



Public Document Pack

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8 July 2020

CABINET

A virtual meeting of the Cabinet will be held on **Monday 20 July 2020 at 5.00 pm** and you are requested to attend.

Members: Councillors Dr Walsh (Chairman), Oppler (Vice-Chairman), Coster, Mrs Gregory, Lury, Stanley, Mrs Staniforth and Mrs Yeates

PLEASE NOTE: *This meeting will be a 'virtual meeting' and any member of the press and public may listen-in and view the proceedings via a weblink which will be publicised on the Council website at least 24 hours before the meeting.*

Different meeting arrangements are in place for the period running from 4 April 2020 to 7 May 2021 from the provisions of the Coronavirus Act 2020 and the meeting regulations 2020, to allow formal 'virtual meetings'.

This Council's revised Rules of Procedures for 'virtual meetings' can be found by clicking on this link: <https://www.arun.gov.uk/constitution>

Any members of the public wishing to address the Cabinet meeting during Public Question Time, will need to email Committees@arun.gov.uk by 5.15 pm on Friday, 10 July 2020 in line with current Cabinet Procedure Rules. It will be at the Chief Executive's/Chairman's discretion if any questions received after this deadline are considered.

For further information on the items to be discussed, please contact: committees@arun.gov.uk

AGENDA

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members and officers are invited to make any declarations of pecuniary, personal and/or prejudicial interests that they may have in relation to items on the agenda, and are reminded that they should re-declare their interest before consideration of the item or as soon as the interest becomes apparent.

Members and officers should make their declaration by stating:

- a) the item they have the interest in
- b) whether it is a pecuniary, personal and/or prejudicial interest
- c) the nature of the interest
- d) if it is a pecuniary or prejudicial interest, whether they will be exercising their right to speak under Question Time

3. QUESTION TIME

- a) Questions from the public (for a period of up to 15 minutes).
- b) Questions from Members with prejudicial interests (for a period up to 15 minutes).

4. URGENT BUSINESS

The Cabinet may consider items of an urgent nature on functions falling within their responsibilities where special circumstances apply. Where the item relates to a key decision, the agreement of the Chairman of the Overview Select Committee must have been sought on both the subject of the decision and the reasons for the urgency. Such decisions shall not be subject to the call-in procedure as set out in the Scrutiny Procedure Rules at Part 6 of the Council's Constitution.

5. MINUTES

(Pages 1 - 8)

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 22 June 2020, as attached.

6. BUDGET VARIATION REPORTS

To consider any reports from the Head of Corporate Support.

7. SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE TO DEFEND APPEALS AT MIDDLETON POULTRY FARM [M/80/19/PL]; INGLENOK HOTEL, PAGHAM [P/58/19/PL]; AND LAND EAST OF SHRIPNEY ROAD, SHRIPNEY [BE/109/19/OUT]

(Pages 9 - 14)

There are three planning appeals for major development where planning permission has been refused by the Council.

All of these decisions were made at the Development Control Committee (DCC) contrary to the Officer recommendation. A Supplementary Estimate is sought to be able to present a case to these appeals because Officers are unable to fully articulate the case for the Council.

8. REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUTTURN EXPENDITURE 2019/20 (Pages 15 - 32)

The report provides a summary of revenue and capital outturn expenditure for 2019/20 and compares this expenditure with the approved budget.

9. THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC SITUATION (Pages 33 - 42)

This report updates Cabinet on the Council's response to the pandemic situation and possible proposals for economic recovery.

10. COVID-19 RECOVERY WORKING PARTY - 2 JULY 2020 (Pages 43 - 46)

Attached are the Minutes from the meeting of the Covid-19 Recovery Working Party which are to be considered in conjunction with Item 9 above.

ITEMS PUT FORWARD BY THE OVERVIEW SELECT COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUPS

To confirm that there are no items for this meeting.

Note : Members are reminded that if they have any detailed questions would they please inform the Chairman and/or relevant Director in advance of the meeting.

Note : Filming, Photography and Recording at Council Meetings - The District Council supports the principles of openness and transparency in its decision making and permits filming, recording and the taking of photographs at its meetings that are open to the public. This meeting may therefore be recorded, filmed or broadcast by video or audio, by third parties. Arrangements for these activities should operate in accordance with guidelines agreed by the Council and as available via the following link - Filming Policy - [The Policy](#)

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Public Document Pack Agenda Item 5

Subject to approval at the next Cabinet meeting

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CABINET

22 June 2020 at 5.00 pm

Present: Councillors Dr Walsh (Chairman), Oppler (Vice-Chairman), Coster, Mrs Gregory, Lury, Stanley, Mrs Staniforth and Mrs Yeates.

Councillors Bennett, Bicknell, Bower, Charles, Mrs Cooper, Cooper, Edwards, Gunner, Mrs Pendleton and Roberts were also in attendance at the meeting.

53. WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Councillors, Officers and members of the public to what was the third virtual meeting of Cabinet. He provided a brief summary of how the meeting would be conducted and the protocol that would be followed and how any break in the proceedings due to technical difficulties would be managed.

54. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman, Councillor Dr Walsh, declared a Personal Interest in Agenda Item 8 [The Council's Response to the Covid-19 Pandemic Situation] as a Member of West Sussex County Council.

55. QUESTION TIME

The Chairman confirmed that no questions had been submitted for this meeting.

56. URGENT BUSINESS - FURTHER OFFICER DECISION TAKEN DURING THE CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY

The Chairman confirmed that in accordance with the provisions of the Officer Scheme of Delegation in the Council's Constitution, one urgent Officer Decision had been taken by the Interim Monitoring Officer in relation to the Council's Virtual Meeting Procedure Rules. This decision had been uploaded to the Council's webpages earlier that day and had been taken on 19 June 2020.

The Chairman explained that in consultation with the Chief Executive, who in turn had consulted with the Group Leaders on 18 June 2020; and in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Constitution Working Party, and the Portfolio Holder being notified, in order to conduct remote hearings of the Licensing Sub-Committee in accordance with relevant legislation, an addition to the Virtual Meeting Procedure Rules had been required at Paragraph 14 in respect of the Licensing Sub-Committee and the ability of this Sub-Committee to hold hearings in accordance with relevant legislation to ensure a fair hearing.

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Part 5, Section 5 – The Virtual Meeting Procedure Rules had been updated to allow the access of the public and press to attend and participate in Licensing Sub-Committee meetings. The change to the Constitution had been urgently required to allow a Licensing Sub-Committee to proceed on 26 June 2020.

The Cabinet noted and supported the actions taken by the Interim Monitoring Officer.

57. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 1 June 2020 were agreed by the Cabinet and would be signed by the Chairman as soon as practically possible.

58. BUDGET VARIATION REPORTS

The Chairman confirmed that there were no items to bring to this meeting,

59. UPDATE ON WEBCASTING OF MEETINGS - PROCUREMENT OPTIONS

The Cabinet Member for Technical Services, Councillor Stanley, introduced this item outlining that following the reports that had been made to Cabinet on 8 July and 9 December 2019, this report fed back to Cabinet the findings from the corporate officer group that had been established to examine the future webcasting needs of the Council and associated costs. This report had been slightly adjusted to reflect the Council's current financial position as a result of Covid 19 meaning that it would now be necessary to consider a range of options and possibly at different time stages and so a further report would be presented to Cabinet setting out the costs and long-term financial implications of these options for webcasting.

In view of the timescales involved for this work, Cabinet was being asked to instruct Officers to extend the existing contract with Auditel for the webcasting of all public meetings for the next twelve months, the cost of which would be met from existing budgets as the existing contract with Auditel would imminently be expiring.

It was also intended, subject to any future decisions regarding the options for webcasting, that when meetings returned to the Civic Centre with the public being allowed to physically attend, then webcasting would revert back to web-streaming live Full Council and Development Control Committee meetings only.

Councillor Stanley emphasised the fact that the officer group had undertaken a lot of work which had included a soft market testing exercise to understand the technical requirements of upgrading and extending the current webcasting arrangements including the Committee Suite and the key information relating to this had been set out in Section 2.1 of the report. It was also highlighted that the Committee Services team, ICT and the Senior Estates Surveyor have worked collaboratively with Auditel's Senior Management Team in escalating and resolving the issues previously reported to this meeting, the result of which has been a much-improved client relationship.

The Director of Place endorsed the points made by Councillor Stanley and invited questions from Cabinet Members.

Comments from the Cabinet outlined the importance of this report as one of the Council's long-term objectives was to improve the transparency and accountability of its meetings. Previously, the equipment installed in the Council Chamber had seen only the Development Control Committee rely on the equipment for webcasting meetings. Cabinet endorsed its view that webcasting needed to be widened out and needed to be continued to be used and to reflect the increasing numbers of those who watched the web streams either live or on demand.

It was also acknowledged that the current pandemic had forced the Council to change its focus on how meetings were now run and as this had worked successfully it was important for the Council to consider options for webcasting moving forward. In view of this, Councillor Stanley confirmed that he wished to make an amendment to Recommendation (3) to read as follows – additions have been shown using **bold** and deletions have been shown using ~~strikethrough~~:

~~If within the next 6 months the public are allowed to attend meetings in the Civic Centre then the webcasting will revert to the Full Council and Development Control Committee meetings only.~~ **In the event of physical meetings becoming possible in the next six months which the public are allowed to attend in the Civic Centre, Officers investigate the ongoing use of Zoom and/or the utilisation of the Council Chamber for both Cabinet and the Overview Select Committee to be webcast alongside Full Council and the Development Control Committee.**

This amendment was seconded by Councillor Oppler.

