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ELMBRIDGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

REPORT of a meeting held on 7 June 2017

Members of the Cabinet:

- * S.J. Selleck (Leader)
- * A. Davis (Deputy Leader)

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| * B. Fairbank | * Mrs. K. Randolph |
| * R. Green | * C.R. Sadler |
| * Mrs. R.J.M. Lyon | * Mrs. J.R. Turner |
| * Mrs. M. Marshall | |

Also present:

A.P. Burley, B.J.F. Cheyne, Mrs. C.J. Cross, G.P. Dearlove, N. Haig-Brown,
Mrs. A.E. Hill-Purcell, M.F. Howard, A. Kelly and T.G. Oliver

1/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

B. Fairbank declared an interest under the Code of Conduct in respect of agenda item 8 (Minute No. 8/17 refers) – 2017 CIL Allocations and specifically the funding recommendation from the Local Spending Board (Thames Ditton, Long Ditton, Hinchley Wood and Weston Green) for Long Ditton St. Mary's Junior School by virtue of being the Chairman of the Governors. He withdrew from the meeting during the consideration of the item.

2/17 MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON 15 MARCH 2017

The Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 15 March 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL ON 19 JULY 2017

3/17 2016/17 4TH QUARTER AND YEAR END COUNCIL PERFORMANCE REPORT

(Link to Council Priorities: All)

The Leader introduced the report which set out the quarterly performance monitoring against the 2016/17 basket of performance indicators, Council Plan objectives and flagship activities. It was noted that the monitoring report would be presented to the Performance and Finance Standing Panel on 4 July 2017.

In the fourth quarter and at the year-end, 17 (68%) Council Plan objectives were on target and of the 9 'Flagship' activities, 5 (56%) were on target.

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The Cabinet considered the progress made during the fourth quarter and the Portfolio Holders provided updates in respect of their areas of responsibility particularly with regard to the Performance Indicators that had been denoted with a red indicator.

With regard to Performance Indicators L-HS1 – Number of affordable homes delivered (gross) – cumulative and L-HS2 – Number of households in temporary accommodation, the Portfolio Holder for Housing updated that whilst the Council had an excellent Housing Team who were managing the temporary accommodation needs well, it unfortunately did not have any control over what could be provided as social housing. He commented that the recent decision by the Council to develop Weybridge Hall with the delivery of 6 flats was essential and hoped that progress was continuing on this scheme. He further reiterated that one of the key priorities of the Administration over the next three years was for the Council not to use bed and breakfast establishments in respect of homeless / temporary accommodation. The work of the Affordable and Social Housing Working Group was also raised and a report in this regard would be presented to the Cabinet meeting in July.

In respect of Performance Indicator L-TP4 – Percentage of planning appeal decisions made in favour of the Council, whilst the % Actual was below the % Target, the Portfolio Holder for Planning Services took the opportunity to clarify the position. Of the 39 decisions that had been issued, 32 had been delegated officer decisions of which 2 had been in respect of enforcement. There had been 12 planning appeals of which 6 had been allowed and 6 had been dismissed. There had also been 18 householder appeals of which 9 had been allowed and 9 had been dismissed. In respect of Sub-Committee decisions, there had been 7 appeals of which 3 had been allowed and 4 had been dismissed. In this regard, the Portfolio Holder commented that the percentages, as indicated, reflected low figures and therefore any small change would show a significant change in the percentages as reported. She further advised that the situation would continue to be monitored.

The Portfolio Holder for Social Affairs also took the opportunity to update Members on Performance Indicator L-CS28 – Number of Community Support Services Volunteers Recruited. Whilst some Disclosure and Barring Services (DBS) checks had taken longer than expected, the Portfolio Holder advised that two officer roles had been combined in terms of volunteer recruitment and it was therefore confirmed that the Team were now focussing on a smaller number of active volunteers than recruited volunteers. The Portfolio Holder was pleased to update however that the level of service had been sustained and in some cases increased.

RECOMMENDED: THAT

(A) PROGRESS AGAINST THE PERFORMANCE DASHBOARD BE NOTED;

(B) PROGRESS AGAINST COUNCIL PLAN OBJECTIVES BE NOTED;

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- (C) PROGRESS AGAINST 'FLAGSHIP' ACTIVITIES BE NOTED; AND**
- (D) THE COMMENTS PROVIDED FOR THE TARGETS SHOWING AN AMBER OR RED TRAFFIC LIGHT ARISING FROM (A), (B) AND (C) ABOVE BE NOTED.**

4/17 SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY

(Link to Council Priorities: All)

The Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture introduced the report that sought approval of the revised and updated Safeguarding Children Policy which had been rewritten to bring it in line with changes in legislation.

