

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

Meeting held on 6 November 2019

This is my report as the Leader of the Council on the work of the Cabinet. It is an overview of the main items of business considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 6 November 2019.

One further report was considered at this meeting in relation to the redevelopment costs for Harper House which was a recommendation to Council and therefore has been dealt with earlier on this agenda.

1. A Masterplan for Staines

- 1.1 We considered a report on a proposal for a Staines upon Thames Masterplan to shape and develop the town alongside the new Local Plan. This brings a number of advantages including the transformation and regeneration of the town centre, taking into account new transport opportunities, identifying opportunities for enhancement and growth whilst establishing and considering various constraints.
- 1.2 We agreed to go out to tender for a Masterplan and that the Deputy Chief Executive (Finance) in consultation with the Leader, be given delegated authority to enter into a contract to appoint the external advisors.

2. Council Tax Exemption for Young People Leaving Care

- 2.1 We considered a report proposing a council tax exemption to care leavers living in independent accommodation from the age of 18 until 25. Many care leavers find managing their finances very difficult and this would help prevent them falling into debt whilst adjusting to living independently.
- 2.2 We agreed that with effect from April 2020, Care Leavers living in independent accommodation would be exempt from Council Tax until reaching the age of 25.

3. Public Space Protection Orders – Unauthorised Mooring

- 3.1 We considered a report on the responses received following consultation on unauthorised mooring and a proposed Public Space Protection Order. Elmbridge Borough Council and Runnymede Borough Council are also considering various options on this issue.
- 3.2 The responses were noted and it was agreed that the results should be considered alongside those of Elmbridge and Runnymede Borough Councils and reported back to Cabinet.

4. Property and Investment Committee

- 4.1 We considered a proposal to set up a Property and Investment Committee as a sub-committee of Cabinet to ensure that fully informed and transparent decisions are reached in a timely manner within a fast moving and commercial environment.

- 4.2 We agreed the Terms of Reference and formation of the Property and Investment Committee as a Cabinet Sub-Committee.

5. Urgent Action

- 5.1 Cabinet noted the urgent action taken by the Chief Executive, in consultation with myself, to agree a letting within the Porter Building, Slough.

6. Procurement of provider of housing management at Harper House

- 6.1 Cabinet considered an exempt report on the procurement of a provider of housing management and resident support services at Harper House and noted the benefits of procuring a managed service provider.
- 6.2 We authorised the Group Head for Community Wellbeing to determine the provider to be appointed, in consultation with the Corporate Procurement Manager, the Portfolio Holder for Community Wellbeing & Housing and the Chief Financial Officer.
- 6.3 We also authorised the Head of Corporate Governance to enter into any legal documentation necessary to appoint the new provider.

Councillor Ian Harvey
Leader of the Council

19 December 2019