The Chairman then invited debate on the amendment asking Officers firstly if they could provide any comment on the amendment made.

As there were no questions from Cabinet Members, the Chairman invited non-Cabinet Members to ask questions.

Questions were asked with regard to the key elements of the draft specification for a fully comprehensive system as had been set out in the report at Section 2.1 in relation to the number of microphones that would be provided and if these would be wireless.

Positive comments were received in relation to the amendment as it was felt that all Council meetings should be webcast. Councillors were also interested to learn what the viewing figures had been for meetings. Councillor Stanley confirmed that for Cabinet on 29 April 2020 there had been 354; for Annual Council there had been 379; and for the Littlehampton Regeneration Sub-Committee 65. This confirmed that there was a considerable difference between the larger Committees compared with smaller

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Sub-Committees and this was why the amendment to Recommendation 3 had been proposed.

Moving forward Councillors agreed that as it was difficult to anticipate when physical meetings could once again resume, the possibility of being able to look into using a hybrid approach for meetings could resolve a number of issues and most likely save on costs. It would therefore be interesting to see what other alternatives could be available.

Following some further discussion, the amendment to Recommendation 3 was put to the vote and this was declared carried.

The Cabinet therefore

RESOLVED – That

- (1) In view of the timescales involved for this project, to instruct Officers to extend the existing contract with Auditel, for the webcasting of all public meetings for the next twelve months the cost of which is to be met from existing budgets;
- (2) To note that a further report will be provided to Cabinet setting out the anticipated costs and long-term financial implications of a range of options for webcasting; and
- (3) In the event of physical meetings becoming possible in the next six months which the public are allowed to attend in the Civic Centre, Officers investigate the ongoing use of Zoom and/or the utilisation of the Council Chamber for both Cabinet and the Overview Select Committee to be webcast alongside Full Council and the Development Control Committee.

The Cabinet confirmed its decision as per Decision Notice C/002/220620, a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of the Minutes.

60. THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC SITUATION

The Chairman introduced this report confirming that it provided another update in terms of how the Council had been dealing with the Coronavirus over recent weeks. All Members had been receiving a weekly update from the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council and the bulk of those briefings had also been sent to the Council's partners. The first part of the report provided a formal record of what had been done to date.

The Chairman then outlined that it was now very important for the Council to consider not only the economic impact on the Council, local businesses and the community, but also that these social impacts be fully considered. The report also discussed both aspects from a short, medium and long-term point of view.

Finally, the report proposed the establishment of a Working Party to discuss, in private, how the Council could help the Council and the community to recover from this terrible pandemic. The Chairman confirmed that he welcomed and fully supported this approach, and that he believed that the three other political parties were also supportive of this approach.

The Chief Executive then presented his report confirming that he wished to thank the Economic and Communications Teams for their recent phases of work in preparing for getting the District's High Streets ready for coming out of Lockdown last Monday, 15 June 2020. They had had to work with very little Government guidance and very little time to deliver the programme that balanced a warm welcome with confidence for the public to return to shops safely. They had worked closely with Town and Parish Councils to make practical arrangements for retail areas across the entire District and were now currently working with the Town and Parish Councils on further improvements.

The Chief Executive outlined that the report discussed possible changes in society addressing the terrible downsides; deaths, isolation, mental health issues, domestic violence, business failures and unemployment issues. There had also been positive outcomes being an uplift in community spirit, caring for others, improved health, lower pollution and family time - all of which had encouraged stronger support for supporting being "local" and more sustainable in the future.

This was an important time for the Council to provide Leadership, economic stimulus and to facilitate recovery, using the positives that had come out of the pandemic. As a Council, Members and Officers together, had just as much chance as any expert or consultant to come up with possible answers for the recovery programme, and the report proposed the establishment of a Working Party to help take this forward and to provide proposals for Cabinet to consider in the future months. The report suggested short, medium and long-term issues to consider and work on.

The Council's finances were of great concern as it headed towards a possible deficit of £2.9m for this financial year. The Council's Corporate Management Team (CMT) had been meeting regularly to discuss possible financial solutions which would be discussed further with Cabinet over the coming weeks. The Council would also have to consider its priorities and probably make difficult and swift decisions to help the recovery phase move forward quickly.

The Chairman thanked the Chief Executive for his presentation and invited questions from Cabinet Members.

Firstly, the Chairman confirmed that the details of a new financial package from Government were awaited and would hopefully be received by the end of this week it was also hoped that further guidance might be received soon to establish when and how Leisure Centres could reopen alongside further revisions to social distancing rules, all of which would have significant impacts on the reopening of certain Council facilities

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as well as retail and leisure businesses such as pubs/restaurants which were all key parts of the local economy.

The Chairman stated that he was pleased to be able to announce that West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) had confirmed that it would not levy its proposed tax on establishments wishing to place tables and chairs outside of their premises. This would allow cafes and restaurants, when they did reopen, to be able to spread out and enable a safe reopening experience.

Cabinet confirmed that it was delighted with the help that the Council had given to shops and businesses in the District since they had re-opened on 15 June 2020. It was also pleasing to report that shops had also positively fed back the assistance being provided by the public in maintaining social distancing and how they had conformed to queuing and other stipulated measures. This allowed a very clear message to be passed on in that the District was a safe area to visit and shop in.

The Cabinet then allowed non-Cabinet Members to ask questions and submit statements. These saw comments being made about the terms of reference proposed for the Covid-19 Recovery Working Party in that these should not be restrictive in any way whilst also acknowledging that it was just as important for Councillors to be able to look at what could have been handled better during the Pandemic looking at lessons learnt as this would assist the Council in the event of any second spike of the virus.

Non-Cabinet Members also sought Cabinet's assurance that the support already provided to hospitality businesses would continue as it was vital to get the local economy up and running again.

Discussion focused upon the business support grant and reaching out to those businesses who were entitled to receive the grant but had either refused or had not made an application. The need to continue processing appeal applications was also seen as vital.

Looking at the impact Covid19 had had on the social and well-being of some of Arun's residents, an update was requested on the showering facilities at Flaxmean House. The Cabinet Member for Residential Services, Councillor Mrs Gregory, confirmed that a written response had been provided on this issue.

Other comments on the report related to the public conveniences on the promenade at Bogor Regis; the need to think about providing free wi-fi in Town Centres to assist social distancing; to ensure that a campaign was in place to market the popular areas of the District as safe areas for tourists during a time of fantastic weather; and would the new Working Party address such issues.

The Chief Executive responded confirming that the terms of reference of the new Working Party had been kept deliberately brief to ensure that a wide-ranging review could be undertaken. The purpose of the Working Party was to focus on looking forward in line with the short, medium and long-term proposals that had been set out in the report.

Finally, the Chairman thanked the Council's Officers for processing nearly £28 m of business support grants. The Cabinet then

RESOLVED –That

- (1) The action taken to date be noted;
- (2) Consideration be given to the way for the Council post-recovery;
- (3) As part of the work in (2) above, support the establishment of a Coronavirus Recovery Working Party based on the following terms:
 - (a) Terms of Reference– to conduct a review on the way forward for the Council post recovery
 - (b) Size of the Working Party – 10 Members with seats allocated as follows – Lib Dems [4]; Cons [4]; Ind [1] Green [1]
 - (c) Nominations to the seats – to be made by the relevant Group Leader and confirmed as Councillors Bennett, Chapman, Mrs Cooper, Cooper, Dendle, Mrs Haywood, Mrs Staniforth, Tilbrook, Ms Thurston and Dr Walsh;
 - (d) Proposals for the allocation of seats if vacancies occur– to be for the relevant Group Leader to fill the vacant seat and report this information to the next Full Council meeting;
 - (e) Timescale for the work to be undertaken – over the next few months of recovery and to include whatever time is required in view of the uncertainty of Covid19
 - (f) To report back to Cabinet on 20 July 2020; and further meetings
- (4) If established, the Working Party can then:
 - (a) Review its terms of reference at its first meeting and recommend any change back to Cabinet;
 - (b) Make any recommendations to Cabinet based on the terms of reference – it will have no decision-making authority; and
 - (c) Meet in private unless it agrees that it will work to the Meeting Procedure Rules at Part 5 of the Council's Constitution.

The Cabinet then confirmed its decision as per Decision Notice C/003/220620, a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of the minutes.

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61. JOINT ARUN AREA COMMITTEES

The Cabinet received and noted the minutes from the meeting of the Joint Western Arun Area Committee held on 11 March 2020. Cabinet noted that the meeting of the Joint Eastern Arun Area Committee planned for 17 March 2020 had been cancelled.

(The meeting concluded at 6.28 pm)

ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO AND DECISION OF CABINET ON 20 JULY 2020

SUBJECT: Supplementary Estimate to defend planning appeals at Middleton Poultry Farm (M/80/19/PL), Inglenook Hotel, Pagham (P/58/19/PL) and Land east of Shripney Road, Shripney (BE/109/19/OUT)

REPORT AUTHOR: Neil Crowther – Group Head of Planning
DATE: June 2020
EXTN: x 37839
PORTFOLIO AREA: Planning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

There are three planning appeals for major development where planning permission has been refused by the Council. All of these decisions were made at the Development Control Committee (DCC) contrary to the Officer recommendation. A Supplementary Estimate is sought to be able to present a case to these appeals because Officers are unable to fully articulate the case for the Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Cabinet recommends to Full Council that a Supplementary Estimate of £40,000 is agreed in order to defend decisions taken on planning applications M/80/19/PL, P/58/19/PL and BE/109/19/OUT at planning appeal.

The Band D equivalent for £40k supplementary estimate is £0.64.

