

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

This is my report as the Leader of the Council on the work of the Cabinet. It is an overview of the main issues which the Cabinet discussed at its extraordinary meeting held on 25 October 2016 and its meeting held on 23 November 2016.

Extraordinary Cabinet – 25 October 2016

1. Acquisition of sites in the Borough for investment

1.1 We considered two exempt reports on the acquisition of sites in the Borough for investment.

1.2 We approved the acquisition of both investment assets and gave authority to:

- the Chief Executive to undertake any necessary negotiations and complete the acquisitions (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 purchases and ensure the acquisitions are prudentially affordable; and
- the Head of Corporate Governance to enter into any legal documentation necessary to acquire the assets.

Cabinet – 23 November 2016

1. Recommendation from the Audit Committee

1.1 We considered the recommendation of the Audit Committee and approved the Corporate Risk Register subject to requesting improvements to future updates of the Risk Register to clarify the status of the risks.

2. Disabled Facilities Grant Framework Agreement – Key Decision

2.1 We considered a report on setting up a Disabled Facilities Grant Framework Agreement and agreed to award the contract to the successful tenderers.

2.2 The implementation of this Disabled Facilities Grant Framework Agreement will:-

- reduce the time taken to process grants and waiting time for building work to start;
- offer greater protection for residents through the introduction of warranties to cover the building works; and
- provide a fair and transparent system of procurement.

3. Capital and Revenue Monitoring

3.1 We noted reports on capital and revenue expenditure covering the period April to October 2016.

4. Lease of Office premises at Knowle Green to Surrey County Council

4.1 We considered a report on the renewal of the lease for office space at Knowle Green Council offices by Surrey County Council.

4.2 We agreed to grant the new lease to Surrey County Council for 5 years until 4 December 2021 subject to:

1. Ensuring that the service charge element incorporates any necessary uplift to reflect the increase in business rates from 2017 onwards for Knowle Green;
2. Receiving up to date valuation advice on the appropriate rental level (which will be greater than current income levels); and
3. Final approval on the rental and service charge levels being delegated to the Group Head for Regeneration and Growth in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Fixed Assets

5. Surrey Police at Knowle Green – surrender of lease

5.1 We considered a report setting out the options available following the surrender of the lease for offices at Knowle Green by Surrey Police.

5.2 We agreed the position regarding Surrey Police largely moving out and the value of the surrender of the lease.

Councillor Ian Harvey
Leader of the Council

22 December 2016