

Report from the Leader of the Council on the work of the Cabinet

Meeting held on 21 February 2018

This is my report as the Leader of the Council on the work of the Cabinet. It is an overview of the main business considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 21 February 2018. However, it should be noted that three items of business; the detailed Revenue Budget for 2018-19, the Capital Programme 2018-19 to 2021-22 and the Pay Policy Statement 2018-19 were recommendations to Council and therefore these have already been considered earlier on this agenda.

1. Recommendations from the Local Plan Working Party

1.1 We agreed:

- to note progress made on the Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA), the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA), the Employment Land Needs Assessment (ELNA), and the Local Plan;
- that the Self-Build and Custom Housebuilding Register is split into two parts in order to give priority to applicants with a local connection and to the proposed fees for applicants to be entered and maintained on the Register;
- the revised draft Strategic Land Availability Assessment (SLAA) for publication.

2. Annual Grants Awards 2018-19

2.1 We considered a report on the proposed grants to organisations in the voluntary and community sectors for 2018-19 and other support for charities and community organisations.

2.2 We agreed grants of £201,800 to the organisations set out in the report with the surplus of £17,496 being ring-fenced for projects which arise during the course of the year.

3. Exemption to contract standing orders

3.1 We considered the options available for the selection and appointment of a project manager and design team in relation to the replacement of the leisure centre in Staines-upon-Thames.

3.2 We agreed to exempt contract standing orders to delegate the selection of a construction project manager and the construction design team to the Group Head of Regeneration and Growth in consultation with the Deputy Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council.

4. Property Acquisition

4.1 We considered an exempt report on the acquisition of a site for investment.

4.2 We approved the acquisition of the investment asset and gave authority to:

- the Chief Executive to undertake any necessary negotiations and complete the acquisition (in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer, the Leader and the Cabinet Member for Finance);
- the Chief Finance Officer to decide the most financially advantageous funding arrangements for the purchase, the most tax efficient method of holding the asset and ensure the acquisition is prudentially affordable; and
- the Head of Corporate Governance to enter into any legal documentation necessary to acquire the asset.

Councillor Ian Harvey
Leader of the Council

22 February 2018