1. BACKGROUND:

1.1 A Supplementary Estimate is sought for decisions on planning applications to be defended at forthcoming appeals. These appeals relate to the following applications and are all applications that were refused planning permission, contrary to officers' recommendation, at Development Control Committee (DCC);

- Middleton Poultry Farm (M/80/19/PL). Refused February 2020.
- Inglenook Hotel, Pagham (P/58/19/PL). Refused March 2020.
- Shripney Road, Shripney (BE/109/19/OUT). Refused June 2020.

An appeal against M/80/19/PL has been submitted with appeals against the other decisions expected in the coming weeks.

1.2 The reasons for seeking a Supplementary Estimate are:

1. Officers are currently dealing with a significant number of appeals. There are 34 current appeals with the Council (10 of which are decisions made by DCC contrary to officer recommendations). In the calendar year 2019, there were a total of 42 appeal decisions. In 2020 there has been an increase in cases and consequential workloads. There have already been 24 decisions received from The Planning Inspectorate in addition to the 34 current appeals.
2. There has been some DCC Member criticism around the quality of some appeal submissions made by Officers.
3. Officers are unable to fully articulate the reasons for the refusal and provide required evidence to support these. Officers also have limited time in which to try and present such cases on decisions taken at the Development Control Committee.

1.3 It is estimated that up to £40,000 would be required to instruct consultants to present a case on behalf of the Council at these appeals. The Council will be required to prepare and submit technical evidence on highways and trees as well as a planning policy case on overdevelopment, character and sustainability in order to address its reason for refusal on these applications (see para 1.8).

1.4 Supplementary Estimates for this type of work have previously been secured for appeals/judicial reviews at Summer Lane, Paghams (March 2019), and Horsmere Green Lane, Climping (CM/1/17/OUT) (February 2018).

Resources & Capacity

1.5 In the municipal year May 2018 – May 2019, 6 out of 88 applications that went to DCC that were overturned and refused planning permission (7%). This resulted in only one appeal for officers to defend. There has been a substantial increase in appeals workload since the local elections in May 2019. In the municipal year May 2019 – May 2020, 16 out of 81 applications that went to DCC were overturned and refused planning permission (20%). This has resulted in 14 appeals to defend (10 current appeals and 4 already decided).

1.6 The department has a very limited budget for this work and officers will carry out appeals work on virtually all appeals as part of their day to day functions. However, this level of increase in workload cannot be sustained by existing resources and additional resources are required in order to defend these decisions. These three appeals are for 'major' development proposals and there are therefore more significant issues to address as well as there being an increased exposure to costs awards against the Council.

1.7 All of the above are reasons why a Supplementary Estimate is sought. However, there have been previous cases where the department has sought to instruct consultants but have been unable to find one willing to defend the decision taken because they were too concerned about the merits of those decisions. If that is the case, those members who proposed and seconded the refusals will be asked to provide a statement to expand and evidence the reasons for refusal. In the case of the Inglenook appeal (P/58/19/PL), members have already been approached.

1.8 I will set out below the background to these decisions.

Middleton (M/80/19/PL)

This is an application for a 66 bed Nursing Home. It followed planning permission for 13 dwellings (M/49/17/PL) on the site (granted at DCC in February 2017). Consequently, the site is within the defined Built Up Area Boundaries where there is a presumption in favour of development. The proposed access to the site was as per the arrangements approved under M/49/17/PL and the Council's Tree Officer raised no objections. The application was recommended for approval by officers but refused for the following reason;

- 1. The proposals are considered to be an over development and adversely affect the visual amenities of the locality by virtue of them being out of character in scale and density in conflict with policies D DM1 and D SP1 of the Arun Local Plan and policies in the National Planning Policy Framework.*
- 2. The use of the proposed access will result in damage to the protected Ash Trees by virtue of the proximity of vehicle movements to them, leading to their loss contrary to policy ENV DM4 of the Arun Local Plan.*

Inglenook Hotel, Pagham (P/58/19/PL)

A proposed residential development of 13 dwellings. This application was considered by West Sussex County Council as Highway Authority who raised no objections. DCC deferred the application in order to obtain an independent assessment of the highway's safety issues. This cost £1,200 to complete (which was paid for out of the department's budget) and the summary findings supported those previously made by WSCC. The application was recommended for approval by officers. Following the deferral, DCC chose not to accept both sets of technical advice and refused the application refused for the following reasons.

- 1. The proposals will introduce a form of development that will result in significant conflicts between highway users to the detriment of highway safety. It will result in an unacceptable impact on highway safety, not result in pedestrian priority or a safe and secure development contrary to policies T SP1, D DM1 and Q SP1 of the Arun Local Plan and policies within the NPPF.*

Shripney Road, Shripney (BE/109/19/OUT)

An application for 46 dwellings. This followed consideration of proposals for residential development on a site approximately 30m to the north of this site. DCC granted permission for 20 dwellings (BE/63/17/OUT) in January 2018. However, DCC subsequently refused permission for 31 dwellings (BE/69/19/OUT) on that site, contrary to the officer recommendation of approval, in October 2019. This decision was appealed, and the appeal decision was received on 14 May 2020. The Inspector allowed the appeal and awarded costs against the Council because the Inspector concluded that the decision made by the Council was unreasonable.

At the DCC meeting on 3 June (following this appeal decision), BE/109/19/OUT was also resolved to be refused planning permission, contrary to the officer recommendation of approval. The reasons for refusal that are required to be defended are;

1. *The proposals have limited economic, social and environmental benefits and result in clear harm to the village of Shripney. The site lacks access to high quality public transport, is outside of the built-up area and the benefits of the proposals do not outweigh the harm. The proposals are contrary to policies T SP1, T DM1, C SP1 and SD SP1 of the Arun Local Plan, Policy ES7 of the Bersted Neighbourhood Plan and paras 110 and 122 of the NPPF.*
2. *The proposed development fails to address the flood risk requirements associated with future climate change in the longer term and is contrary to paragraphs 155, 157, 158, 160 and 161 of the NPPF.*
3. *The proposed development is on land defined as the best and most versatile agricultural land (Grade 2). As the benefits of the proposals do not outweigh and the applicant has not submitted the Sustainability & Options Appraisals required within policy SO DM1 of the Arun Local Plan, the proposals are therefore contrary to this policy.*

Costs Awards Against the Council

- 1.9 The Supplementary Estimate sought is only in respect of presenting the Council's case at these appeals. It **does not** include factoring in the potential for an award of costs against the Council. Advice was given to DCC on this issue and risks prior to making these decisions.
- 1.10 Officers considered that all three of these appeals represents a significant risk for the Council in respect of potential costs awards against the Council for unreasonable decisions. Officer advice to DCC at the time of making these decisions was on the basis that the decision at Inglenook is contrary to two sets of expert technical advice, the decision at Middleton was contradictory to the previous decision and there were no stated or demonstrable reasons that could justify a decision contrary to the very recent appeal decision at Shripney.
- 1.11. For reference, the recent decision in Shripney against a decision made by DCC contrary to the officer recommendation resulted in a costs claim of £11,500 against the Council for an unreasonable refusal. There is a risk of similar awards for each of these three appeals.

Future Appeals		
1.12 There may need to be requests for further Supplementary Estimates over the coming months should appeals such as The Ship Inn, Aldwick (AW/237/19/PL) be submitted (the applicant has indicated that an appeal will be submitted) and if costs are awarded against the Council in the appeals referred to in this report (and potentially Yapton Crematorium) because the limited budgets of the Department are not able to accommodate multiple costs awards and/or significant further appeals work.		
2. PROPOSAL(S):		
For Cabinet to recommend that a Supplementary Estimate is agreed if these appeal decisions are to be defended at appeal.		
3. OPTIONS:		
The Council could choose to not agree to the Supplementary Estimate and not defend the appeals. If they chose to do this, it would mean that the Council would confirm that it would offer no defence and the appeals would almost inevitably be allowed. This option would significantly reduce the risk of costs against the Council as it would substantially reduce the amount of work the appellants would have to do.		
They could also choose to defend the appeals by way of Councillors presenting the cases. However, as many of the reasons for refusal relate to technical matters where a degree of technical expertise is required, this may expose the Council to a greater risk of costs.		
4. CONSULTATION:		
Has consultation been undertaken with:	YES	NO
Relevant Town/Parish Council		x
Relevant District Ward Councillors		x
Other groups/persons (please specify)		x
5. ARE THERE ANY IMPLICATIONS IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL POLICIES: (Explain in more detail at 6 below)	YES	NO
Financial	x	
Legal	x	
Human Rights/Equality Impact Assessment		x
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime & Disorder Act		x
Sustainability		x
Asset Management/Property/Land		x
Technology		x
Other (please explain)		

6. IMPLICATIONS:

There are significant financial implications for the Council, especially at a time when finances are so stretched and reduced. This expenditure is required to defend the decisions taken by the Council, but those costs could potentially be (at least) doubled if the risk of costs awards against the Council materialises.

7. REASON FOR THE DECISION:

Having taken the decision to refuse permission for these planning applications, the Council is duty bound to defend this decision at an appeal.

8. EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE DECISION: 29 July 2020**9. BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

[Costs Decision BE.69.19.pdf \[pdf\] 101KB](#)

[Appeal Decision BE.69.19.pdf \[pdf\] 165KB](#)

ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO AND DECISION OF CABINET ON 20 JULY 2020

SUBJECT: Revenue and Capital Outturn Expenditure 2019/20

REPORT AUTHOR: Carolin Martlew, Financial Services Manager

DATE: July 2020

EXTN: 37568

PORTFOLIO AREA: Corporate Support

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The attached report provides a summary of revenue and capital outturn expenditure for 2019/20 and compares this expenditure with the approved budget.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Cabinet is recommended to:

- (i) Consider the attached outturn report in Appendix 1;
- (ii) Note the revenue and capital outturn expenditure for 2019/20;
- (iii) Approve the level of balances and unused S.106 sums at 31 March 2020;
- (iv) Note the additional £0.844m contribution to the Funding Resilience Reserve; and
- (v) Note the additional £294k required to complete the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) part of the Housing service restructure in 2020/21.

