

HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING

held remotely on

30th November 2020

commencing at 5.30pm

Present:

Cllr King (Chair)

Councillors (remote access): Bateman, Dann, Hallam, Knowles and Whelband

Councillors (guest): Knowles and Nunn

Officers present: S. Green and S. Hamilton

Officers (remote access): D. Atkinson, C. Mason, N. Proudfoot, J. Smith and V. Wenham

INFORMATION EXCHANGE FROM PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

Wellbeing, Communities and Housing

Councillor Whelband reported that the two Leisure Centres in Lutterworth and Market Harborough would be re-opening on the 2nd December 2020 subject to some restrictions.

Strategy

Councillor King commented on a number of matters including:-

- His thanks to everyone for their actions to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus.
- The Harborough District will move into Tier 3 from the 2nd December. All sectors of retail can re-open and residents are urged to support businesses over the coming few weeks.
- The Council has a number of Harborough 'helpers' within Lutterworth and Market Harborough. Two metre distancing stickers and hand sanitisers will be put in place.
- A review of the tiers will take place on the 16th December 2020.
- As a result of the three vaccines, a lot of positive action will be able to take place.
- The disappointment regarding the situation with the hospitality sector.
- The Council is continuing with the four hour free parking on Saturdays.
- Business grants have been distributed quickly and additional grants are available with information available on the HDC website.

TOPICAL ISSUES

There were none.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none.

MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 2nd November be approved as a correct record.

DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were none.

2021 REVENUE AND CAPITAL MONITORING - QUARTER 2

The Cabinet considered the financial forecast for Quarter 2, based on information at the end of September, for revenue and capital. The net direct cost of services forecast outturn is an estimated overspend of £1.130m when compared to the revised budget of £13.679m. Excluding Covid 19 impact of £0.976m for 2020/21 there is a small service overspend of £154k.

In relation to the Capital Programme the forecast outturn is an estimated spend of £3.855m in 2020/21. Several schemes are now requiring a re-phasing of their expenditure profiles and this is expected to move £17.407m of expenditure to 2021/22.

With regards to Revenue the main financial impacts of Covid-19 have been met by the Council during 2020/21. However the government is currently indicating that some elements of the local government support/compensation process will be extended into future years.

To date, the gross CV-19 expenditure/income losses total £3.213m; this is currently split as follows:

- £2.319m in respect of services
- £0.894m in respect of estimated Collection Fund losses.

The Council has received direct government support totalling £1.343m; split as follows:

- £1.174m; Emergency Funding
- £83k; Town Centre Support
- £23k; Local Authority Emergency Assistance Grant
- £9k; NSAP Funding to support rough sleeping
- £24k Test & Trace Discretionary Schemes
- £30k Covid Marshalls Funding

The Cabinet requested that thanks be expressed to the S151 Officer and the various members of staff involved in ensuring that the grants were given out so quickly, leading to HDC being in the top ten out of the 314 Councils in England regarding the speed of the paying out of grants.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) as at 30 September 2020 the revenue budget is forecast to be overspent by £1.312m as shown in Appendix A.1 to the report be noted.
- (ii) the analysis given in Appendix B to the report for cost centre variances over £25k be noted.
- (iii) the actual expenditure to 30 September 2020 incurred on the Capital Programme as shown in Appendix C to the report be noted.

- (iv) as at the 30 September 2020 the Capital Programme is forecast to underspend by £17.407m, as outlined in Appendix C to the report, and that this underspend may be required to be carried forward into 2021/22 as slippage be noted.

Summary of Reasons

To provide Cabinet with a forecast outturn position based upon the period 1 July to 30 Sept 2020.

PERFORMANCE, QUARTER 2 2020/21 YEAR

The Cabinet was presented with details of the performance of the Council against the Corporate Delivery Plan at the end of Quarter 2 of the 2020/21 year.

With regards to the status of the 34 Key Activities at the end of Quarter 1, 0 (0%) were completed, 17 (50%) had a status of Green, 5 (14.7%) had Amber status, and 0 (0%) were classed as Red Status. 9 Key Activities are due to start later in the year AND 3 (8.8%) Key Activities have been deferred and are due to commence in the 2021/22 year.