The Cabinet was advised that the Council had a legal duty to work together with other statutory and voluntary agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. In this regard, as the current Elmbridge Safeguarding Children Policy had become out of date, the Safeguarding Officer Working Group had drafted the new policy which was based on the guidance given in the Government's "Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015" and on best practice examples from around the Country.

The Cabinet discussed the revised Policy and one Member referred colleagues to the section of the Policy that set out the definition of neglect and specifically the need to provide a child with food, clothing and shelter. He felt that housing was an important part of safeguarding and there was a need for the Council to take the lead and support those families in need.

With regard to emotional abuse, one Member felt that the Policy should also include a reference to shouting at children which the Portfolio Holder agreed was relevant and confirmed she would discuss this with officers.

One Member also commented that Councillors needed to be aware of this important legislation given that they regularly meet with members of the community. He further commented that an important part of being a Councillor was to be the 'eyes and ears' of the community and should problems / issues be encountered then these should be reported so that they could be investigated.

The Cabinet supported the revised and updated Safeguarding Children Policy and once adopted, requested that it be made as accessible as possible on the Council's website.

RECOMMENDED: THAT THE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY, AS SET OUT IN APPENDIX 1 OF THE REPORT, BE ADOPTED.

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5/17 XCEL SPORTS HUB FEES AND CHARGES PROPOSALS 2017/18

(Link to Council Priorities: LCS1, LCS2)

The Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture introduced the report that detailed proposals for the Xcel Sports Hub fees and charges for 2017/18.

The outcome of the tendering process for the operator of the Xcel Sports Hub had been reported to the Cabinet in February 2017 and since then, further clarifications had been sought with Places for People (PfP) to finalise contract terms together with a detailed business plan.

The Portfolio Holder advised that an essential part of the clarification process had been to determine the public pricing policy for the Sports Hub. Members noted that this had been produced by looking at prices of comparable equivalent high quality facilities in the local area as well as existing facilities provided by the Council. Under the terms of the new management contract for the Sports Hub, the Portfolio Holder confirmed that the Council would retain control of all pricing in respect of Stadia Pitch and Athletics Track charges. However, the Contractor could charge less than the maximum listed should it wish to address any specific underutilisation, attract a particular user group or offer a temporary promotion.

The Cabinet acknowledged that the Resident Clubs (Walton & Hersham Football Club, Walton Casuals Football Club, Walton Casuals Juniors and Walton Athletics) had been offered preferential hire charges less than those listed in Appendix B of the report although these were still subject to negotiations.

As part of her introduction, the Portfolio Holder took the opportunity to thank the Head of Leisure & Cultural Services and his Team for their hard work in undertaking this crucial piece of work which had not been an easy task.

During consideration of the report, one Member asked how the Resident Clubs would raise the funds to be able to pay the proposed fees and charges. The Portfolio Holder advised that there would be numerous ways the Clubs could raise funds which could include the retention of gate receipts, sponsorship opportunities and social events / fundraising linked to the clubhouse.

The Leader then invited Councillor T.G. Oliver, Group Leader of the Conservative Group, to address the meeting. Whilst recalling that a sum of money had been included within the budget as a subsidy to meet any shortfall in Year 1 costs, Councillor Oliver asked whether this figure had changed now that the fees and charges had been finalised. The Head of Leisure and Cultural Services responded and advised that as the Resident Clubs had now confirmed their booking aspirations for 2017/18, calculations to see whether the original figure of £50,000 was appropriate would be undertaken in the next couple of weeks.

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On consideration of the report, the Cabinet supported the proposed fees and charges for the Xcel Sports Hub and accordingly

RECOMMENDED: THAT THE PROPOSALS FOR THE XCEL SPORTS HUB FEES AND CHARGES FOR 2017/18, AS SET OUT IN APPENDIX B OF THE REPORT, BE AGREED.

MATTERS OF REPORT

6/17 RESPECT THE WATER: ELMBRIDGE WATER SAFETY PLAN

(Link to Council Priorities: OD2 and LCS1)

Prior to the introduction of the report, the Leader took the opportunity to remind colleagues that in October 2016, the Cabinet had considered a petition that related to a tragic incident in the River Thames in Walton on 31 August 2016 when Dominick Naylor lost his life. At that time, Members had expressed their sincere condolences to Dominick's family and friends for their sad loss.

The Cabinet had also recognised that there was no single overall authority in charge of safety along the River Thames and accordingly officers had been requested to investigate what the Council could do to prevent such tragedies in future.

In this regard, the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture introduced the report and advised that officers had been working with the Elmbridge Community & Safety Partnership and a new "Respect the Water: Elmbridge Water Safety Plan" had been produced.