1. BACKGROUND:

The 2019/20 budget was considered by the Overview Select Committee on 29 January 2019 and Cabinet on 11 February 2019 before being formally approved by Full Council on 20 February 2019.

The budget took account of the Council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy and Housing Revenue Account business plan. The provisional Local Government Finance settlement issued by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) in December 2018 was also taken into consideration.

This report shows a comparison between the actual expenditure and income for 2019/20 and the budget approved by Full Council, plus supplementary estimates and virements approved during the year.

Progress against the budget was closely monitored during the year and monitoring statements were considered by Cabinet at regular intervals. Unforeseen requirements were reported to Cabinet members or Cabinet. Where no funding source could be identified, approval for supplementary estimates were sought from Full Council. During

the year a number of expenditure items were identified as corporate underspend (due to sound management) which was utilised as a source for virement to minimise the number of supplementary estimates during the year.

It is important to note that the statutory deadlines for the preparation of the Accounts (Accounts and Audit Regulations 2020) have been changed for 2019/20 by the Accounts and Audit (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 due to the impact of Covid-19.

The statutory deadline for the approval of the Accounts has been moved to 30 November 2020 (previously 1 July 2020). The Council's Statement of Accounts for 2019/20 are scheduled to be approved by the Audit and Governance Committee on 30 July 2020, however this date is at risk due to the effect of the uncertainty caused by the coronavirus, which could delay the completion of the audit. The draft (unaudited) Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement are available on the Council's website using the link: [Financial Information](#).

2. PROPOSAL(S):

Cabinet is requested to consider the attached report which contains details of the revenue and capital outturn expenditure and specific reserve transactions for 2019/20; and the level of balances and unused S.106 sums at 31 March 2020.

3. OPTIONS: n/a

4. CONSULTATION:

Has consultation been undertaken with:	YES	NO
Relevant Town/Parish Council		✓
Relevant District Ward Councillors		✓
Other groups/persons (please specify)		✓
5. ARE THERE ANY IMPLICATIONS IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL POLICIES: (Explain in more detail at 6 below)	YES	NO
Financial	✓	
Legal		✓
Human Rights/Equality Impact Assessment		✓
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime & Disorder Act		✓
Sustainability		✓
Asset Management/Property/Land		✓
Technology		✓
Other (please explain)		✓

6. IMPLICATIONS:

The report provides Cabinet with a comparison between the actual income and expenditure for 2019/20 and the budget approved for the year.

7. REASON FOR THE DECISION:

To ensure that Members are fully aware of the Council's outturn for 2019/20; and the level of reserves at 31 March 2020, which will be available for use in future years.

8. EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE DECISION: 29 July 2020

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Budget 2019/20 and Draft Statement of Accounts 2019/20 Financial Information

ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUTTURN REPORT 2019/20 – Cabinet 20 July 2020

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report sets out the Capital, Housing Revenue and General Fund Revenue outturn performance against budget for 2019/20. The report compares actual expenditure and income with the budget originally approved by Council on 20 February 2019 plus supplementary estimates and virements approved during the year.
- 1.2 The report comprises of:
- General Fund Revenue Summary (Appendix A);
 - Housing Revenue Account (Appendix B);
 - Capital and Asset Management Statement (Appendix C);
 - Capital Receipts (Appendix D);
 - Earmarked Reserves Statement (Appendix E); and
 - S.106 Summary.

2. General Fund Summary (Appendix A)

- 2.1 The General Fund outturn summary is included at Appendix A. The original budget for 2019/20 was balanced anticipating no change in the level of General Fund Reserve. During the year two supplementary estimates totalling £672k were approved (comprised of £500k for nightly paid accommodation and £172k for the restructuring of the Housing Department). These changes resulted in a total approved budgeted draw down from General Fund Reserves of £0.672m.
- 2.2 The change in the planned original budget General Fund Reserve movement due to supplementary estimates and approved virement is shown in the table below:

Reconciliation of Original to Current Budget Reserve Movement to March 2020		
	£'000	£'000
Original Budget		0
Nightly paid accommodation (C/027/091219)	500	
Restructure of the Housing service (C028/091219)	172	
Total approved General Fund Reserve movement 2019/20	672	672
Total Approved Budget 2019/20		672

The outturn General Fund Reserve movement compared to original and current budget is summarised in the table below:

General Fund Reserve Movement outturn 2019/20	Original Budget £'000	Current Budget £'000	Outturn 2019/20 £'000
Net Budget Requirement	24,525	25,320	24,873
Financed by:			
Government Grants and Retained Business Rates	(8,815)	(8,938)	(9,163)
Council Tax	(15,710)	(15,710)	(15,710)
Taken From / (Added to) Balances	0	672	0
General Fund Balance 01 April 2019	7,076	7,076	7,076
Supplementary Estimates	0	(672)	0
Outturn on General Fund	0	0	0
General Fund Balance 31 March 2020	7,076	6,404	7,076

- 2.3 The General Fund variations against original budget are summarised in Appendix A. It should be noted that some of the variations against the original budget are due to accounting requirements (e.g. IAS19 pension adjustments) and the way the original budget is presented (Contingency budget). During the year contingency and miscellaneous budget items are vired to service areas; capital schemes; and contributions to earmarked reserves (if required for future years). Alternatively, if unrequired they are made available as part of identified savings (corporate underspend) that can be vired to fund unforeseen expenditure in order to minimise the use of supplementary estimates during the year.
- 2.4 The variations +/- £100k against original budget are summarised in the table below:

Variation Analysis original budget to outturn 2019/20 +/- £100k	
	£,000
Favourable variations	
Additional non ringfenced grants (net)	(234)
Contingency items not required	(160)
Additional investment income	(258)
Unrequired Earmarked Reserves	(225)
s106 Developer contributions for maintenance in perpetuity	(427)
Establishment	(340)
Additional Housing Benefit overpayments recovered	(120)
Other Variations < +/- £100k net	(404)
Total Favourable Variations	(2,168)
Adverse Variations	
Homelessness - nightly paid accommodation*	506
Increase in supported claims Housing Benefit	420
Additional Transfer to Funding Resilience Reserve	844
Additional transfers to earmarked reserves	174
Loss of income	224
Total Adverse Variations	2,168
Change in General Fund Balance 2019/20	0
* Supplementary Estimate approved by Full Council	

- 2.5 It is worth noting that the improved variation against budget was due in no small part to robust financial management. Members and officers received regular monitoring reports which highlighted the Council's financial position including the predicted underspend against current budget. The supplementary estimates approved by Full Council during the year were required for good governance as they draw Members attention to significant additional expenditure in addition to the approved budget. The favourable outturn effectively meant that additional expenditure could be financed from underspends and savings identified during the year. It is important to note that some of the savings (e.g. establishment) are not known until the end of the year and cannot therefore be used to fund additional expenditure during the year.
- 2.6 The Council received a significant number of smaller government New Burden's grants in 2019/20 from the DWP (£128k) and the MHCLG (£239k). The New Burdens grants are paid to Local Authorities due to policy changes which result in extra cost or burdens. These grants are not guaranteed to continue and can be one off in nature. These grants included £35k for Brexit preparations and £64k received at the end of the financial year for Covid-19. Brexit preparations did not result in significant additional direct expenditure but used up significant officer time. The Covid-19 grant will help to mitigate some of the additional expenditure

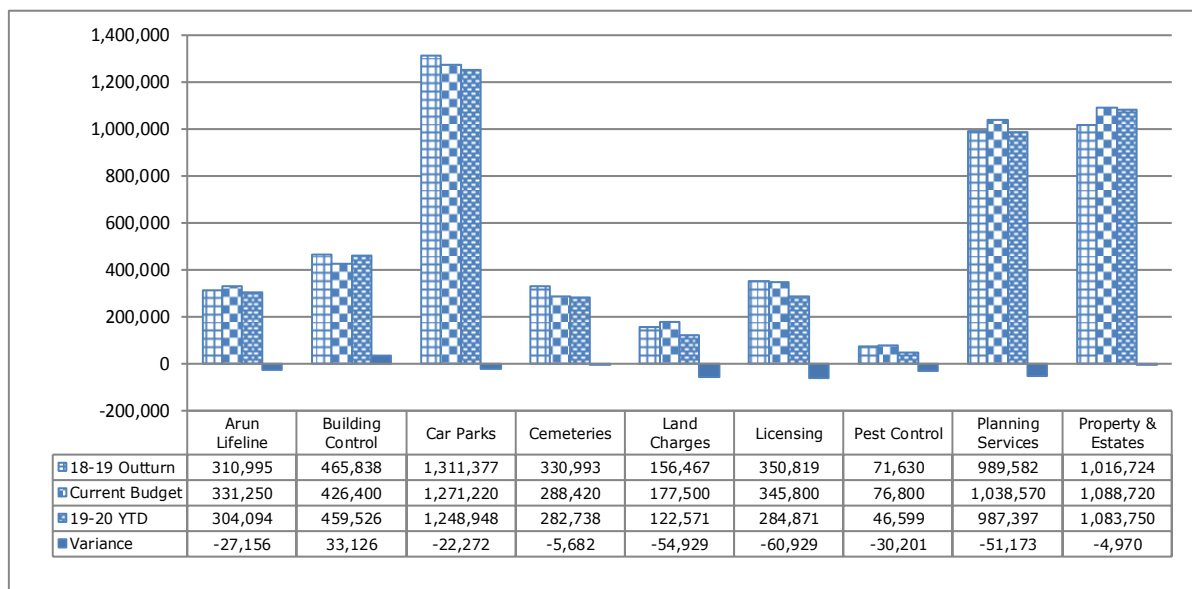
and loss of income incurred towards the end of 2019/20. The net balance of grants after transfer to services and earmarked reserves was (£234k) favourable.