The following key performance indicators on the Strategic Performance dashboard were Red Status at the end of Quarter 1 of the 2020/21 year : Percentage of all homeless applications owed a duty housed; Increase footfall in town centres; Number of affordable home completions; Number of interventions carried out to encourage owners of empty properties to bring them back into use; and Average number of weeks taken to complete Disabled Facilities Adaptions.

Councillor King commented on how much had been achieved.

RESOLVED that the performance of the Council at the end of Quarter 2 of the 2020/21 year be noted.

Summary of Reasons

Performance is monitored and reported to Members on a quarterly basis as part of the Council's Performance Management Framework.

CORPORATE RISK AND OPPORTUNITY MANAGEMENT: QUARTER 1 2020/21

The Cabinet considered the report on Corporate Risk and Opportunity Management for Quarter 2, 2020/21.

The Corporate Risk and Opportunity Register sets out the Council's Corporate Risks and Opportunities. Corporate Risks and Opportunities are defined as issues that may have a significant impact on the delivery of the Council's vision and priorities. They are identified, monitored and managed via the Council's Risk and Opportunity Strategy Board which meets on a quarterly basis. The Board last met on 5 October 2020.

At the end of Quarter 2 of the 2020/21 year there were 30 Risks and 4 Opportunities on the Corporate Risk and Opportunity Register. Of the 34 Risks and Opportunities on the Corporate Risk and Opportunity Register, 13 (38.2%) were assessed as Red status, these being : CR 25 The Council does not have sufficient funding to deliver its current services in the medium term; CR 27 Risk of reduction of failing to deliver housing in a timely way could lead to reduction in receipts of new homes bonus; CR 37 Increase in homeless presentations results in an increased demand in Council

support for relief; CR 32 The Council does not meet its budgeted-for Planning fee income targets, particularly in regard to major applications which could have a negative impact on the Council's financial position; CR 33 Costs of planning appeals, and legal challenges, exceed budget; CR 36 Uncertainty following the United Kingdom's imminent departure from the European Union; CR 37 Increase in homeless presentations results in an increased demand in Council support for relief; CV 02 Unforeseen, unfunded financial burdens as a result of responding to the ongoing situation weaken the Council's financial stability; CV 03 Loss of income, as economic activity reduces, weakens the Council's cashflow and financial sustainability; CV 04 The focus on high-priority, short-term needs prevents the medium-term financial planning and decision-making needed to balance the Council's finances in the medium term; CV 07 Increased fatalities leads to increased demand on burial infrastructure including existing cemetery provision and storage of cadavers; CV 08 Additional homeworking requirements leads to increased demand on the Council's ICT infrastructure which subsequently becomes unstable; CV 09 The ongoing situation leads to multiple, concurrent Emergency Planning situations which the Council does not have the capacity to deal with; and COR OP 01: Business growth leading to Business Rates retention.

A request was made for the mitigation measures in relation to CR25 and CV04 to include the lobbying of government, and the Chief Officer for Governance and Monitoring Officer advised that this would be reflected in future consideration of these risks.

RESOLVED that the items contained within the Council's Corporate Risk and Opportunity Register (attached at Appendix A to the report) be noted.

Summary of Reasons

Monitoring of the Council's Corporate Risks and Opportunities is prescribed by the Council's Risk and Opportunity Management Framework.

MID YEAR TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT 2020-21 AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS

The Cabinet considered the Mid Year Treasury Management Report 2020-21 and Prudential Indicators.

Treasury Management is an integral part of the Council's finances relating to cash flow management and financing of capital schemes and therefore underpins all of the Council's aims. The mid year treasury report is a requirement of the Council's reporting procedures and covers the treasury management activity for the first six months of 2020/21. The report also covers the actual Prudential Indicators for this period in accordance with the requirements of the Prudential Code.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the Mid Year Treasury Management Report for 2020/21 be noted.
- (ii) the Prudential Indicators be noted.
- (iii) the change to the wording of the criteria regarding "Diversification" detailed in Section 3 be approved.
- (iv) the increase of counterparty limits for Money Market and Property Funds detailed in Section 3 to the report be approved.

