

HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Cabinet held on 16 February 2022

Present

Councillor Rennie (Chairman)

Councillors Satchwell, Robinson, Pike, Bains (Vice-Chairman), Bowerman and Denton

42 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies of absence.

43 Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 26 January 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

44 Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

45 Chairman's Report

The Leader thanked Ms Brooks of the Havant Climate Alliance and Ms Buckley of the Havant Borough Residents' Alliance for taking the time to submit questions for Cabinet's consideration and confirmed a written response would be supplied. A full list of questions and answers will be attached to the minutes as Appendix A.

The Leader further welcomed Ms Kim Sawyer to the meeting as the new Chief Executive.

46 Cabinet Lead Delegated Decisions, Minutes from Meetings etc.

RESOLVED that the following Delegated Decisions be NOTED:

- (1) 13/12/21 – High Lawn Way
- (2) 16/12/21 – Pepper Close / Church Road
- (3) 13/12/21 – Ellisfield Road / Blackdown Crescent

RESOLVED that the following Minutes of Meetings be NOTED:

- (1) Portchester Crematorium Joint Committee on Monday, 13 December, 2021

47 Recommendations from the Scrutiny Board

There were no formal recommendation from the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

48 2022/23 Revenue Budget, Capital Budget, Reserves and Balances, Capital Strategy, Treasury Management Strategy and Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP)

Councillor Denton introduced the item and proposed the recommendations.

The Leader, on behalf of the Chair of Overview & Scrutiny committee, provided some key points that were raised at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting of 09 February when the budget was considered.

The recommendation was duly seconded by Councillor Bowerman.

The Leader proposed an amendment to the motion as set out in Appendix N, which was published as a supplementary paper.

The amendment to the recommendation was duly seconded by Councillor Robinson and following a debate the amendment was CARRIED.

Cabinet returned to debate the substantive motion and the Leader highlighted some areas of note in relation to the budget and the ongoing priorities of the Council. The Leader thanked officers and the Cabinet Lead for their work in producing a balanced budget.

RESOLVED that Cabinet recommend to Full Council:

- a) The proposed Revenue and Capital budgets for 2022-23 including a Council Tax rate of £219.48 at Band D, representing a £5 increase on the current charge;
- b) The proposed Medium Term Financial Strategy, Capital Strategy, Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators.
- c) The Fees & Charges schedule for 2022-23.
- d) The Council Tax Resolution
- e) that Council consider the Cabinet Response (App N to the Budget Report Agenda Item 7) to the CFO Statement (App F) and the Council engage with and agree proposals for a 'credible plan' which will entail:
 - i) The restructure of the senior management team for the start of the new civic year

- ii) The setting up of a Budget Working Group, supported by an officer working group with a view to delivering a balanced budget for the MTFS by October 2022

- iii) That the Budget Working Group have the terms of reference to make proposals to Cabinet to consider for referral to Council for decision based upon the following measures:
 - a. Review the CIPFA report and the future sustainability of the Council
 - b. Review of future costs of the Shaping Our Future Programme and the continuation of transformation within the Council
 - c. To undertake service reviews based upon information obtained from the Shaping Our Future Programme
 - d. To review its contractual management arrangements and decide if they provide value for money

- iv) To further all opportunities for funding by enhancing local partnerships and through Government policy initiatives to support the continued improvement of the Havant BC area

49 Corporate Strategy 2022 - 2025

The Client Relationship Director introduced the item, outlined points of note in the Corporate Strategy and responded to questions from Members.

The Leader encouraged residents to read the strategy that includes ambitious plans that the Council has for the Borough.

Proposed by Councillor Rennie, seconded by Councillor Bains, following debate, it was RESOLVED that Cabinet APPROVED the Draft Corporate Strategy 2022 – 2025 and refer the final version of the Corporate Strategy to Full Council for adoption.

50 Shaping our Future - Quarterly Update

The Leader confirmed that due to the recent withdrawal of the joint management and shared staff arrangements that have impacted on the Shaping our Future Programme, a limited report was before Cabinet today.

RESOLVED that the report is NOTED.

The meeting commenced at 5.31 pm and concluded at 6.19 pm

.....

Chairman

This page is intentionally left blank

CABINET MEETING 16 FEBRUARY 2022
Questions to Cabinet

	Question From	Question to	Question
1	Patricia Brooks - Havant Climate Alliance	Cllr Pike	With reference to regeneration plans for Havant Town Centre, we welcome the proposal to use the Bulbeck Road car park site to create much needed homes. Has consideration been given to the possibility of doing this within the framework of the existing building, rather than demolishing it and rebuilding? This would avoid high levels of CO2 emissions which would be generated during the process.
<p>Answer: Initial consideration has been given to this and it is thought it is unlikely to be viable or practicable to work within the existing framework of the building however it is absolutely right that this should always be the starting point and as such, we will make sure we consider this and test it in more detail as the full business case work is progressed.</p>			
2	Patricia Brooks Havant Climate Alliance	Cllr Bowerman	We support plans to start implementation of the Climate Change and Environment Strategy although there is still reference to achieving Net Zero by 2050. Is there intention to bring forward this target date? The need to reduce CO2 emissions is urgent and 2050 will be far too late.
<p>Answer: Havant Borough Council adopted its climate change and environment strategy in September 2021. Net zero 2050 is the national target for all activity.</p> <p>The governance structure for implementing the strategy has been agreed, and we will consider the councils own carbon emissions target as part of its initiation.</p>			