- 2.7 The Contingency and Special Items budget is assessed each year as a provision for known possible service changes that have not been fully developed to fully cost into the budget. The budget for 2019/20 was underspent by (£160k), which was mainly due to the delivery of the Revenues and Benefits Northgate replacement project being on target (£100k) and therefore not requiring the contingency.
- 2.8 Interest and Investment income was (£258k) higher than budget. This was mainly due to higher than anticipated cash balances during the year (£175k) and (£79k) was due to better rates being achieved during the year (1.31% compared to the budgeted 1.24%). The average cash balances during the year were £16m higher than anticipated when the budget was set (£64m compared to £48m). The higher cash balances are mainly due to slippage of the capital and special projects programme for both the General Fund and Housing Revenue Accounts and cash collection rates holding up until the end of the year.
- 2.9 Earmarked Reserves are amounts of money specifically identified for operational purposes and held alongside the General Fund for draw down as required. These specific reserves are reviewed during the year as part of the budget monitoring process and at year end. During 2019/20 (£225k) of Earmarked Reserves were identified as no longer being required. This is mainly due to the Pagham Judicial Review supplementary estimate approved in 2018/19 which was not required (£103k).
- 2.10 The Council received significant s106 sums for maintenance in perpetuity (£427k) in respect of a number of sites. It should be noted that the receipt of these sums will also lead to the requirement for additional revenue expenditure in respect of maintaining the relevant sites. These sums were not included in the budget for 2019/20 as the timing of the receipts was not certain.
- 2.11 Portfolio holders and senior managers are responsible for the income and expenditure budgets including the establishment for their service areas. However, Corporate Management Team is also collectively responsible for achieving the Vacancy Management target of £450k. The current budget includes, earmarked reserve funded posts; additional grant funded posts, virements to fund backfill arrangements and supplementary estimates. The vacancy management target was exceeded by (£340k). This outcome is particularly welcomed in view of the challenges faced by staffing levels. However, such savings may not be able to be maintained in the future.
- 2.12 The favourable variation of (£120k) on Rent Rebates (paid to council tenants and reclaimed in housing benefit subsidy) is mainly due to the trend of recoveries from ongoing benefit continuing. This trend has been reflected in the budget for 2020/21.
- 2.13 The Homelessness Reduction Act, which came into force on 1 April 2018 placed a renewed focus on homelessness prevention and introduced a range of new duties on councils. Its implementation has seen an increase in the number of

homelessness presentations, and these continue to rise. This in turn has resulted in an increase in the use of temporary accommodation and the length of time households are accommodated. A supplementary estimate of £500k (net) was approved by Full Council on January 2020 and significant additional funding has been included in the budget for 2020/21. The outturn net expenditure on nightly paid accommodation was £1.136m (£1.271m previous year).

- 2.14 The net effect of Housing Benefit payments after the receipt of government subsidy is extremely difficult to predict as it is a demand led service and subsidy (and administration grant) is dependant on caseload, changing economic conditions and the level of subsidy provided. Rent allowances (paid to private tenants) are gradually being transferred to the Universal Credit scheme (approximately 100 per month) which is administered by the DWP.
- 2.15 The more complex claims, such as supported accommodation and pensioners will continue to be served by the Local Authority. The adverse variation of £420k on Rent Allowances reflects the increasing claims for supported accommodation which includes assistance for vulnerable people within the community. The valuation office does not take these additional costs into account, so it is left to the local authority to fund the gap as it cannot be reclaimed in Housing Benefit Subsidy.
- 2.16 The Council became aware of two significant items of expenditure late in the financial year. Two ill health retirements that could not be fully funded from the allowance provided by the Pension fund at an additional cost of £94k and the supplier of the Financial Management System (FMS) also informed the Council that the current version of the system would no longer be supported if an upgrade was not made in 2020/21 at an estimated cost of £80k. These amounts, totalling £174k, were added to earmarked reserves to enable the funding to be available in 2020/21.
- 2.17 The favourable outturn for 2019/20 enabled an additional transfer of £844k to the Council's Funding Resilience Reserve (closing balance £5.826m). The Reserve was set up in 2017/18 to provide some resilience in relation to Government Funding cuts and the Spending Review (SR19). The uncertainty around Government Funding and the economic conditions due to the Covid-19 pandemic has made this reserve critical in allowing the Council a planned transition to reductions in net expenditure (reducing expenditure or increasing income) which is required in future years. The Council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy is due to be considered at cabinet on 21 September 2020.
- 2.18 Service related income from fees, charges and rents are included within net cost of service. In total this amounts to an overall financing of £4.820m in 2019/20 (£4.955m previous year). Income is a key risk area to the budget as it is predominantly externally influenced, without direct link to service cost and each source is unique.
- 2.19 A number of income streams were adversely affected in the March 2020 due to the corona virus and the ensuing lock down.

The graph below analyses £224k adverse outturn income variation by source and value. Income levels were already down against projected when the covid-19 pandemic resulted in a complete lock down of the Country. Although the Council stopped charging for car parks on 1 April 2020, income levels had dropped in previous weeks as a result of people staying at home.



Variations below +/- £100k

- 2.20 Management and Support Services net operating expenses (excluding establishment) was underspent by (£168k). The saving is made up of a large number of over and underspends against approved budget, with the largest favourable variation due to the Print Unit income, which achieved a (£54k) favourable outturn due to additional income from work for other local authorities (Chichester DC and Adur and Worthing BC).
- 2.21 Members are asked to approve the General Fund balance of £7.076m (£7.076m previous year) and Earmarked General Fund Reserves of £15.768m (£15.394m) previous year appendix E) at 31 March 2020.

3.0 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) (Appendix B)

- 3.1 Taken together the HRA and Major Repairs Reserve showed a surplus of (£553k) for the year, compared with a budgeted deficit of £3.117m. The HRA balance at 31 March 2020 was £7.240m, with a further £1.708m held in the Major Repairs Reserve. These balances are expected to significantly reduce over the first few years of the new Business Plan as a result of the programme of new dwellings and additional expenditure on the housing stock. The budget for 2020/21 is a £1.726m deficit.
- 3.2 Full Council approved a supplementary estimate of up to £294k for the pension strain and potential redundancies in relation to the HRA part of the Housing department restructure. This budget is required to complete the restructure in

2020/21. Members are asked to note the additional expenditure of up to £294k in 2020/21.

- 3.3 Members are asked to approve the HRA balance at 31 March 2020 of £7.240m, and Major Repairs Reserve balance of £1.726m.

4. Capital and Asset Management (Appendix C)

- 4.1 The Council's budget for 2019/20 included several projects which although included in the Capital budget for project management and monitoring purposes cannot, under current accounting regulations, actually be charged to the capital accounts. Expenditure on these projects is transferred from capital to revenue at the end of the financial year and is included in the relevant cabinet portfolio or support service. The result of this transfer is an increase in service expenditure and a corresponding reduction in the amount of capital expenditure financed from revenue (there is accordingly no effect on the Council's total net expenditure).
- 4.2 A budget of £8.9m for capital and special revenue projects was approved by the Council for 2019/20. In addition, £17.9m was carried forward from 2018/19 to complete approved projects. Actual expenditure for the year amounted to £7.7m (£17.9m previous year) on capital schemes and £2.1m (£2.3m previous year) on special revenue projects.
- 4.3 The Council's General Fund capital programme is limited by the resources available. The majority of the larger one-off schemes are delivered in partnership in order to maximise external funding and to minimise the risk to the Council.
- 4.4 The condition of the Council's General Fund Assets was reviewed during 2019/20 and the schemes were ranked in order to establish a 5 year programme which would ensure that the Council's assets are maintained in an appropriate condition (prioritising expenditure on grounds of health and safety, service reliability etc.). The review also revealed the maintenance of these assets would require significant funding. A review of unrequired capital budgets and the use of capital receipts (see paragraph 5.2 for details) enabled the earmarking of £390k to contribute towards these works in the future.
- 4.5 In 2019/20 the Council was awarded two grants, £2.49m from the Coastal Communities Fund and £564k from Coast to Capital LEP (Local Growth Fund) to deliver improvements to Littlehampton town centre public realm. The scheme will also benefit in 2020/21 from a £200k grant from Littlehampton Town Council and a further £200k from Arun. This funding has enabled three out of the five phase schemes to be planned for delivery during 2020/21. However, this timescale is currently in doubt due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 4.6 The HRA Business Plan includes the construction or acquisition of new homes for affordable rent. The below table shows the approved units and the expenditure incurred in 2019-20:

	Units	Approved £,000	Spent 2019/20 £,000
Summer Lane, Pagham	27	5,631	1,377
Windroos Nursery, Littlehampton	14	2,320	1,818
Cinders Nursery, Yapton	10	1,800	
Maltravers Road, Littlehampton	10	2,050	
Chichester Road, Bognor Regis	8	1,450	
Quiet Water, Angmering	8	1,250	
Merry England, Angmering	5	950	
123 Longford Road, Bognor Regis (conversion)	2	221	180
Buy backs	2	260	30
		15,932	3,405

- 4.7 The Council recognises the need to maintain a clear view on the affordability of the above priorities, and the financial model which supports the Business Plan will be regularly updated in the light of changing circumstances.
- 4.8 Appendix C shows, for comparison purposes, all Capital, Asset management and other projects expenditure for the year, including sums transferred to revenue at the end of the year.