Summary of Reasons

The CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) Code of Practice for Treasury Management recommends that members be updated on treasury management activities regularly (annual and mid-year or quarterly reports). This report, therefore, ensures this Council is implementing best practice in accordance with the Code.

RESERVES STRATEGY; THE COUNCILS APPROACH TO EFFECTIVE RESERVE MANAGEMENT

The Cabinet considered the proposed Reserves Strategy, which would provide a framework through which the Council will be able to effectively manage and govern its use of Reserves.

Effective reserve management will help the Council to deliver sustainable services over the medium term by smoothing peaks and troughs in expenditure, ensuring that the Council has a financial safety net but also has effectively provided for known risks and commitments.

To ensure that the Council can effectively manage its reserves, it will be necessary for it to redefine what it considers Net Expenditure; consider its reserve holdings, this will entail it to approve a minimum level of reserves for the General Fund (Unallocated) Reserve and reallocate Earmarked Reserves and approve a Reserves Strategy.

The Council maintains a suite of Reserves, some of these are “cash” and some “non-cash” and how they make up the Councils total reserve position is shown in the Movement of Reserves Statement that was included in the 2019/20 Annual Financial Report (as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report).

The Councils “non-cash” (unusable) reserves are technical reserves that the Council must maintain to meet statutory obligations relating to capital, pensions, and other smaller technical accounting requirements. The Council has no control on their operation as they are strictly controlled by accounting regulations.

However, the Councils “cash reserves” (usable) are more fluid in nature and the Council has a lot more direct control over their use. As at the end of 2019/20 the Council had in total £18.4m in useable reserves. These reserves are a mix of capital and revenue.

The purpose of the General Fund Unallocated Reserve (GFUR) is to maintain a minimum level of reserves (MLR) that the Council considers it prudent to hold such reserves to meet unforeseen events; the most straight forward means of calculation of an MLR is as a percentage of Net Expenditure (this is a common approach across local government). The Chartered Institute for Public Finance and Accountancy will not recommend an MLR, so Councils are free to set their MLT at a level that they consider is appropriate. It is good practice for local authorities to hold a prudent level, but only hold the amount it considers it needs to meet the cost of unforeseen events (emergencies); if a Council holds excessive GFUR it means that it is reducing its ability to effectively support decisions by either curtailing resources that can support ongoing delivery of its services or providing investment funding for its community.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) “Net Expenditure” now being defined as the net of service revenue costs and minimum revenue provision (as detailed in para 2.1 to the report).
- (ii) A minimum level of Reserves at 20% of the Councils “Net Expenditure” (as detailed in para 3.7 to the report)
- (iii) The establishment of new Earmarked Reserve strategic groupings and the reallocation of “excess” General Fund to

these strategic groupings, as noted at para 3.9 (as detailed in Table 4, Appendix 2 to the report)

Summary of Reasons

Reserves are a key mechanism through which a Council can manage its financial resources. Although the Council must hold several statutory and discretionary reserves, the Council does not have a strategy or associated governance processes to effectively manage them.

BUDGET SETTING PRINCIPLES: BUDGET 2021/22 AND MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY (2022/23 TO 2024/25)

The Cabinet considered the Budget Setting Principles report which highlighted the budget setting process and the key principles to support the development of Budget for 2021/22 and the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (2022/23 to 2024/25).

The Council is facing a considerable budget challenge next year and over the medium-term; the forecast budget gap is £4m for 2021/22 rising to £4.2m by 2024/25.

To meet this challenge the Council has commenced a Zero-Based Budgeting exercise, known as Budget Challenge 2025 (BC25). The aim of this programme is to deliver a sustainable budget over the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), with the Council reducing its reliance on reserves by transforming the way that the Council delivers its services. The expectation is that, by the end of the BC25 programme the Council will have reviewed all services and agreed a series of business plans that will delivery services in a significantly different way – but within an affordable and sustainable way.

The Budget Challenge process consists of 3 Tranches of review. Tranche 1 is underway, and the results of the review are expected to be included in the 2021/22 Budget Setting Report. The anticipated budget changes that will result from the service transformation will be “hard-coded” into next year’s budget and the MTFS with the expectation that services will then deliver the transformation that will be required.

