

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 business considered by the Cabinet at its meetings held on 29 January and 26 February 2020.

Meeting held on 29 January 2020

Three items of business considered at this meeting; Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2020/21, Housing Strategy 2020-2025 and Pay Policy Statement 2020/21 were recommendations to Council and were dealt with at the meeting on 27 February 2020.

1. Petition on the Local Plan

- 1.1 Cabinet considered 6 petitions relating to 5 locations in the Borough, which had been submitted in response to the consultation on the Local Plan. We heard from 4 petitioners and one ward councillor.
- 1.2 I stressed to the petitioners that this was a genuine consultation and no conclusions had yet been reached. The Strategic Planning portfolio holder responded to the petitioners and explained the constraints the Council had to work under and thanked them for their representations which would be carefully considered in the analysis of all the consultation submissions.
- 1.3 The Cabinet agreed to note the petitions and ask the Local Plan Working Party to review the matters that they raised.

2. Spelthorne Borough Council (off Street Parking Places) Order 2020 – Key Decision

- 2.1 We considered a report on the implementation of a new Off-Street Parking Places Order 2020.
- 2.2 We agreed to proceed with the proposed terms and conditions for use of Council owned car parks, and the charges and penalties to apply to those using the car parks as set out in the report. We also gave authority to the Group Head of Neighbourhood Services in consultation with the Head of Corporate Governance to consider and address any objections and to amend the proposals if necessary following public consultation.

3. Spelthorne Leisure Centre Consultation

- 3.1 We considered a report on revised proposals for a replacement Spelthorne Leisure Centre and agreed to run a consultation exercise from 28 February to 27 March 2020 on a revised location.
- 3.2 We gave authority to the Council's Leisure Centre Development Working Group to consider the results of the consultation exercise and decide on the business case for

any amendments to the proposals for a new Spelthorne Leisure Centre based on the consultation responses, prior to seeking approval from Cabinet to proceed with any planning application.

4. Selection of supplier of a refuse collection vehicle

- 4.1 We agreed to delegate the selection of the supplier of a refuse collection vehicle to the Group Head of Neighbourhood Services in consultation with the portfolio holder, to ensure that the procurement of the vehicle could progress as soon as possible due to the long lead in time for delivery.

5. Review of Knowle Green Estates Ltd

- 5.1 We considered a report proposing a new corporate structure for Knowle Green Estates Ltd following a 3 year operational period, in keeping with the Council's ambitious development plan.

- 5.2 We also considered recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in relation to the Business Plan. We accepted the recommendations and agreed to ask the Directors of Knowle Green Estates Ltd to furnish further information to Cabinet on a mission statement and a protocol for asset valuations and transfers.

- 5.3 We agreed to give authority to the Head of Corporate Governance to:

1. establish a group holding company – Knowle Green Estates Group Ltd and a subsidiary Lettings Agency;
2. appoint the Directors of Knowle Green Estates Ltd as the Directors of Knowle Green Estates Group Ltd and the new letting agency company;
3. recruit an additional independent Director for the Group; and
4. establish Limited Liability Partnerships with Knowle Green Estates Group Ltd for its current residential developments.

- 5.4 We also agreed to delegate the Head of Corporate Governance to undertake the function of Company Secretary and appointed the Leader of the Council as the Shareholder representative, for Knowle Green Estates Group Ltd and all subsidiary companies.

Meeting held on 26 February 2020

Five items of business considered at this meeting; the Capital Strategy 2020/2025, Capital Programme 2020/21 to 2023/24, Pay Award 2020/21, Members' Allowances Scheme 2020/21 and detailed Revenue Budget for 2020/21, were recommendations to Council and were dealt with at the meeting on 27 February 2020.

6. Annual Grants 2020/21 – Key Decision

- 6.1 We considered a report on the proposed grants to organisations in the voluntary and community sectors for 2020/21 and other support for charities and community organisations.
- 6.2 We agreed grants of £186,250 to the organisations set out in the report, with the exception of Stanwell Events. A surplus of £23,350 is being ring-fenced for projects which arise during the course of the year.
- 6.3 We also noted 'support in kind' in the form of business rates relief, free accommodation, and community facilities with no rental income, provided by Spelthorne Borough Council to voluntary and charitable organisations.

7. Fees and Charges 2020/2021 – Key Decision

- 7.1 We considered a report and schedule of proposed fees and charges to be introduced with effect from 1 April 2020. The proposals took into account the inflation rate (RPI) of 2.2% at December 2019, comparisons with other authorities, the income received for each service in 2019/20, and market forces. With the exception of Staines town centre tariffs, car parking charges remain broadly at 2019/20 rates, reflecting the Council's desire to support local retailers and the business community.
- 7.2 We agreed the fees and charges for 2020/21 as set out in the report.

8. Food and Health and Safety Service Plans

- 8.1 We agreed to adopt the proposed food and health and safety service plans for 2020/21, which outline the aims and objectives for the year ahead and evaluate the achievements of the previous year.

9. Business Waste Collection Service – Key Decision

- 9.1 We considered a report on a proposal to establish and run a business waste collection service, to provide the Spelthorne business community with a reliable and cost effective business waste service and assist them to become more sustainable.
- 9.2 We agreed to the service being set up as a Limited Company, wholly owned by Spelthorne Borough Council, with a start-up loan of £450,000 and the appointment of the three company Directors.

10. Specialist housing management and resident support service for the White House Hostel

10.1 We considered a report setting out alternative delivery routes and proposals for the procurement of a specialist housing management and resident support service for the White House Hostel.

10.2 We agreed to commence a competitive procurement exercise to identify a specialist housing management and resident support service provider, as well as the development and design of a Direct Delivery Model where the Council will be responsible for the management and running of the hostel through the recruitment of specialist staff.

10.3 We will receive a further report later this year to consider the options and decide the preferred service delivery method.

Councillor Ian Harvey
Leader of the Council

27 February 2020