5.0 Capital Receipts (Appendix D)

- 5.1 The capital receipts statement in appendix D shows total capital receipts of £2.815m as at 31 March 2020 (£2.791m previous year). £1.812m of this figure relates to retained right-to-buy receipts ("1 for 1" receipts) which can only be spent on the provision of new social housing, failing which they must be returned to the Government. One of the approved priorities of the Council's Housing Revenue Account Business Plan is a significant new development programme and the implementation and phasing of this programme will be a key factor in determining whether or not the Council spends its unused receipts within the required time scale. The sale of Daisyfields (Cornfield Close) was completed in 2019/20 at £2.7m. A significant proportion of the capital receipt (£1.923m) was applied to finance capital expenditure (reducing the Council's capital financing requirement (CFR) which had temporarily increased in 2018/19 due to the delay of the sale).
- 5.2 The financing of £0.18m of capital expenditure, budgeted as direct revenue finance, from capital receipts in 2019/20 resulted in a saving against the revenue budget. This sum was transferred to the earmarked reserve set aside for essential planned maintenance in future years (see 4.4).

6. Earmarked Reserves (Appendix E)

- 6.1 The earmarked reserves statement 2019/20 in appendix E shows the amounts set aside from the General Fund in earmarked reserves for future expenditure

plans and the amounts posted back from earmarked reserves to meet General Fund expenditure in 2019/20. These reserves were reviewed regularly during 2019/20 to ensure that they are being drawn down as appropriate or returned to General Fund reserve. Members are asked to approve the level of earmarked reserves of £15.768m (£15.394m previous year).

7. Section 106 Receipts

- 7.1 Section 106 agreements, also known as planning obligations, are agreements between developers and Arun District Council (as the local planning authority) that are negotiated as part of a condition of planning consent. The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 enables Arun to negotiate contributions towards a range of infrastructure and services, such as community facilities, public open space, transport improvements and/or affordable housing.
- 7.2 The Council held £8.544m in section 106 developer contributions at 31 March 2020 (£7.251m previous year). Members and officers were updated on S.106 sums at regular intervals during 2019/20 as part of the budget monitoring process.

General Fund Revenue Budget and Outturn 2019/20 Summary

	Original Budget £'000	Actual £'000	Variance £'000
Cost of service			
Community Wellbeing	(567)	(288)	279
Corporate Support Direct	236	285	49
Economy	130	92	(38)
Neighbourhood Services	3,792	3,708	(84)
Planning	(705)	(487)	218
Residential Services	1,023	1,602	579
Technical Services	(1,366)	(1,136)	230
Support Services	2,075	2,259	184
Establishment	12,430	13,355	925
Rates	485	543	58
Insurance	267	196	(71)
Recharges	(1,369)	(1,396)	(27)
Total Cost of Service	16,431	18,733	2,302
Corporate Costs			
Parish Precepts	4,534	4,534	0
Other precepts and levies	208	206	(2)
Interest and investment income	(568)	(851)	(283)
Contingencies / miscellaneous	383	0	(383)
Contribution to / (from) earmarked reserves	(47)	374	421
Capital expenditure financed from revenue	2,020	188	(1,832)
Pension deficit contributions	1,564	1,689	125
Total corporate costs	8,094	6,140	(1,954)
Total net budget requirement	24,525	24,873	348
Financed by:			
Revenue Support Grant	0	0	0
Retained Business Rates	(5,357)	(5,348)	9
New Homes Bonus	(2,664)	(2,664)	0
Other non-ringfenced grants	(794)	(1,151)	(357)
Council Tax income	(15,664)	(15,664)	0
Collection Fund deficit / (surplus)	(46)	(46)	0
Total external finance	(24,525)	(24,873)	(348)
Transfer (to) / from General Fund Reserve		0	(0)

Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Summary 2019/20

Appendix B

Actuals 2018-19 £'000	Description	Budget 19/20 £'000	Actual 19/20 £'000
	Expenditure		
4,789	Supervision & Management	5,119	4,981
4,446	Repairs & Maintenance	4,150	4,522
1,613	Financing of capital expenditure	5,423	1,649
5,140	Net Loan charges	5,140	5,138
15,988	Total Expenditure:	19,832	16,290
	Income		
(15,674)	Rents (dwellings, garages, hostels, other property)	(15,890)	(15,927)
(685)	Charges for services and facilities	(794)	(889)
(61)	Interest on Balance (net)	(30)	(27)
(16,420)	Total Income:	(16,715)	(16,843)
(432)	HRA (Surplus)/Deficit	3,117	(553)
(7,963)	HRA Reserves - Balance brought forward	(8,395)	(8,395)
	Budget Changes in-year	(957)	
(8,395)	HRA Reserve - Balance Carried Forward	(6,235)	(8,947)

Capital, Asset Management and other projects Summary 2019/20

<i>Portfolio</i>	Original Budget £,000	Current Budget £,000	Outturn £,000
Community Wellbeing			
Littlehampton Wave	0	990	778
Total	0	990	778
Corporate Support			
Arun Improvement Programme	0	323	42
Information Technology	370	442	133
Total	370	765	175
Economy			
Pavilion Park Bognor Regis	300	53	53
Littlehampton Public Realm	0	2,872	36
Total	300	2,925	89
Neighbourhoods			
Keystone Centre	250	250	0
Place St. Maur Bognor Regis	0	237	0
Play Areas	100	514	353
Total	350	1,001	353
Residential Services			
Housing Improvements & Repairs	5,423	4,248	1,933
Housing IT	0	148	6
Stock Development	0	13,895	3,492
Homelessness	0	31	2
Registered Social Landlords	0	300	300
Total	5,423	18,622	5,733
Technical Services			
Asset Management	1,000	2,319	963
Land Drainage	0	50	0
Improvement & Discretionary Grants	1,500	1,789	1,788
Total	2,500	4,158	2,751
Summary			
GENERAL FUND	3,520	10,170	4,448
HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT	5,423	18,291	5,431
Total	8,943	28,461	9,879

Capital Receipts 2019/20

	£,000
Balance at 1 April 2019	2,791
Receipts during year (net of pooling)	3,207
Financing of capital expenditure	(3,183)
Balance at 31 March 2020*	2,815

* Figure includes £1.812m of “1 for 1” receipts which can only be used for the acquisition or building of new social housing.

Earmarked Reserve Balances 2019/20

	Balance at 31 March 2019 £'000	Net Transfers 2019/20 £'000	Balance at 31 March 2020 £'000
Delayed capital & special projects	2,180	2,254	4,434
Pension deficit financing	885	(885)	0
Community Wellbeing	1,380	(750)	630
Corporate Governance	4,321	2,163	6,484
Economy	2,529	(2,350)	179
Neighbourhood Services	735	169	904
Planning	796	(268)	528
Residential Services	1,502	(405)	1,097
Technical Services	1,066	446	1,512
Total Earmarked Reserves	15,394	374	15,768

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ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET ON 20 JULY 2020

SUBJECT: THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC SITUATION

REPORT AUTHOR: Nigel Lynn, Chief Executive
DATE: 27 June 2020
EXTN: 37600
PORTFOLIO AREA: Corporate Support

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: This report updates Cabinet on the Council's response to the pandemic situation and possible proposals for economic recovery.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Cabinet is requested to resolve to:

- (1) note the actions taken to date;
- (2) note the minutes and recommendations from the Coronavirus Recovery Working Party held on 2 July 2020 and identify any proposals it wishes to take forward.

1. BACKGROUND:

This report is divided into two main areas in the, now, usual manner. The first part provides an update on progress since the last Cabinet report of 22 June 2020 in relation to the Covid-19 response by the Council. The second part highlights the main themes discussed at the Covid-19 Recovery Working Party which took place on 2 July 2020. The minutes and any recommendations from that meeting will come to this Cabinet meeting for discussion and possible approval of any of the suggestions made by the Working Party.

Part one - Covid-19 update on the Council's response since the last Cabinet report on 22.6.20

Welfare of Staff and Members

- 1.1.1. Restricted access to the civic buildings continues, with the majority of staff still working from home where they are able to, in line with Government guidance. Plans for limited return to work arrangements are underway, with consideration being given to the safety and wellbeing of staff, Members and contractors.

- 1.1.2. Considerable thought needs to be given to minimising the risk to people entering the building and a Recovery Team have been working on ideas to enable this, such as a 'one-way' route through the offices; identifying staff in 'teams' and considering 'shifts' to minimise the number of contacts. This is being progressed and when Government guidance is issued to allow a safe return to the office, this will be actioned. Calculations are being made to assess the number of staff who could return to the building based on the new 1 metre plus Government ruling.

Communications

- 1.1.3. Contact via social media continues to be a popular means of gathering information. Weekly reminders of our news bulletins and social media posts are issued including regular reminders about social distancing, avoiding busy places,

Homelessness

- 1.1.4. A total of 44 households have now been assisted and our focus is now on ways of accommodating those households once the lockdown status is lifted. As of 22 June 2020 there are currently 21 Covid placements.
- 1.1.5. On 24 June 2020, MHCLG announced an additional £105 million to help local authorities implement a range of support interventions for people placed into emergency accommodation during the Covid-19 pandemic. This includes supporting moves into the private rented sector, helping individuals to reconnect with friends or family, and extending or procuring interim accommodation. The Council awaits confirmation of the funding allocation we will receive.

