

HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING

held at  
Council Chamber  
The Symington Building  
Adam and Eve Street  
Market Harborough  
LE16 7AG

1<sup>st</sup> November 2021

commencing at 5.30pm

Present:

Cllr King (Chair)

Councillors: Bateman, Dann, Hallam and Whelband

Officers: D. Atkinson, L. Elliott, S. Green, S. Hamilton, C. Mason, N. Proudfoot  
and V. Wenham

INFORMATION EXCHANGE FROM PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

Strategy

Councillor King reported that together with the Chief Executive, he had recently attended the District Council's Network Conference.

TOPICAL ISSUES

There were none.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none.

MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on the 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021 be approved as a correct record.

DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were none.

## BUDGET SETTING PRINCIPLES: BUDGET 2022/23 AND MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY (2023/24 TO 2026/27)

The Cabinet considered the Budget Setting Principles report, which highlighted the budget setting process. The Portfolio Holder outlined the 11 Principles detailed in the report which included :-

- Budget Principle (1) - General Service Income, to be increased by the RPI rate in the October before the year being budgeted for. The RPI rate to be agreed by the Director; Finance, ICT and Assets in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance.
- Budget Principle (2) - Pay Inflation: to be increased 1.75% for 2022/23, increasing to 2% for the following 2 years and then increasing to 2.5% for the remaining 2 years of the MTFS.
- Budget Principle (3) - Pay Oncosts: National Insurance and Pensions Oncosts to be circ 15% and 31.4% respectively for 2022/23 and for each year of the MTFS.
- Budget Principle (4) - Vacancy Factor: to increase the vacancy factor by 50% to £180k.
- Budget Principle (5) - General Service Inflation to be set at 0%, except for:
  - (i) the current FCC Contract which will be increased in line with contractual inflationary commitments.
  - (ii) the new environmental contract from 2025/26 onwards:
    - the annual cost to be based on the current 2024/25 environmental contract cost; inflated annually by the average inflation rate of the current contract.
    - an additional 5% cost escalator to reflect the potential cost of the government's changes to waste collection.
    - The capital programme to include an estimate for a new depot; including associated MRP costs.
- Budget Principle (6) - General Service Growth; there will not be any general service growth, except where:
  - (i) growth has been permitted via the Budget Challenge 2025 process, any subsequent transformation programme or that which has been approved separately by Council.
  - (ii) where costs must increase (i.e. due to post regrading's), savings elsewhere will be required to neutralise the additional cost.
- Budget Principle (7) - Non-Domestic Rates:
  - (i) future receipts from the Leicestershire Rates Pool will not be included in the budget, MTFS or capital programme.
  - (ii) only known commercial developments that will deliver "certain" NDR growth.
  - (iii) the NDR income stream will be inflated by the government's stipulated multiplier.
- Budget Principle (8) - New Homes Bonus:
  - (i) Any one-year allocation is allocated to earmarked reserves; 33% to Community, Economic & Infrastructure, 67% to Commercial Investment.
  - (ii) Previous legacy payments; 50% allocated to the Commercial Investment earmarked reserve and the balance to remain within the base.
- Budget Principle (9) - Fair Funding:

To help mitigate the future impact of Fair Funding (& the NDR "reset"), to include a negative funding stream of £99k, 2022/23; £198k, 2023/24; £297k, 2024/25; £396k, 2025/26; £495k, 2026/27).
- Budget Principle (10) - Collection Fund (Surplus)/Deficit:

The Council will spread any forecast 31st March 2021 Collection Fund Deficit in line with legislation.
- Budget Principle (11) - Council Tax Base:

Subject to modelling, an irrecoverable rate of 2% is applied when the Council Tax Base is calculated prior to budget setting.

RESOLVED that the budget principles and definitions as summarised in Appendix A to the report be approved.

### Summary of Reasons

To support the development of the Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

## EQUALITY PLAN 2021/24

The Cabinet considered the Equality Plan 2021/24, containing the Council's updated Equality Objectives and noted that there is a legal requirement for the Council to identify and publish these at least every 4 years.

The commitments and objectives outlined within the plan are designed to have a positive impact on local communities when incorporated into service delivery.