Obviously, Tranches 2 and 3 will not be included as the conclusions of these reviews will not be reached until after the 2021/22 budget (and MTFS) is approved by Cabinet, and then Council in February 2021. This means, that to meet the statutory requirement of setting a balanced budget for 2021/22, it is likely that the Council will still have to approve the use of reserves to meet any forecast budget gap. However, as the findings of Tranches 2 and 3 become known and are implemented, it is anticipated that the reserves that will needed will be less than that approved.

Therefore, it is recommended that in respect of next year’s budget and the MTFS, that the Strategic Budget principles will be as follows :- (1) To maintain, within expected service constraints, service expenditure within the approved net expenditure envelope; (2) To ensure that over the medium term, financial sustainability can be achieved; (3) General Service Income: to be increased by 1.1% for 2020/21 and over the MTFS period; (4) Pay Inflation: to be increased by 3.2% for 2020/21 and over the MTFS period; (5) Pay Oncosts: National Insurance and Pensions Oncosts to be increased by 13.8% and 31.4% for 2020/21 and over the MTFS period; (6) Vacancy Factor: to be maintained at £120k for 2020/21 and over the MTFS period. This is subject to further review and if a change is needed, this will be reported to members in January 2021; (7) General Service Inflation: to be set at 0%, except for the FCC Contract that will be increased in line with contractual inflationary commitments; (8) General Service Growth: there will not be any general service growth, except that identified via the Budget Challenge 2025 process; (9) Non-Domestic Rates: (i) the NDR income stream will be inflated by the government’s stipulate multiplier; (ii) Any income growth that exceeds

this income stream is earmarked for local economic, community and infrastructure development;

(10) New Homes Bonus: (i) the NHB income stream to mirror the profile as noted in paragraph 3.12 to the report; (ii) if the government does extend/roll-over the NHB scheme, any excess over-and-above that at (i) or (3.12) above is allocated to an earmarked reserve, divided on a 50:50 basis, between support to: • local economic, community and infrastructure development or • commercial investment;

(11) Fair Funding: to help mitigate the future impact of Fair Funding (& the NDR “reset”), to include a negative funding stream of Nil, 2021/22; £86k, 2021/22 and £172k, 2023/24; and (12) Collection Fund (Surplus)/Deficit: the Council will spread any forecast Collection Fund Deficit for 31st March 2021 over the following 3 years; 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24. If the 31st March 2021 forecast was a surplus, this will not be spread.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) budget changes, noted at paragraph 3.8 (and Appendix 2) to the report, in respect of the Local Plan be approved.
- (ii) budget principles that are summarised in Appendix 3 to the report be approved.

Summary of Reasons

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

CORPORATE DEBT POLICY REVISED

The Cabinet considered the Corporate Debt Policy which in line with good practice has been reviewed and revised. The Corporate Debt Policy covers all services of the Council.

RESOLVED that the revised Corporate Debt Policy be approved, including the reference to two Bailiff Companies in Appendix A2 to the report.

Summary of Reasons

The Corporate Debt Policy was last updated in September 2017 and it is good practice to review and update policies.

BAD DEBT WRITE OFFS (REVENUES AND BENEFITS)

The Cabinet received a report detailing the amounts that have been written off for the period 1st April 2020 through to 12 October 2020 in respect of Council Tax.

RESOLVED that the information contained within the report be noted.

Summary of Reasons

To comply with proper accounting practices.

RESPONSE TO LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL'S DRAFT (REGULATION 18) LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION

The Cabinet considered the Council's response to Leicester City Council's Draft (Regulation 18) Local Plan Consultation together with an associated addendum following a briefing from the Head of Planning at Leicester City Council.

This is the first statutory consultation stage in preparing the next Leicester City Local Plan which will eventually replace their current adopted 2014 Core Strategy and remaining saved local plan policies from the 2006 City of Leicester Local Plan.

The draft Local Plan sets out the vision and objectives for growth of the city over the next 15 years. It will allocate strategic and non-strategic development sites, sets clear policies that guide decisions on planning applications and set out how the plan will be delivered.

