

COUNCIL

THURSDAY 26TH JANUARY 2017

MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION

CABINET

WEDNESDAY, 7 DECEMBER 2016

70. Commercial Investment Strategy (Minute for Confirmation)

Councillor Russell Holland, the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services, and the Interim Corporate Director, Resources, submitted a joint report seeking Cabinet's approval to adopt a Commercial Investment Strategy that will allow the Council to innovate and invest wisely on a commercial basis, taking advantage of opportunities as they present themselves. It was noted that the investments will be key to achieving a balanced budget position and securing a sustainable financial future for the Council. The report also set out an investment strategy to enhance income to the Council in the longer term (the Commercial Investment Strategy), the proposed governance framework, including establishment of a Commercial Investment Strategy Board, and a proposal to establish a Commercial Investment Fund to provide a mechanism for financing the strategic acquisition and development of high income producing assets.

Councillor Holland introduced the report and highlighted the framework for low risk investments which will fulfil a commercial need and help achieve the priorities and pledges whilst also helping to alleviate future budget pressures.

Resolved – That Council be recommended:

- 1) That a Commercial Investment Fund be established for the commercial management, disposal of and investment into key assets, and that a sum of £50m be allocated within the capital programme to provide pump priming funding for the Commercial Investment Fund (including the £15m already allocated to the Housing Development Programme).
- 2) Subject to (1) above, to approve:
 - (a) The Commercial Investment Strategy including the proposed gateway process for assessing investment opportunities, as set out in the report.
 - (b) The governance arrangements as set out in the report, and the establishment of a Commercial Investment Strategy Board comprising the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services, Chief Executive, Corporate Directors for Resources and Economy and Transformation and Director of Law and Democratic Services, supported by appropriate internal and external advisers (including the Council's s151

- Officer if that role is not assigned to the Corporate Director for Resources) who will determine detailed investment and appraisal criteria.
- (c) An annual budget of up to £60,000 to provide further capacity within the Council's Property Assets team to support an expanded programme of commercial property acquisitions, funded from the investment income generated.
- 3) Subject to (1) above, to authorise:
- (a) The Director of Law and Democratic Services to draw up detailed terms of reference for the Commercial Investment Strategy Board.
 - (b) The Corporate Director for Resources to:
 - i. determine the detail of funding arrangements for the CIF, in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Cabinet member for Finance and Corporate Resources, and
 - ii. commence a procurement exercise for the appointment of external investment and specialist advisors to the Board.
 - (c) The Corporate Director for Resources, in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Cabinet member for Finance and Corporate Services, to approve investments involving expenditure of up to £10m where these have cleared the gateway process described in the Commercial Investment Strategy.
 - (d) The Head of Property Assets, in consultation with the Section 151 Officer, to approve the investment purchases, subject to the Board completing a robust appraisal of each investment proposal against the principles and criteria set out in the Commercial Investment Strategy.
 - (e) The Director of Law and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Head of Property Assets, to complete the investment purchases and related documentation on such terms as he considers necessary to protect the Council's interests.
 - (f) The Director of Law and Democratic Services to make appropriate amendments to the Constitution.
- 4) Subject to 1) above, to request that the Leader of the Council reviews the terms of reference for the Leader's Asset Management Advisory Group, with advice from the Corporate Director Resources and the Director of Law and Democratic Services.

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the report to the meeting.

72. Mid-Year Treasury Performance 2016-17 (Minute for Confirmation)

Councillor Russell Holland, the Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services, and the Interim Corporate Director, Resources, submitted a joint report setting out the mid-year Treasury Management performance for 2016/17 and proposals for amendments to the Councils Minimum Revenue Policy.

Resolved – (1) That the mid-year Treasury Management performance be noted.
(2) That Council be recommended to approve the amendment to the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the report to the meeting.

73. Polling District and Places Review (Minute for Confirmation)

Councillor David Renard, Leader of the Council, and the Director of Law and Democratic Services, submitted a joint report on (i) undertaking a review of polling places within the wards of Eastcott and Rodbourne Cheney, (ii) adjusting the polling district boundaries within the Blunsdon & Highworth and Stratton & South Marston wards, and (iii) on the creation of new polling districts in the Covingham & Dorcan, Gorse Hill & Pinehurst and St Andrews wards. It was noted that the Police and Crime Commissioner, Borough Elections and European Referendum earlier this year highlighted that some venues were either no longer suitable for use as polling stations or were unavailable for use at future elections.

The Chair introduced the report and advised that this review was undertaken annually, that only minor changes had been suggested this year in response to the review, and that there were no objections put forward in response to the consultation on these changes.

Resolved – That Council be recommended to:

- (1) endorse the following changes to Polling Places within the Borough:
 - a) Blunsdon & Highworth Ward - that an adjustment to the polling district boundary for electoral registers BHH and BHF be made and the streets listed in Appendix 1a are moved from electoral register BHH to BHF.
 - b) Eastcott Ward - that the polling place for electoral register ETC relocate to Savernake Street Social Hall from King William Street Primary School.
 - c) Rodbourne Cheney Ward - that the polling place for electoral register RCC relocate to St Andrews Church Hall from Rodbourne Cheney Primary School.
 - d) St Margaret and South Marston Ward - that an adjustment to the polling district boundary for electoral registers SMA and SMB be made and the streets listed in Appendix 4a are moved from electoral register SMA to SMB.
 - e) Covingham & Dorcan – that a new polling district CDE be created and the streets listed in Appendix 5 be moved from electoral register CDC to CDE.
 - f) Gorse Hill & Pinehurst ward - that a new polling district GPF be created and the streets listed in Appendix 6 be moved from electoral register GPA to GPF.
 - g) St Andrews - that a new polling district SAE be created and the streets listed in Appendix 7 be moved from electoral registers BHC and SAD to SAE.
- (2) Authorise the Director of Law and Democratic Services (as Returning Officer) to implement the proposed changes for future Borough, Parish and Parliamentary elections.

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the report to the meeting.

**76. Changes to arrangements for appointment of an External Auditor
(Minute for Confirmation)**

Councillor Russell Holland, the Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services, and the Head of Internal Audit, submitted a joint report summarising the changes to the arrangements for appointing External Auditors following the closure of the Audit Commission and the end of the transitional arrangements at the conclusion of the 2017/18 audits. The report also set out the various options the Council has with regard to appointing and putting in place new arrangements in time to make a first appointment by 31st December 2017.

Councillor Holland introduced the report and thanked Councillor Steve Weisinger, Chair of the Audit Committee, and the officers for their input. Councillor Holland also advised that the Audit Committee had supported option one ("Opt-in to a sector led body (Public Sector Audit Appointments LTD)"), as set out in the report.

Resolved – That Council be recommended that the appointment of an External Auditor be made through the national sector led body, Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd.

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the report to the meeting.

LICENSING COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, 1 DECEMBER 2016

24. Introduction of a Licensing Regime for Sex Establishments

The Committee considered (a) a report setting out a proposed Sex Establishment Policy for the Borough and (b) comments received as part of the Council's consultation on the proposed policy.

Resolved – (1) That, subject to the term "Bright Lighting" being replaced with "Effective Lighting" within the policy document, the Sex Establishment Venues policy set out as an appendix to the report be approved and commended to the Council for adoption.

(2) That subject to (1) above and the adoption of the policy by the Council, the newly adopted policy be reviewed no later than 2021 or at such time as legislative changes require.