

CABINET
03 December 2015 at 7.00 pm

Further to the recent despatch of agenda and papers for the above meeting, please find the following item(s):

5. **Draft Budget 2016/17** (Pages 1 - 2)
(Addendum to Appendix F)

8. **Swanley Gateway - Demolition** (Pages 3 - 4)
(Reference from Policy & Performance Advisory Committee)



9. **Property Disposal Update** (Pages 5 - 6)
(Reference from Policy & Performance Advisory Committee)



Should you require a copy of this agenda or any of the reports listed on it in another format please do not hesitate to contact the Democratic Services Team as set out below.

For any other queries concerning this agenda or the meeting please contact:

The Democratic Services Team (01732 227241)

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Summary of feedback from the Advisory Committees

Appendix F provides a summary of the feedback from the Advisory Committees from the interactive sessions held at each of their meetings.

This addendum provides a summary of responses from the Finance Advisory Committee whose meeting was held after the deadline for papers to be submitted to Cabinet. With the agreement of the Chairman and Members of the Policy & Performance Advisory Committee the interactive session was not held as Members had provided their suggestions at other committees that they had attended.

Members should note that this appendix is provided as information for Cabinet arising from the discussions held at the Advisory Committees. The recommendations arising from those meetings are provided elsewhere within the Agenda.

Question a: What services might the Council want to consider investing more in?

Members of the Finance Advisory Committee provided feedback on services that were both within the remit of their committee and on services overseen by other committees.

Members commented that their priorities for investment are in relation to asset maintenance, partnership working, leisure and supporting the older population (particularly in rural areas across the District).

Question b: Where could the Council make savings to enable investment in other service?

Members were asked to consider those services, either within the remit of the Finance Advisory Committee or elsewhere that the Council may be able to disinvest to enable investment in other areas.

There is some contradiction with (other) Members suggesting that leisure is an area which could be considered for savings. Members also suggested savings could be drawn from expenditure on sites for the Districts gypsy and traveller community and the bus station.

A suggestion that was not service specific was to move Council offices.

Question c: What services work well?

Members were asked to consider those services, either within the remit of the Advisory Committee or elsewhere, that perform well.

As with almost all of the Advisory Committee meetings the Council's refuse collection service was said to perform well. Within the Finance area Members commented that local tax and treasury management were performing well as well as partnerships in financial services.

The Print Studio was also commended by Members.

Question d: What services would Members like to see make further improvement?

Members were asked to consider those services, either within the remit of the Advisory Committee or elsewhere, which could seek to make improvements in their performance.

Feedback from Members that did not relate to a specific service was (less) use of paper.

Members also consider that the Council could seek to improve the collection of sundry debt and leisure services.

Question e: What would Members like Cabinet to take into account?

Finance Advisory Committee

- ▶ More detailed financial reporting and engagement

In relation to responsibilities of other Advisory Committees the following feedback was given:

- Review of leisure service provider
- Wider commercial opportunities
- Aim to provide more services to partners or third parties

Item 8 – Swanley Regeneration

The attached report was considered by the Policy & Performance Advisory Committee on 26 November 2015, the relevant Minute extract below:

Policy & Performance Advisory Committee - 26 November (Minute 28)

The Chairman presented a report which sought approval of the demolition of redundant premises at the Former Swanley Working Men's Club, 18 High Street, 27 to 37 High Street and Bevan Place Car Park, Swanley. Development of the sites would generate income and capital receipts that can be reinvested. High quality development would serve the needs of the town and improve an important area of the town, thus supporting the Council's Economic Development strategy. It would also result in higher performing assets in accordance with the Council's approved Property Investment Strategy. Members were advised that the properties in their current state were being vandalised and that it was a hard site to keep secure.

Public Sector Equality Duty

Members noted that consideration had been given to impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Resolved: That it be recommended to Cabinet that the demolition of redundant premises at the Former Swanley Working Men's Club, 18 High Street, 27 to 37 High Street and Bevan Place Car Park, Swanley be approved, subject to a detailed appraisal of the VAT implications.

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Item 9 – Property Disposal Update

The attached report was considered by the Policy & Performance Advisory Committee on 26 November 2015, relevant Minute extract below:

Policy & Performance Advisory Committee - 26 November 2015 (Minute 24)

The Head of Economic Development and Property presented the report which sought approval to the disposal of surplus property assets at Shacklands Road, Badgers Mount. Disposal of surplus and underperforming assets will generate capital receipts that can be reinvested in higher performing assets in accordance with the Council's approved Property Investment Strategy.

The Committee was addressed by a local Member who explained that the woodland provided noise and pollution screening for the residents of Badgers Mount. He expressed concern that the ancient woodland would not be protected if it was sold to neighbouring properties and the value of the land was more important to the residents of Badgers Mount. He hoped discussions between the Council and the Parish Council could take place.

Members discussed measures that were being proposed to protect the trees including a restrictive covenant and Tree Preservation Orders (TPO). The Head of Economic Development and Property advised that if a TPO was breached it was possible that a fine per tree affected could be applied.

Members considered whether discussions should be entered into with Badgers Mount Parish Council for a period of 6 months to see whether they would be interested in purchasing the land. It was noted by Members that similar discussion had taken place with Westerham Town Council regarding land in Crockham Hill.

The Chairman moved that it be recommended to Cabinet that the Council enter into discussions with Badgers Mount Parish Council for a period of 6 months for the disposal of the surplus land at Shacklands Road and authorises the Head of Economic Development and Property to agree detailed Heads of Terms.

Public Sector Equality Duty

Members noted that consideration had been given to impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Resolved: That it be recommended to Cabinet that the Council enter into discussions with Badgers Mount Parish Council for a period of 6 months for the disposal of surplus land at Shacklands Road, Badgers Mount and authorises the Head of Economic Development and Property to agree detailed Heads of Terms.

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