Waste Collections

- 1.1.6. Waste collections continue as normal.

Parks & Open Spaces

- 1.1.7. Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGAs)/skate parks reopened from 18 May 2020 and from 4 July 2020 playgrounds can reopen. The Greenspace team will now ensure that all areas are prepared for reopening including cutting the grass, checking equipment and installing new signage which will include messages around social distancing.

Community Hubs

- 1.1.8. The Council has received 218 referrals between 31 March and 21 June 2020. 81 of these related to food (shopping, collection etc) and 94 related to medication collections. The Government announced on 21 June 2020 that those shielding from coronavirus will be advised they can spend more time outside their homes from 6 July 2020 and that from 1 August 2020, the guidance will then be relaxed so clinically the extremely vulnerable will no longer be advised to shield. The food and medicine boxes facilitated by the National Shielding Service will stop as of 1 August 2020 as individuals are advised they can visit shops and pharmacies. Arun District Council officers will liaise with the West Sussex Community Hub about the

necessary communication plan as they have been dealing directly with the Shielded cohort to date. In addition, WSCC have been the point of contact for food distribution to date so our officers will liaise with them about the best way to publicise any changes to residents.

Support to Local Businesses

- 1.1.9. The Discretionary Business Grant Scheme has been rolled out and as of 26 June 2020 there have been 163 applications and the total financial commitment has been £730,000 based on our original funding of £1.539m, and we have allocated 47.43%. Businesses have been invited to apply for a second round of Discretionary Grants as there is some funding available to pass out to businesses in financial need of this. The grant is being administered by the Economic Development Team.
- 1.1.10. Business Support grants have been paid to 2442 businesses as of 22 June 2020 totalling £29.2m. The Council has now given grants to 97.94% of all eligible businesses who have applied. There are 222 eligible businesses still to apply but some have refused a grant and some have not applied despite sending several reminder letters and issuing requests on social media for businesses to make contact with the Council. The feedback received from such businesses is that they do not require financial assistance. Therefore, the Council is unlikely to reach 100% of payments to eligible businesses.
- 1.1.11. Arun was recently allocated £143,718 from the 'Reopening High Streets Safely Fund', which will be used to support practical measures for Arun's businesses to re-open quickly (when they are allowed to). This included providing signage, street markings and temporary barriers to help prepare for businesses to start trading again whilst observing the social distancing guidelines, and to restore customers' confidence in being able to shop safely. Shops have reopened safely and no significant concerns have been reported. Customers are following guidelines and social distancing measures and shop owners have appreciated the support from wardens and the Council. The Community Information Officers (Wardens) have been extremely proactive in resolving some hot spots and pinch points in both busy locations.
- 1.1.12. The Stay Safe message contributed greatly towards a careful and controlled opening in the key retail areas. A Communications Plan was used to ensure that messages were conveyed to the public quickly via social media, our website, the radio, the press and via the Chief Executive and Leader's VLOGs. Promotional posters and banners were put up in our main towns and marketing campaigns were developed for both Littlehampton and Bognor Regis by the Town Centre Managers.
- 1.1.13. Possible road closures and suspensions where there are anticipated pinch points caused by queueing have been identified. We are working with WSCC to progress these temporary changes. Cleansing continues at an advanced level. We have added the regular cleaning of public seating/benches in Littlehampton due to high usage. The offer to apply for a small allocation of the RHSS funding was made to Town and Parish Councils, that have shopping centres or clusters / parades of shops, to allow them to identify local interventions that they can directly deliver.

Applications were received and all projects which met all the necessary requirements were given the go ahead.

Leisure

1.1.14. Freedom Leisure is in receipt of a Council support package in response to the Government directive to close the Council's leisure centres due to the Covid-19 pandemic. A report was submitted to Full Council on 15 July 2020 setting out the current situation and options to maintain the future viability of the leisure operating contract.

Full Council agreed the following measures, to:

- i. extend the Letter of Variation (Supplier Relief due to COVID-19) to defer the net monthly payment obligations (£66,000) for the remainder of the financial year (to March 2021) and extend the contract expiry date by a further six months to 31 March 2027;
- ii. a supplementary estimate for a sum up to £270,000 (Band D equivalent of £4.38) is made available to support the Council's leisure operating contract for an initial three months and the impact is reported to Cabinet in September;
- iii. a supplementary estimate for a sum of £136,300 (Band D equivalent of £2.19) to regularise the s138 notice reported to Cabinet on 29 April 2020 to reimburse £45,436 per month to Freedom Leisure, subject to open book accounting, to cover the costs associated with the upkeep of the buildings during the period of closure; and
- iv. authority is given to the Group Head of Wellbeing to apply for and receive support funding that may from time to time become available to support leisure and cultural services affected by COVID-19.

The Council's Finances

1.1.15. The final picture regarding the Council's financial position will not be known until the emergency is over. The latest prediction, in our return to MHCLG is that the potential cost to the Council will be approximately £5m, and we have only received £1.6m in funding from Central Government. These figures, however, are only from our "snap-shot" Government returns in April, May and June; the true figure may inevitably be very different. Any future funding from the Government is unknown and is likely to be based on a more sophisticated formula this time than just population. Additionally, expenditure is difficult to predict as we don't know how long the situation will last. Officers continue to work on the Council's financial position using the limited data available to them.

Council Decision-Making

1.1.16. Since the last report to Cabinet on 22 June 2020, virtual Committee meetings have been held including Development Control Committee (DCC on 24 June 2020); Licensing Sub Committee (26 June 2020); Constitution Working Party (29 June 2020); Planning Policy Sub-Committee (30 June 2020) and Full Council on 15 July 2020.

Part two – Covid-19 Recovery Working Party on 2.7.20

1.1.17. The Council must now focus on the future and the recovery of the Economy. It was agreed at Cabinet on 22.6.20 that a Covid-19 Recovery Working Party be established and the first meeting took place on 2.7.20. This Working Party will consider how the Council can take steps to:

1. Address the financial gap created as incomes fall and customer demands change. The gap is substantial in the short term and it is far from certain what the medium/long term position will be for us
2. Develop new strategic targets that fit the new economic and social conditions - Community and Economy are top of the pile, but we need to consider what this really mean in terms of outcomes and investments required to deliver them
3. Learn from the crisis and shape a new operating model for the Council that builds on what we have shown to be possible over the past three months.

1.1.18. As agreed at Cabinet on 22 June 2020, the Working Party considered the Council's proposed recovery response by way of a report from the Chief Executive entitled 'Approaching this Review'. This report focused on the following five core themes that are being used by the Government Recovery Group, working with the Local Government Association (LGA) and the District Council Network (DCN) and County Council Network (CCN):

1. Business Communities, Sector and Innovation

- i. Continue to use the Arun Business Partnership to engage with local businesses as this has worked well; and
- ii. For businesses to ensure their cleaning and distancing measures meet current required standards;
- iii. Explore creating an internet directory of local business to raise awareness of what can be sourced locally, within the Arun District.

2. Labour Markets, Unemployment and Skills

- i. Focus on delivering projects/partnerships which will create jobs locally, or stimulate significant investment in the area or will have major social or environmental benefits; and
- ii. Consider reduction in demand for office space, student accommodation and retail and therefore what the future of Town Centres should look like.

3. Visitor Economy and Rural Areas

- i. Identify broadband "not spots" in Arun and consider potential solutions including continuation of the emergency provisions made by service providers under the emergency regulations.

4. Place Making, High Streets and City Centre

- i. Work with partners to enable our Town Centre to comply with social distancing while providing a welcoming and reassuring experience;
- ii. Develop a range of activities to stimulate footfall/visitor numbers in Arun in partnership with others;
- iii. Consider investment in Town Centre infrastructure to redress long-term lack of investment;
- iv. Explore the provision of free Wi-Fi in our Town Centre; and
- v. Looking at alternative uses for empty retail premises on the Belgian model.

5. Green/Sustainable Recovery

- i. Address the financial gap created as incomes fall and customer demands change. The gap is substantial in the short-term and it is far from certain what the medium/long term position will be for the Council
- ii. Develop new strategic targets that fit the new economic and social conditions – Community and Economy are a priority, but we need to consider what this really means in terms of outcomes and investments required to deliver them
- iii. Learn from the crisis and shape a new operating model for the Council that builds on what we have shown to be possible over the past three months;
- iv. Looking at and agreeing on what the Council's priorities should be now;
- v. What should change to make Arun a different Council?
- vi. How can the Council become financially stable in a sustainable way?
- vii. All of the above (i-vi) should run through the other four themes

1.1.19. Furthermore, the Working Party considered a report on “Understanding the Psychological and Social Impact of the Pandemic“ by the COVID Social Study Organisation. This study is the largest study of its kind in the world and has run from prior to Lockdown to date. This presentation highlights the social and community issues which might also need to be considered during the recovery phase. Key highlights from this report include:

What has happened to mental health during lockdown?

- Mental health got worse in the lead up to lockdown coming in
- Levels during lockdown appear higher than usual
- Depression improved a bit as lockdown eased but has plateaued. Anxiety was decreasing but has also plateaued
- Loneliness is also higher than usual and has not improved across lockdown.
- Young people have worse mental health on every measure
- There is a clear socio-economic gradient in mental health
- Specific stressors around basic needs and finances have decreased
- Many people are not particularly scared of the virus itself
- Decreases in fear about Covid have occurred alongside decreases in compliance and confidence in the government to handle the pandemic

How have people been affected by adversities?