The public sector equality duty is a general duty which requires the Council to have 'due regard' to the need to: eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not; and to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

The nine protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. This plan helps to ensure that we are able to fulfil our responsibility with regard to our public sector equality duties.

RESOLVED that the Harborough District Council Equality Plan 2021/24 be approved.

## Summary of Reasons

The Council's current Equality Plan 2017/20 has expired. The Harborough District Council Equality Plan 2021/24 contains our updated Equality Objectives.

## GILMORTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Cabinet considered the report on the Gilmorton Neighbourhood Plan. 2.1 The Gilmorton Neighbourhood Plan has been led by the Gilmorton Parish Council, as the Qualifying Body, in conjunction with the local community.

The Plan for Gilmorton seeks to achieve the following: Maintaining the rural character of the area; supporting an accessible countryside; improving or retaining local services and facilities; preventing Gilmorton from becoming a dormitory village; protecting green areas in Gilmorton; conserving local heritage; housing needs; transport issues especially parking problems, traffic speed and congestion.

The Examination took place from 12 July 2021 to 19 August 2021, and the Examiner concluded that the Plan meets the Basic Conditions and other legal requirements and should proceed to referendum subject to modifications.

Gilmorton Parish Council have given the Examiner's Report due consideration and resolved that it is in agreement with the recommended modifications of the Examiner to the Neighbourhood Plan. Officers are also in agreement with the recommendations of the Examiner. The date for the referendum is provisionally set for 20 January 2022.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the Independent Examiner's recommended changes to the Gilmorton Neighbourhood Plan be accepted in full as set out in the schedule at Appendix

A to the report and the recommendation be noted that the amended Gilmorton Neighbourhood Plan proceed to a referendum of voters within the Parish of Gilmorton to establish whether the Plan should form part of the Development Plan for the Harborough District.

- (ii) the holding of a referendum relating to the Gilmorton Neighbourhood Plan on 20 January 2022 be approved that will include all of the registered electors in Gilmorton Parish.

### Summary of Reasons

The final Examiner's report into the Gilmorton Neighbourhood Plan was received on 19 August 2021. The Examiner considered the Plan along with the representations received when the Plan was published by the Council.

### FOXTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Cabinet considered the report on the Foxton Neighbourhood Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by Foxton Review Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee and Foxton Review Parish Council as the Qualifying Body.

The Foxton Review Neighbourhood Plan seeks to bring policies up to date with local changes of circumstance, and to take account of changes to the Local Plan and National Planning Policy. It does not seek to allocate a site for housing (Fishers Farm and Middle Street/Vicarage Drive having been delivered for housing) but has policies to allow development to come forward within the defined Limits to Development subject to certain criteria.

The Plan for Foxton Review seeks to achieve the following: revisions to Policies F1 (Countryside), F5 (Ecology and Biodiversity), F12 (Housing Provision), F13 (Windfall Housing), F15 (Housing Mix); deletion of Policies concerning the development of Fisher's Farm, North Lane and the development of land at Middle Street and Vicarage Drive, as both sites now have planning permission for development; the deletion of the proposed allocation of some 0.08 hectares of land at the junction of Vicarage Drive and Hog Lane, for housing development for up to three dwellings. It was clear that this proposal no longer had community support in large part due to the scale of development that is already taking place in the village. Furthermore, it is not clear that the landowner wants to develop the site and therefore the site may not be available; new policies concerning non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest and car parking; and revised definition of affordable housing.

The evidence provided to the Examiner within the Consultation Statement gave assurance to him that the consultation process was robust. The Examiner was therefore satisfied that the Plan met the Basic Conditions with regard to consultation.

RESOLVED that the Independent Examiner's recommended changes to the Foxton Review Neighbourhood Plan be accepted in full as set out in the schedule at Appendix A to the report, and approves the recommendation that the amended Foxton Review Neighbourhood Plan should be 'made'.

### Summary of Reasons

The final Examiner's report into the Foxton Review Neighbourhood Plan was received on 15 September 2021. The Examiner considered the Plan along with the representations received when the Plan was published by the Council. The report states that the changes to the Foxton Review Plan are sufficiently significant to require Examination but do not change the nature of the Plan hence a Referendum is not required.

### TO CONSIDER MATTERS OF SPECIAL URGENCY

There were none.

The meeting ended at 5.54 p.m.