The Cabinet noted that in producing the Plan, research had been undertaken with partners into drownings, which included any incidents or recorded near-misses in the Borough over the last five years, as well as data from Surrey Police to establish where these had happened, who had been involved and what the circumstances had been. In addition, measures had been identified that could collectively be taken to reduce any future incidents. This work had involved Surrey Police, Surrey Fire & Rescue, the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, the Royal Life Saving Society, the Environment Agency, Surrey Youth Services and Kingston University.

The Portfolio Holder further updated that a Surrey launch of the 'Respect the Water Campaign' had been arranged and would take place in June 2017.

In addition to the key communications around water safety, external funding had also been secured for training and the provision of new throw lines for businesses adjacent to deep water. It was noted that these businesses would be offered free training for their staff and the provision of a new throw bag to be kept securely on their premises.

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During consideration of the report, one Member queried whether the free / cheaper use of the Council's swimming pools for under 16 year olds, that had been raised as part of the petition, had been considered. The Portfolio Holder commented that this matter had been looked at however it was considered that free / cheaper use of the Council's swimming pools for under 16 year olds would unfortunately not prevent incidents from occurring. She further commented that when children swim, they needed to be aware of the dangers especially in flowing water.

RESOLVED that the Local Drowning Prevention Plan ("Respect the Water: Elmbridge Water Safety Plan"), as set out at Appendix A of the report, be noted and endorsed.

7/17 RECOMMENDATION FROM THE COUNTRYSIDE CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING HELD ON 23 FEBRUARY 2017

(Link to Council Priorities: A5, A6, P4, P5)

The Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture informed the Cabinet that, at its meeting on 23 March 2017, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had considered a recommendation from the Countryside Consultative Group (CCG) meeting held on 23 February 2017.

Members noted that the West End Residents' Association had requested permission to install three village signs on West End Common. Having discussed the request, the CCG had considered that the installation of these signs would not be appropriate on West End Common and therefore recommended that the request be refused; which was also supported by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Cabinet supported the recommendations from both the CCG and Overview & Scrutiny Committee and accordingly

RESOLVED that the request from West End Residents' Association for the installation of three village signs on West End Common be refused.

8/17 2017 CIL ALLOCATIONS

(Link to Council Priorities: P2)

The Portfolio Holder for Planning Services introduced the report that set out the recommendations of the Strategic Spending Board together with the recommendations from five of the six Local Spending Boards.

The Cabinet noted that on 4 April 2017, the Strategic Spending Board had considered ten separate applications. The applications comprised two education schemes; one highways scheme; one Environment Agency flood infrastructure scheme; three from Surrey Police seeking to mitigate the impact of additional development on service delivery; two Council leisure projects; and one scheme seeking to improve community facilities.

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Whilst there was a balance of approximately £4.7 million of Community Infrastructure Levy funding available towards strategic projects, the Portfolio Holder reported that eight of the applications, totalling £1,301,000, had been recommended for approval.

With regard to the Local Spending Boards, the Cabinet noted that during March 2017, five of the Council's six Local Spending Boards had met to consider CIL applications. All seventeen applications considered had been supported and in this regard a total sum of £728,693 had been recommended for approval.

The background to the decisions and the recommendations of both the Strategic Spending Board and Local Spending Boards were outlined in the report.

During consideration of the report, one Member queried whether the amount of £40,000 that had been recommended to Long Ditton St. Mary's Junior School was adequate for the School to progress their project. The Portfolio Holder updated that the School had confirmed that, having looked again at the project costs, the recommended grant would be sufficient to deliver the project.

Whilst acknowledging that for the last round of Spending Board meetings, the number of applications received had been relatively low, the Portfolio Holder commented that a constructive effort would be made to promote the scheme which it was hoped would attract more applications.

RESOLVED that

- (a) the recommendations made by the Strategic Spending Board, as set out at Appendix A of the report, be agreed; and
- (b) the recommendations made by the Local Spending Boards, as set out at Appendix B of the report, be agreed.

9/17 THE CIL ALLOCATION PROCESS

This item was withdrawn and therefore not considered at the meeting. However, it was noted that the item would be presented to the Cabinet meeting on 5 July 2017.

10/17 CLOSING REMARKS

With the agreement of the Leader, the Portfolio Holder for Environment provided a brief statement to the Cabinet in respect of the new Joint Waste Collection Contract which had commenced earlier that week.

The Portfolio Holder advised that as with any new contract, there had been some challenges in the first few days. However, he was pleased to update that the vast majority of refuse and recycling bins were being emptied by Amey as scheduled, and where areas had been missed, in most circumstances, a crew had returned within a day or two to finish the outstanding work.