- People of lower socio-economic position (SEP) have been disproportionately affected by adversities during the pandemic
- This has not improved in the early weeks of lockdown even in spite of measures taken (e.g. furlough schemes)
- People of lower SEP have also worried more about adversities
- Both worries about adversities and experience of adversities appear to have been driving poorer mental health during lockdown
- The relationship between adversities and mental health has been stronger in people of lower SEP In other words, people of low SEP have been hit three times:
 1. More worries about adversities
 2. More experience of adversities
 3. More of an impact of adversities on their mental health

Lockdown continuation and easing

- The factors people are missing most are seeing family and friends, but other cultural and leisure activities are also being missed
- Young people are missing leisure and culture the most
- Many people have been turning to the arts during lockdown, especially listening to music
- A large number of people (21%) have been engaging more than normal in the arts (we have gained more than we have lost across lockdown)
- Engagement in the arts has been most common amongst younger adults but patterns have varied by arts type for ethnicity and SES

Final messages

- Particularly vulnerable groups include young people, people of lower socio-economic position, and people living alone. The pandemic seems to be widening inequalities.
- Mental health has got worse at times of uncertainty. Lockdown does not appear to have made it worse but has not improved it. Easing of lockdown has helped a bit but improvements have plateaued.
- The worry of potential adversities (financial or basic needs) is currently having the same negative effect on mental health as experience of adversities
- People are turning to the arts, including new audiences.
- A worry is that lockdown measures that prevent arts organisations re-opening could force many arts organisations to close, and could also remove access to activities and venues that people usually use to support social engagement and manage their mental health.

1.1.20. The Working Party also received a copy of a presentation from the Greater Brighton Economic Board which provided a very succinct overview in terms of what the Board sees as the overall impacts of Covid-19 as well as its strategic priorities for the next five years and helped to direct discussion for the Working Party in relation to the five themes above. Key highlights from this presentation, in relation to the Covid-19 Impact Assessment include:

- Estimated temporary closure of business by sector – most affected – arts, entertainment and recreation, accommodation and food, retail, and construction
 - No plans to re-open in next four weeks or more – arts, entertainment and recreation, accommodation and food, education.
 - Insolvencies and liquidations, by sector – worse affected – professional, real estate, manufacturing
 - Commercial real estate – small amount of deals completed in March, April and May
 - Claimants – Arun up from 2% to 5%
 - Age impact – 18-24 year olds most affected – most furloughed, most lost jobs, most lost hours
 - Sectors using Government grants the most – accommodation and food, arts/entertainment and recreation and construction.
- 1.1.21. The minutes and recommendations from the Working Party meeting held on 2 July 2020 are to be considered at this meeting.

2. PROPOSAL(S):

Cabinet is requested to note the updates on actions taken thus far to respond to the crisis, and to note the minutes and recommendations from the Covid-19 Recovery Working Party meeting held on 2 July 2020.

3. OPTIONS:

Not to support the actions taken or recommendations from the Covid-19 Recovery Working Party on 2 July 2020.

4. CONSULTATION:

Has consultation been undertaken with:	YES	NO
Relevant Town/Parish Council		X
Relevant District Ward Councillors		X
Other groups/persons (please specify) - Cabinet	✓	

**5. ARE THERE ANY IMPLICATIONS IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL POLICIES:
(Explain in more detail at 6 below)**

	YES	NO
Financial	✓	
Legal		X
Human Rights/Equality Impact Assessment		
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime & Disorder Act		X
Sustainability		X
Asset Management/Property/Land		X
Technology		X

Other (please explain)		
<p>6. IMPLICATIONS:</p> <p>6.1 It must be recognised that the Council also has limited funds to be able to make direct interventions. Instead, it is likely that the Council will need to focus on providing local leadership and policy changes to provide an economic stimulus and facilitate any necessary structural change. This may require seeking out external funding wherever possible. In the main, therefore, this Council will be facilitating the recovery process and helping to provide community leadership.</p> <p>6.2 The final picture regarding the Council's financial position will not be known until the emergency is over. We predict that the potential cost to the Council could now be will be approximately £5m, whilst we have only received £1.6m in funding from Central Government. These figures, however, are only from our "snap-shot" Government returns in June and have a lot of provisos; the true figure may inevitably be very different. Any future funding from the Government is unknown and is likely to be based on a more sophisticated formula this time than just population. Additionally, expenditure is difficult to predict as we don't know how long the situation will last. Officers continue to work on the Council's financial position using the limited data available to them.</p>		

<p>7. REASON FOR THE DECISION:</p> <p>For Cabinet to note the recommendations from the Covid-19 Working Party of 2.7.20 and to note the ongoing recovery work of the Council.</p>
<p>8 EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE DECISION: 29 July 2020</p>

<p>8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:</p> <p>Arun Webpage - Covid-19</p> <p>Cabinet report 1.6.20</p> <p>OSC report 9.6.20</p> <p>Cabinet report 22.6.20</p> <p>GBEB Covid Impact Presentation.pdf [pdf] 1MB</p> <p>Dr Daisy Fancourt presentation.pdf [pdf] 3MB</p>
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Public Document Pack Agenda Item 10

Subject to approval at the next Covid-19 Recovery Working Party meeting

1

COVID-19 RECOVERY WORKING PARTY

2 July 2020 at 6.00 pm

Present: Councillors Bennett, Chapman, Cooper, Mrs Cooper, Dendle, Mrs Haywood, Mrs Staniforth, Ms Thurston, Tilbrook and Dr Walsh

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

The Working Party

RESOLVED

That Councillor Chapman be appointed Chairman of the Covid-19 Recovery Working Party.

The Working Party

RESOLVED

That Councillor Tilbrook be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Covid-19 Recovery Working Party.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Dr Walsh declared a Personal Interest in Agenda Item 5 [Approaching the Council's Recovery Arrangements for Covid 19] in his capacity as a Member of West Sussex County Council.

3. START TIMES

The Working Party

RESOLVED

That its start times for meetings for the remainder of 2020/21 be 6.00 pm.

4. APPROACHING THE COUNCIL'S RECOVERY ARRANGEMENTS FOR COVID-19

Following the establishment of this Working Party by Cabinet on 22 June 2020, a report was presented by the Chief Executive setting out proposals for approaching the Council's recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Covid-19 Recovery Working Party - 2.07.20

The report recommended that the Working Party investigate five core themes that were being used by the Government Recovery Group, working with the Local Government Association (LGA) and the District Council Network (DCN) and County Council Network (CCN). The core themes used by the Government for their “Recovery Cell” were discussed and the following is the proposed schedule of work which the Working Party wished to consider further:

1. Business Communities, Sector and Innovation

- The Council needs to understand the impact on Arun businesses, possibly through our Arun Business Partnership, as a start. Arun Business Partnership - % of the total in ADC?
- We need to provide as much help and advice online as possible.
- The council should do more to support “offline businesses” to move more of their business online
- How can we encourage start-ups/new ventures?
- Some businesses can't get loans
- Horticultural sector important
- SME's key
- Hospitality Sector important – “staycations” will be important
- Culture sector – broadband important – City Fibre update?
- Green business and making businesses more aware of green issues
- Buying local – encourage large supermarkets to buy local
- How do we promote opportunities to graduates?
 - Northbrook College
 - University of Chichester
- No employment opportunities for young people
- Out of town retail going out of business – do we have accommodation/space in the Civic Centre?
- SME's toughest point in six months' time
 - January – resilience and support
 - Help existing businesses by online support
- We have more knowledge of our businesses now than before Covid 19

2. Labour Markets, Unemployment and Skills

- Cllr Bennett declared his interest in student accommodation
- Training for different occupations as we come out of the pandemic?
 - Work with Further Education/Higher Education
 - Provide courses that match skills shortage and added value – not low wages
- Solar panels on our properties developed by a local company?
- Survey on missing skills?

3. Visitor Economy and Rural Areas

- Branded names to strengthen accommodation sector (Premier Inn etc)
- “Not spots” not an issue for Arun District
- Students from disadvantaged backgrounds – give them the IT to progress
- Package bundles and work more regionally (itinerary) to make Arun more attractive to come to
- Transport links important/discounted public transport important

4. Place Making, High Streets and City Centre

- Drop ‘City’ from title
- Retail/online change likely to continue more. Wi-fi a must for the High Street. More hospitality likely to encourage overnight stays.
- Belgium model – inner circle discussed
- Think radically
 - What is happening elsewhere?
 - Towns next to coast USP
 - Seaside towns and towns by the sea
 - Encourage beach to town spend
- Sussex by the Sea – sell off to travel agency (privatise the brand)
- Build property in town centres and convert others to include accommodation
- Food festivals and events positive (Taste of Sussex)
- Changes to planning roles – announcement today – Karl Roberts to circulate
- Link to Experience West Sussex – brief update provided by Nigel Lynn

5. Green/Sustainable Recovery

- Solar panels on properties more, link to good weather (plus batteries).
- Electrical vehicle strategy agreed – how do we speed this up?
- Now house building – sustainability built in – eg. Air source, heat pumps
- Bring the energy of disparate environment groups together – events and information for public. Climate action groups – Haslemere a good example
- Share with the community
- Sign up to the West Sussex Solar Scheme
- Sign up to a green energy supplier
- Encourage biodiversity groups to help us
- Geothermal bore holes – encourage businesses to set up in our area – preferred suppliers for local residents – easy guides for residents
- Grants for the public?
- Regular cash flow for this group?

Covid-19 Recovery Working Party - 2.07.20

Following some further discussion, the Working Party

RECOMMEND TO CABINET

That the report presented be noted with Cabinet considering the points raised by the Working Party as outlined in the minute above.

5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Working Party noted that its next meeting would be held on 23 July 2020.

(The meeting concluded at 7.30 pm)