The draft Local Plan raises some key considerations for Harborough District. Potential impacts have been identified in relation to: housing numbers, and unmet need requirements; employment; transport; climate change; gypsy and travellers sites and sites and policies which impacts at our boundary, particularly at Scraftoft/Thurnby/Stoughton, and the Green Wedge policy.

Housing Numbers is a key issue as the draft Leicester Local Plan identifies an unmet need of 7,742 dwellings for Leicester during the plan period 2019-2036 (from a total housing provision of 29,104 dwellings over this period). It is anticipated that this unmet need will be accommodated by partner authorities within the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area including Harborough under the Duty to Cooperate. The scale of unmet need identified within the draft Leicester Local Plan may be subject to change as the plan progresses. The proposed consultation response notes the declared level of unmet need from the City and the fact that the Council is working alongside the City Council and other HMA local authorities in seeking to establish an appropriate way forward in relation to the distribution of this unmet need. Partnership work is ongoing around a Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) on this issue. Any emerging SoCG will be considered in accordance with the Council's governance procedures.

Councillor Knowles raised concerns in relation to the number of houses that could be placed in the Harborough District, and commented that he is awaiting a response from Officers as to whether any major schemes which were mooted a number of years ago may re-emerge.

Councillor King stated that there is absolutely no possibility of the Harborough District accommodating 7,800 homes from Leicester City's unmet need. Harborough District Council (HDC) is part of a strategic planning committee along with the other districts, Leicestershire County Council and Leicester City Council and there has to be a collaborative agreement within this committee to distribute the final number of the unmet need.

Councillor King reiterated that there are no firm proposals for the Harborough District to accommodate any unmet need until a clear understanding exists of the unmet need figures. Once there is a clear idea of the unmet need, and how that will be distributed, it will be possible to consider what sort of sites the Council is potentially looking at. The timing of this may coincide with the review of HDC's Local Plan in five years time.

Councillor Nunn asked for clarification as to how HDC is challenging other local authorities, and highlighted that if additional housing had to be accommodated from Leicester City within Harborough District, other authorities within Leicestershire also had to accommodate housing as well.

It was confirmed that a piece of work is currently being undertaken on a joint basis by a firm of consultants. The consultants are undertaking high level strategic work in a number of areas around environment, infrastructure, and numbers etc. This will take account of changes happening in recent

months following the approval of the Strategic Growth Plan, such as announcements from Midlands Connect around the A46 expressway. This will be a very broad brush approach and not site specific.

Cabinet noted that a Statement of Common Ground and a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will have to be made between the local authorities. This Statement of Common Ground and the MoU are two key vehicles upon which Local Plans will be progressed across Leicestershire.

It was reiterated that it is important for HDC to work in partnership with its partner authorities to ensure that the next generation of Local Plans can be put in place. Officers confirmed that hard work will be undertaken to ensure that all of the Council's interests across the whole county are robustly safeguarded.

Following a concern by Councillor Nunn that HDC has already been very generous within the District's Local Plan by putting additional housing into Scraftoft North to help assist Leicester City Council, and that HDC should not be a scapegoat, Councillor King provided reassurance in that there is currently no acceptance by HDC to accommodate any unmet need. As a lot of caveats exist, a robust response to the consultation has been put forward by HDC, other districts and the County Council. Furthermore, very robust discussions and challenges have taken place at the Strategic Planning MAG, for which he is the Council's representative. The unmet housing need will be on a fair basis and that point has been made explicitly clear in a number of meetings and on a one to one basis.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the submission of the consultation response (Appendix 1) to Leicester City Council's Draft (Regulation 18) Local Plan consultation be approved.
- (ii) Issues raised at the All Member Briefing (as detailed in the Addendum to the report) be considered as the Leicester City Local Plan progresses.

Summary of Reasons

To provide a consultation response to Leicester City Council's Draft (Regulation 18) Local Plan and supporting documentation and offer constructive comments and suggestions for improvements to ensure any potential impact of proposed allocations and policies in relation to Harborough District are considered.

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT (SPD)

The Cabinet considered the draft Development Management Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

The draft SPD aims to rationalise and simplify the 2003 Supplementary Planning Guidance into one document. Supplementary Planning Document cannot make new policy. It can add further detail to the policies in the Local Plan. In effect it can be guidance on particular issues to implement the Local Plan. The draft single document SPD will be a more efficient way of presenting the guidance. It will improve customer service by giving up to date information as a single document.

