

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

Meeting held on 26 September 2018

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 26 September 2018.

Two further exempt reports were considered at this meeting in relation to White House Hostel design team fees and the redevelopment of Harper House but these both included recommendations to Council so have been dealt with at the previous item on the agenda.

Cabinet – 26 September 2018

1. Recommendations from the Local Plan Working Party (LPWP)

- 1.1 We received the minutes of the LPWP meeting held on 18 September 2018 and agreed to:
1. Publish the Issues and Options consultation response document, subject to minor corrections;
 2. Publish the updated Local Development Scheme timetable;
 3. Defer consideration of the Annual Monitoring Report together with the Statement of Five Year Housing Land Supply until a future Cabinet meeting

2. Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2018-19

- 2.1 We noted the work programme for Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2018-19 which the Chairman, Councillor S.C. Mooney presented at the meeting.

3. Staines Town Gigabit Project – Key Decision

- 3.1 We considered a report requesting a contribution of £500k for a match funding bid to deliver gigabit speeds to approximately 3,000 premises in Staines-upon-Thames.
- 3.2 We agreed to approve the contribution of £500k which will enable access to an additional £2m in contributions to deliver gigabit speeds to Staines-upon-Thames.

4. Change in representation on Outside Bodies and Steering Groups

- 4.1 We received a report proposing changes in representation on outside bodies and steering groups for the current municipal year.
- 4.2 We agreed:
1. To approve the following appointments with immediate effect until June 2019:

Name of representative	Outside Body/Steering Group
Councillor Patel	Spelthorne Safer, Stronger Partnership

Councillor Patel	Surrey Waste Partnership
Councillor Boughtflower	Members' Development Steering Group

2. Delegate appointment of a representative and deputy to the NW Surrey Engagement Programme Stakeholder Reference Group to the Leader.

5. Knowle Green Estates Ltd - Business Plan update

5.1 We considered an exempt report on progress made in the development of a business plan

5.2 We agreed to:

1. Note progress made in development of the business plan
2. Note the advice on State Aid provided by Counsel
3. Subject to receiving up to date valuation advice prior to transfer, to delegate authority to the Chief Executive in Consultation with the Leader, Portfolio Holder for Finance (or the Deputy Leader if he is not available) and Chief Finance Officer, to transfer the following Council properties into the ownership of Knowle Green Estates Ltd for nil cash consideration:
 - a. Former Bugle PH
 - b. Former Churchill Village Hall;
4. Subject to receiving up to date valuation advice prior to transfer, to delegate authority to the Chief Finance Officer in Consultation with the Leader, Portfolio Holder for Finance (or the Deputy Leader if he is not available) and Chief Executive, to loan to Knowle Green Estates Ltd (if necessary) the funds to enable it to purchase at full market value:
 - a. Former Bugle PH
 - b. Former Churchill Village Hall
 - c. 42 Kingston Road
 - d. Cranford Road;
5. To note in relation to 42 Kingston Road (Cabinet minute 25 April 2018) that the Chief Finance Officer has determined the most financially advantageous funding arrangement for the purchase is for it to be held in Knowle Green Estates Ltd.;
6. To note that any funding requirement will be provided under the Loan and Drawdown Agreement approved by Cabinet on 11 May 2017;
7. Subject to receiving up to date valuation advice prior to transfer, to delegate authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader to:
 - a. Move a Council property in the Municipal Portfolio to the Residential Portfolio by transferring it to KGE Ltd on such terms as he thinks fit
 - b. Consent to receive a KGE Ltd property in the Residential Portfolio which is to be held by the Council in the Investment or Municipal Portfolio on such terms as he thinks fit; and
8. To delegate to the Head of Corporate Governance to enter into all documentation required to give effect to these transfers and loans.

6. Acquisition of Property 'P' – Key Decision

6.1 We considered an exempt report regarding the acquisition of property 'P'.

6.2 We agreed to:

1. Approve the acquisition of the residential property 'P' to be held in the name of its subsidiary Knowle Green Estates Ltd;
2. Authorise the Chief Financial Officer to make prudent borrowing arrangements for the transaction;
3. Authorise the Chief Financial officer to determine with Knowle Green Estates Ltd the most financially prudent way of financing the transaction between the Council and the Company, noting this may include a Council loan to Knowle Green Estates for the full amount of the funds at cost;
4. Formally agree the offer submitted, and authorise the Property and Development Manager to undertake any necessary subsequent negotiations (including making a further offer if required, in consultation with the Leader, Portfolio Holders for Housing and Corporate Management and the Chief Finance Officer), and complete the acquisition of the asset;
5. Authorise the Head of Corporate Governance to enter into any legal documentation necessary to acquire the asset in the name of Knowle Green Estates Ltd.; and
6. Authorise officers to pursue other opportunities to acquire properties under similar circumstances for Cabinet consideration.