	Question From	Question to	Question
3	Patricia Brooks Havant Climate Alliance	Cllr Robinson	We welcome the proposal to establish an Affordable Homes Liaison Panel in view to the high number of people on the waiting list for accommodation. You refer to the possibility of creating a Housing Company to increase affordable accommodation. How do you see this working and would it focus on homes for social rent, in view of high levels of deprivation in the Borough?
<p>Answer: The option of creating of a Housing Company is currently under consideration - a full options appraisal will be undertaken to ensure how it could maximise housing opportunities for those on the waiting list - the initial focus is likely to be on the private rented sector. The development of the Affordable Housing Cabinet Liaison Panel will be instrumental in developing a Housing Strategy for the Borough with a detailed action plan to increase the supply of affordable housing (which will include social rents, alongside other tenures as well as the option of creating a Housing Company).</p>			
4	Ann Buckley – Havant Brough Residents’ Alliance (HBRA)	Cllr Pike	<p>Your document Sustainable Places Successful People Better Business speaks of a new approach to engagement and consultation.</p> <p>Havant Borough Residents' Alliance (HBRA) very much welcome this new more detailed document but are concerned that the proposed Strategic Regeneration Partnership does not appear to include the voluntary sector.</p> <p>Would you please consider including HBRA a long established partnership which brings together twelve organisations of residents associations and conservation groups across the Borough and also has strong links with many other voluntary and community groups?</p>
<p>Answer: The new partnership and governance model is intended to be inclusive and cover a wide range of stakeholders. As the form and function of the new partnership model takes shape, we would be very keen to explore how best the HBRA and other residents and community groups can be influence, contribute and be involved.</p>			

	Question From	Question to	Question
5	Ann Buckley – Havant Brough Residents' Alliance (HBRA)	Cllr Rennie	<p>Corporate Strategy. Page 13.</p> <p>We welcome the updated Corporate Strategy document. The document gives the HBC Town Centre Monitor data for town centre occupancy rates. For example Havant at 9.7 per cent and Waterlooville at 10.3 per cent and Leigh Park 25.9 percent. This data is from 2015, seven years ago and is clearly out of date.</p> <p>Currently there are only a handful of vacancies in Havant Town Centre but many dozens in Waterlooville. Have these figures been the basis of deciding to regenerate Havant Town Centre first and do you intend to update this data in this important document?</p>
<p>Answer:</p> <p>It is clear that the picture on vacancies and empty shops in our High Streets is changing rapidly. We use a wide range of data and intelligence to help us decide where best to direct our focus and this is also informed by where we feel we can make the most impact for the borough as a whole. It is clear that many of our town centre and high streets need support, including Waterlooville - and the Corporate Strategy reflects our ambitions to regenerate Waterlooville Town Centre as part of the wider Regeneration Programme.</p>			
6	Ann Buckley – Havant Brough Residents' Alliance (HBRA)	Cllr Rennie	<p>Havant Borough Residents' Alliance (HBRA) have argued for over five years that because of the Borough's profile far more affordable social rented homes are needed in the Havant Borough.</p> <p>HBRA welcome the statement in the Corporate Strategy of a new policy for promoting affordable housing products through development sites in the Local Plan and the possibility of a Housing Company.</p> <p>As you know four of the fourteen wards in the Havant Borough have a high indices of poverty and this is far more than just 'pockets of deprivation ' referred to on page three of the Corporate Strategy.</p>

	Question From	Question to	Question
			The supply of private rented homes on which many our lower income residents have depended is rapidly diminishing. Could you tell us when the policy document will be published and if the main focus will be rented social housing or will it be other owner-occupation products?
<p>Answer:</p> <p>There is an overwhelming need for more affordable houses to be provided in Havant Borough, both to rent and for shared equity. The only way that new homes come to be able to be offered to those on Hampshire Homechoice is through Section 106 agreements associated with planning applications. Typically, 30% of homes in development schemes are affordable, provided to those on the Hampshire Homechoice list. This is a real, discernible benefit in new development schemes.</p> <p>There are various types of affordable housing products and they cost housebuilders different amounts so that needs to be balanced so that the maximum impact on the Council's waiting list can be achieved. In the past, there was substantial grant funding available to enable social rented products to be provided, however that is not the case anymore and affordable rent is typically provided instead. Generally, two thirds of the affordable homes provided on development sites are provided are for affordable rent, making this the main focus of our approach to affordable housing provision. The remaining third are shared equity. This is considered to be appropriate to the needs of the Borough's population.</p>			