The Cabinet suggested that it would be beneficial to offer a webinar on the SPD to Parish Councils and Members which would assist with communication.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the draft Development Management Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) be approved for a minimum eight -week public consultation.
- (ii) the consultation is to accord with the Consultation Plan (as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report) and shall begin as soon as practical.
- (iii) the consultation be run concurrently with the Planning Application Local Validation List consultation.

Summary of Reasons

The Council has a range of 21 Supplementary Planning Guidance documents dating from 2003. As these were prepared a number of prior to the April 2019 Harborough Local Plan they are now out of date and in need of updating.

PLANNING APPLICATION LOCAL VALIDATION LIST

The Cabinet considered the draft Planning Application Local Validation List. Planning applications to be valid must satisfy national information requirements. These are plans and drawings, ownership certificate and sometimes a Design and Access Statement. A local planning authority may supplement this and request more supporting information with a planning application. To do that any requirements should be specified on a local validation list which is not less than 2 years old. This local list may be prepared by a local planning authority to clarify what information is usually required for applications of a particular type, scale or location.

As the current validation list was prepared in 2013 it is out of date. It also refers to old core strategy policies and previous versions of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the draft Local validation list be approved for a minimum eight-week public consultation.
- (ii) a report be brought back to Cabinet following consultation.
- (iii) The Consultation is to accord with the Consultation Plan (as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report).
- (iii) the consultation be run concurrently with the Development Management Supplementary Planning Document consultation.

Summary of Reasons

The Council's current validation list was prepared in 2013 and is out of date.

BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES STRATEGY

The Cabinet considered the recommendations of the Built Sports Facilities Strategy.

The preparation of the Strategy was a technical exercise and includes gathering usage and team information from Sports Clubs, stakeholders and other users of Built Sports Facilities. Additionally, the Council's Community Partnerships Team has gathered data concerning Community and Village Halls.

Information concerning demographics and projected growth areas within the District has been collected and liaison with neighbouring Local Authorities has taken place to assess their provision of facilities and any cross-boundary use of those facilities.

Detailed information concerning the demand and use for swimming pool space has been undertaken by commissioning Sports England's Facilities Planning Modelling (FPM). The FPM results will allow the Authority to make informed decisions concerning the future of swimming pool provision in the District.

Proceeding to adoption of the BSFS will help the effective delivery of built sport and leisure services across the district and ensure that a network of facilities is in place to cater for the current and future population (to 2031).

This is a long-term strategy that identifies need and makes recommendations about how this need can be met.

The Strategy is for the built facilities in the entire district. The responsibility for provision of sport and recreation facilities is shared between the District, Town and Parish Councils, schools, sports clubs and associations and commercial providers.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the Built Sports Facilities Strategy be approved as set out in Appendix A to the report.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL that the Strategy be adopted.

Summary of Reasons

The Harborough Built Sports Facilities Strategy (BSFS) has been prepared by Harborough District Council's appointed consultant (Nortoft) during 2019. The Strategy preparation has been supported by a Steering Group consisting of officers, Leicestershire and Rutland Sport, Sport England and Nortoft.

SECTION 100A LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

RESOLVED that the public and press be excluded from the following item on the grounds that the matters yet to be discussed involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

The Cabinet considered a report on Changes to the Garden Waste Service.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL that the following items be approved :

- (i) **To increase the price per bin from £40 to £51.53**

- (ii) To remove the Direct Debit option and promote the reoccurring card payment using the HDC website.**
- (iii) To undertake an annual review of the Garden Waste Service charges, as part of the annual Fees and Charges process, to ensure full cost recovery.**

Summary of Reasons

To improve the customers experience and allow them to self-serve, this also allows the Council to make savings and create efficiencies.

The Garden waste service has had no cost increase since its introduction in 2016, despite the annual contractual increase within the contract.

The Council has since 2016 subsidised the garden waste service, adoption of the proposals will allow the Council to cover the full costs of service delivery.

The meeting ended at 8.32 pm