership with the Citizens' Advice service to enable them to deliver debt reduction support through a home visiting scheme, to people in fuel poverty who have difficulty accessing town centre Citizens' Advice facilities.

The Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing stated that for the more vulnerable residents of Arun in fuel poverty, this would lead to warmer and more financially stable homes, with a reduced risk of exacerbating long term health conditions such as dementia, heart disease and respiratory disease. This would be delivered through support with debt, welfare benefit and budgeting advice alongside opportunities for financial help with new heating and insulation and advice on reducing energy bills.

It was noted that the bid was due to be submitted to Affordable Warmth Solutions during February. Affordable Warmth Solutions had now extended the deadline date to 28th September 2018. This was because details about the future of the Energy Company Obligation scheme (which helps fund replacement boilers for residents in fuel poverty) had not yet been issued by the Government. The submission of the bid had therefore been delayed until this later date, when the situation with the Energy Company Obligation scheme would be much clearer.

It was explained that, over the past ten years, Arun District Council had received over three million pounds of funding from West Sussex Public Health to support residents to reduce their risks of cardiovascular disease, diabetes, stroke and preventable cancers, via the Arun Wellbeing programme. In addition, through the countywide Fuel Poverty Coordinator project which was hosted by Arun District Council, the Council had received nearly a million pounds since 2010, from a combination of West Sussex Public Health and Department of Health funding, to reduce fuel poverty for the residents of the whole of West Sussex.

This report requested that Cabinet authorise the Group Head for Community Wellbeing to enter into agreements with partners to deliver the project, and to agree the spending of the grant throughout the life of the project.

Cabinet were in full support of the report's recommendations.

The Cabinet confirmed its decision as per Decision Notice C/045/120218, a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of the Minutes.

409. RENT SETTING POLICY 2018/19

The Cabinet Member for Residential Services introduced this report that set out a unified rent setting policy for each type of residential accommodation which Arun District Council owned and managed through the Housing Revenue Account and General Fund. It was explained that previously rents have been adopted through a range of policies. This report would bring the Council in line with the latest government policy on rent setting.

The Group Head of Residential Services informed Members the Rent Setting Policy was intended to provide clear guidance and consistency for Arun District Council's rent setting arrangements.

The differences between non formula, formula and affordable rents were explained and the resulting monetary differences also outlined. It was pointed out that the current national rent setting policy had resulted in a significant reduction in the level of financial resources available for housing investment. Prior to the reduction of 1% per annum for four years being implemented, Arun District Council's HRA Business Plan was based on an assumed annual rent increase of 2% annually. The net rent loss would lead to a total loss of £4.7m over a four year period.

The Cabinet Member for Residential Services spoke in agreement with the Rent Setting Policy which would enable the Council to maximise income in accordance with the HRA Business Plan. Cabinet were also in support and approved the report's recommendations.

The Cabinet confirmed its decision as per Decision Notice C/046/120218, a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of the Minutes.

410. ACTIVITIES FOR OLDER ADULTS

The Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing presented this report that proposed an extension of the agreement with Age UK to manage the delivery of Day Activities for older adults in Arun and reviewed the commissioning exercise being undertaken by West Sussex County Council in respect of social support for older adults.

It was noted that the Council had been working with Age UK West Sussex since 2006. The service supported older members of the community to live long, independent and healthy lives. Age UK operated at the Laburnum Centre in Bognor Regis and provided services in the east of the District at the Laurels in Rustington, St Mary's Church Hall in Littlehampton and also at Wick Hall.

The Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing put forward the report's proposal to extend the agreement with Age UK for one year so that West

Cabinet – 12.02.18

Sussex County Council could declare their commissioning arrangements for wider social support services for older people.

In summing up, the Group Head of Community Wellbeing stated that the Council had worked very well with Age UK and it was felt it was right to wait for the County commissioning exercise to ensure that the best outcome was achieved in terms of social support for the community. The Group Head of Community Wellbeing informed Cabinet he would report back in order to provide an update on progress and the options for the service.

In deliberating the report's proposals, Cabinet agreed with the Group Head of Community Wellbeing as this was seen as a sensible approach.

The Cabinet confirmed its decision as per Decision Notice C/047/120218, a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of the Minutes.

411. COMMUNITY ADVICE SERVICES CONTRACT

In introducing this report, the Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing explained that the Community Advice Contract was a countywide service funded by all of the district and borough councils and West Sussex County Council. The contract was currently with Citizens Advice and would expire in April 2018. This report sought Member's agreement to procure a further contract for one year with Citizens Advice for the same contract sum of £117,020. It was noted that this would enable a new contract to be tendered later this year with a specification that better reflects the changes to the delivery and type of advice required across the county.

The Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing was in full support of the report's recommendations praising Citizens Advice for their vital role in the community, particularly for vulnerable individuals and families.

