



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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| Held at: | Council Chamber - Civic Centre, Folkestone |
| Date | Tuesday, 13 September 2016 |
| Present | Councillors Mrs Ann Berry, Peter Gane (Chairman), Clive Goddard, Mrs Claire Jeffrey, Len Laws (In place of Ian Meyers), Michael Lyons and Frank McKenna |
| Apologies for Absence | Councillor Ian Meyers, Councillor David Owen, Councillor Peter Simmons and Councillor Mrs Rodica Wheeler |
| Officers Present: | Kate Clark (Trainee Committee Services Officer), Ben Geering (Head of Planning), Sue Lewis (Committee Services Officer), Tim Madden (Corporate Director - Organisational Change), Susan Priest (Corporate Director - Strategic Development) and David Whittington (Planning Policy Team Leader) |
| Others Present: | Councillor Ms Susan Carey, Cabinet Member for Finance and Councillor Alan Ewart-James, Cabinet Member for Housing |

15. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings held on 28 June and 5 July 2016 were submitted, approved and signed by the Chairman.

16. **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

17. **Medium Term Financial Strategy 2017/18 to 2020/21**

Report C/16/38 The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) is the Council's key financial planning document. It puts the financial perspective on the council's Corporate Plan priorities, expressing the aims and objectives of various plans and strategies in financial terms over the four year period ending 31st March 2021. It covers both revenue and capital for the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account. Also included are the Council's reserves policies. The MTFS is a key element of sound

corporate governance and financial management.

Members paid particular attention to the following:

- Council Tax – the Council will decide its final budget and council tax level at its meeting in February 2017
- Reserves – officers consider the approach to reserves each year to ensure there are adequate but not excessive reserves.
- Head of Economic Development (appendix 1), increase 2017/18 – Tim Madden, Corporate Director will provide a response as to the large increase shown in the document.
- Target for New Homes – the HRA was reviewed following the government's announcement reducing social housing rents by 1%. As a result the level of income is significantly reduced meaning a reduction for new homes.

Proposed by Councillor Clive Goddard

Seconded by Councillor Michael Lyons and

Resolved:

- 1. To receive and note Report C/16/48.**

(Voting: For 7; Against 0; Abstentions 0)

18. Shepway Places and Policies Local Plan - preferred options

Report C/16/35 On 29th June Cabinet agreed report C/16/13 which provided an update on the progress of the Shepway Places and Policies Local Plan, seeking cabinet approval for the formal structure of the Preferred Options document, range of proposed policies and the consultation strategy and associated arrangements, prior to consideration of the document itself.

Appendix 1 to this report provides a copy of the final draft of the Places and Policies Local Plan Preferred Options Document. Cabinet is asked to agree this draft document, subject to any minor changes delegated to the Head of Planning. Cabinet is also asked to agree to the consultation arrangements set out within the report, so as undertake a 6 week engagement process in accordance with regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

Members were informed that the final draft will be brought back to committee May 2017.

The Chairman suggested that anyone who receives questions from residents or members of the public that they are forwarded to Ben Geering, Head of Planning to respond to or add to the consultation process.

Proposed by Councillor Clive Goddard

Seconded by Councillor Michael Lyons and

Resolved:

- 1. To receive and note report C/16/35.**

(Voting: For 7; Against 0; Abstentions 0)

19. Managing Freight vehicles through Kent: A consultation on proposals for a lorry area at Stanford West

Report C/16/47 The Secretary of State for Transport announced on 6th July 2016 that as a result of public consultation and of further work undertaken by Highways England into the design of the Stanford West and Junction 11 North sites, he had sufficient information to make a decision on the way forward. The Secretary of State has decided to propose a single large lorry area at Stanford West.

Highways England are now carrying out a further consultation that sets out in more detail the proposed design and operation of the Stanford West site. The consultation document sets out the main issues relating to the proposal and is supplemented by an Environmental Assessment Report (EAR) that identifies in more detail the potential environmental impacts and proposed mitigation measures. The consultation was launched on 12th August and responses are required by Highways England by 11.45pm on 23rd September 2016.

The consultation document which includes a questionnaire is attached to this report as Appendix A and is also available at:

<https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/he/managing-freight-vehiclesthrough-kent>

<http://www.highways.gov.uk/publications/environmental-assessmentreport-figures-and-appendices/>

Highways England are also holding a series of stakeholder consultation events at various locations during the consultation period where people will be able to view information about the proposals, ask the project team any questions and provide feedback on the proposals.

Members paid particular attention to the following:

- Facilities for drivers using the holding area – adequate facilities need to be made available.
- Potential impacts on Otterpool Park proposals – this will continue to be monitored as a greater level of detail becomes available on the design and operation of the lorry holding area.
- Compensation – this has been raised by SDC with Highways England and we expect a bespoke compensation package will be provided.
- Expansion of Ashford lorry park – there is no suggestion in the Highways England consultation to increase in this site as part of Government's response to Operation Stack.

Members were made aware that if a severe situation arose, such as Operation Stack in 2015, then the highway would be used to accommodate lorries beyond the capacity proposed in the holding area.

Proposed by Councillor Peter Gane
Seconded by Councillor Len Laws and

Resolved:

- 1. To receive and note report C/16/47.**
- 2. To look at including extra technology to provide drivers with as much information as possible.**
- 3. To make sure that adequate facilities are made available in the holding area.**

(Voting: For 7; Against 0; Abstentions 0)