

06 December 2018 at 7.00 pm

Conference Room, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks
Despatched: 05.12.18

Cabinet

Supplementary Agenda (3)

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|---|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 5. Budget Update 2019/20 - Replacement Appendix F | (Replacement page 57) | Adrian Rowbotham Tel: 01732 227153 |
| 11. Process undertaken to alter discretionary grant maximums associated with the Housing Assistance Policy - minute reference marked to follow | (Replacement page 159) | James Cox Tel: 01732227312 |
|  | | |
| 12. Housing Allocations Policy - minute reference marked to follow | (Replacement page 199) | Hayley Brooks Tel: 01732 227272 |
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If you wish to obtain further factual information on any of the agenda items listed above, please contact the named officer prior to the day of the meeting.

Should you need this agenda or any of the reports in a different format, or have any other queries concerning this agenda or the meeting please contact Democratic Services on 01732 227000 or democratic.services@sevenoaks.gov.uk.

Further Growth and Savings Suggestions made by the Advisory Committees

Economic and Community Development Advisory Committee

Savings

The Parish Projects capital budget of £51,000 be investigated as a possible one off saving due to the now alternative option of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding.

Legal and Democratic Services Advisory Committee

Savings

A shared service for the Legal team.

A full time magistrate on call to support the Legal team.

Removal of the Equalities Legislation budget

Review of the associated costs of agenda printing, delivery and Member postal arrangements.

Finance Advisory Committee

Growth

Preventative asset maintenance in order to have it fully funded within five years.

Housing and Health Advisory Committee (meeting took place after report completed)

Growth

Consideration be given to asking Officers to investigate whether there was an increased need which outweighed the current provision of the HERO service, and if so the Committee gave its general support to the scheme as a growth item.

Policy and Performance Advisory Committee (meeting took place after report completed)

Savings

Sponsorship of the Council's car parks.

A taxi licensing training centre at the Council's offices.

An increase in the publicity of the Council's MOT test centre.

A service level agreement for operators of council premises to use print studio.

No new growth and savings ideas were proposed at the Planning Advisory Committee or Direct and Trading Advisory Committee.

Item 11 - Process undertaken to alter discretionary grant maximums associated with the Housing Assistance Policy

The attached report was considered by the Housing & Health Advisory Committee on 27 November 2018. The relevant Minute extract is below:

Housing & Health Advisory Committee (27 November 2018, Minute 28)

The Private Sector Housing Team Leader presented a report which sought amendments to the current Housing Assistance Policy (HAP) adopted in December 2017 as demand for discretionary funding had dramatically increased. As a result of this dramatic increase the ability to better manage demand against available resource is required for all discretionary assistance, ensuring sufficient resources remained for the core services especially Mandatory Disabled Facility Grants.

Members took the opportunity to ask questions of clarification, it was confirmed that there was a degree of flexibility and discretion in awarding of grants. In response to the suggestion of a possible additional income stream of charging those who could afford advice on home improvements but didn't know where to go, the Private Sector Housing Team Leader responded that when this does occur customers are provided with the details of the Home Improvement Agency.

Public Sector Equality Duty

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

Resolved: It be recommended to Cabinet that

- a) a reduction of the maximum Accelerated Facility Grant from the current £7,500 to £6,500 and reduction of the Specific Situation Funding from the current £50,000 to £0.00 be approved; and
- b) the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Health (and any successor with responsibility for Housing) be delegated authority to amend all discretionary grant maximums.

Item 12 - Housing Allocations Policy

The attached report was considered by the Housing & Health Advisory Committee on 27 November 2018. The relevant Minute extract is below:

Housing & Health Advisory Committee (27 November 2018, Minute 30)

The Head of Housing & Health presented the report which sought approval of the revised Sevenoaks District Housing Allocations Policy to incorporate changes in legislation and to ensure that social housing allocations prioritise those with the greatest housing need. She advised that a couple of further amendments were required to 3.1 'Local Connection' which needed to reflect the Homelessness Code of Guidance, and 3.2 which needed to include the new Local Essential Worker definition.

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 to recommend to Council, the approval of the Housing Allocations Policy subject to

a) 3.1 (a) under 'Local Connection' being amended to read

'a) Having lived permanently in Sevenoaks District continuously for 6 out of the last 12 months, or 3 years in total out of the last 5 years'

to bring it in line with the Homelessness Code of Conduct; and

b) the Council's definition of Local Essential Workers' criteria, as set out within the draft Local Plan, be included in 3.2 'Employment in Sevenoaks District.'