The Group Head for Community Wellbeing also praised the work of Citizens Advice and explained how the service was being progressive by offering an improved flow of information including; online, webchat, telephone and outreach work with information sessions offered in the community. Sessions had taken place in Doctors Surgeries, Libraries and community centres.

In discussion, Cabinet agreed the service was valuable to the community particularly with the Universal Credit introduction in July 2018.

The Cabinet then confirmed its decision as per Decision Notice C/048/120218, a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of the Minutes.

412. PLANNING APPEAL AT LAND WEST OF CHURCH LANE AND SOUTH OF HORSEMERE GREEN LANE, CLIMPING

The Cabinet Member for Planning introduced this report that informed Members that an appeal had been submitted against the decision of the Council to refuse planning permission for 300 dwellings on a site on land West of Church Land and South of Horsemere Green Lane, Climping (Planning Application Ref CM/1/17/OUT).

It was noted that the application was presented to Development Control Committee with a recommendation of approval on 9 August 2017. The Application was refused by the Development Control Committee. Reasons for refusal related to prematurity prior to the adoption of the new Local Plan and highway safety in relation to mitigating the impacts of the development on the Oystercatcher and Comet Corner junctions on the A259. Members were informed that the Applicant had appealed the decision to refuse the application and the Planning Inspectorate had decided that the appeal should be heard under the public inquiry procedure.

Members were informed that in order to defend the appeal, the Council would need to instruct a planning consultant (as officers recommended approval of the application) and have legal representation. It was estimated that these costs would be up to £40,000. The department's miscellaneous budget was not sufficient to cover this scale of costs.

Cabinet were asked to recommend to Full Council the approval of a supplementary estimate of £40,000 for costs associated with defending the appeal.

In considering the report's recommendation Cabinet could see no alternative but to support the approval of the supplementary estimate and recommended to Full Council accordingly.

As recommended in the report, Cabinet

RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL

that the supplementary estimate of £40,000 for costs associated with defending the Appeal in respect of application CM/1/17/OUT, be approved. These include Counsel costs and costs of appointment of Planning Consultants and any specialist consultants to assist with defending an Appeal in respect of Planning Application CM/1/17/OUT. The supplementary estimate equates to a Band D Council Tax of £0.67.

The Cabinet confirmed its decision as per Decision Notice C/049/120218, a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of the Minutes.

Cabinet – 12.02.18

413. 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 – 1 November 2017
Joint Western Arun Area Committee – 14 November 2017

414. OVERVIEW SELECT COMMITTEE – 21 NOVEMBER 2017

The Cabinet received and noted the Minutes from the meeting of the Overview Select Committee held on 21 November 2017. The recommendation at Minute 294 was considered at the Agenda Item on New Corporate Plan and Service Delivery Plan Indicators 2018-2022 earlier in the meeting. Cabinet Decision Notice C/040120218 refers.

415. ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE WORKING GROUP – 19 DECEMBER 2017

In introducing the minutes of the Environment & Leisure Working Group, of the meeting held on 19 December 2017, the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services referred Members to the recommendations at Minute 26 with respect to the Strategic Vision for the Future of Public Convenience Services in Arun.

The Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services praised the hard work of the Greenspace/ Cleansing Contract & Development Manager and the Chairman of the Environment & Leisure Working Group for the well balanced solutions presented in the report's recommendations. It was noted that the solutions provided, within the recommendations, would retain and improve public convenience facilities, explore commercial use where appropriate and withdraw facilities where necessary. Members were informed that the Council was exploring a Community Toilet Scheme.

The Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood services was pleased to inform Cabinet that the Council had listened to the views of the public and parishes and the recommendations had been made with those concerns and views in mind.

In discussing the report's recommendations the estimated annual saving of £25k was welcomed. Members were pleased to note the collaborative working with Parish Councils that had provided positive outcomes.

Cabinet were in full support of recommendations 1 to 19 but due to Constitutional restrictions were unable to agree recommendation 20 which requested that Cabinet confirm a policy of moving towards Unisex toilets.

The Chief Executive confirmed that under the Council's Constitution Part 4 - Officer Scheme of Delegation – Section 1 this was not a Cabinet decision as it was an operational matter and not strategic and therefore this would be for Officers to determine, assessing each case on its merits.

Cabinet then removed recommendation 20 from their deliberations and considered recommendations 1 to 19 which were fully supported.

The Cabinet then confirmed its decision as per Decision Notice C/051/120218, a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of the Minutes.

416. HOUSING & CUSTOMER SERVICES WORKING GROUP – 4 JANUARY 2018

The Cabinet received the Minutes from the meeting of the Housing & Customer Services Working Group held on 4 January 2018.

The Cabinet Member for Technical Services praised the positive work that was taking place to bring empty properties back into use.

The Cabinet was referred to a recommendation at Minute 25 [Empty Homes Strategy] which was agreed.

The Cabinet then confirmed its decision as per Decision Notice C/052/120218, a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of the Minutes.

(The meeting concluded at 6.12 pm)