

09 July 2020 at 7.00 pm

This meeting will be held virtually
Despatched: 09.07.20



Cabinet

Supplementary Agenda (2)

	Pages	Contact
10. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Spending Board - Review of Governance	(Replacement pages 55-56)	Claire Pamberi Tel: 01732227221
11. Provisional Outturn 2019/20	(Replacement pages 95-96)	Alan Mitchell Tel: 01732227483
12. Earning Income from Council Owned Assets 	(Replacement pages 145-146)	Adrian Rowbotham Tel: 01732 227153
13. COVID-19 Financial Impact	(Replacement pages 163-164)	Alan Mitchell, Adrian Rowbotham Tel: 01732227483, Tel: 01732 227153

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.

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Item 10 - Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Spending Board - Review of Governance

The attached report was considered by the Development & Conservation Advisory Committee on 7 July 2020. The relevant Minute extract is below.

Development & Conservation Advisory Committee (9 July 2020, Minute 45)

The Planning Policy Team Leader (Infrastructure) presented a report on the annual review of governance arrangements of allocating Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding to local and strategic infrastructure projects across Sevenoaks District. The current governance arrangements had been agreed by Members of the Development and Conservation Advisory Committee in July 2019. The report set out some suggested changes following feedback received from Officers and the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the CIL Spending Board. The Planning Policy Team Leader (Infrastructure) advised that within the report Appendix G should be entitled "Process to 'Request a Review' rather than 'Appeal Process'". At the Chairman's discretion the Chairman of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Spending Board addressed the Committee on the points raised within the report and the value of the yearly governance review. Members noted that there would hopefully be Parish & Town Council training offered in the Autumn.

The Committee took the opportunity to welcome Carlyn Kan to the meeting as the new Infrastructure Delivery Officer.

In response to questions the Planning Policy Team Leader (Infrastructure) agreed that the reference to 'company' in Appendix A did need amending to 'organisation' for consistency.

In response to various questions she gave some examples of recent applications in order to illustrate how the current system had been working. Members were keen that no personal gain could be made at any time as a direct result of CIL funding. Officers were investigating how the council may be able to introduce a similar scheme they understood the NHS had, where they were able to claw back investment rather than there be any future personal financial gain e.g. from improving a privately owned building with a community use.

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

- a) the amendments to Appendix X1 of the Constitution, as set out in Appendices G and H of the report be agreed; and
- b) the report be noted.

Item 11 - Provisional Outturn 2019/20

The attached report was considered by the Finance & Investment Advisory Committee on 8 July 2020. The relevant Minute extract is below.

Finance & Investment Advisory Committee 8 July 2020, Minute 53)

The Head of Finance reported the Provisional Financial Outturn figures for 2019/20, which showed that a favourable variance of £52,000 had been achieved which represented 0.3% of the net service expenditure budget. The outturn had taken into account of Covid-19 including expenditure, loss and grant funding.

The budget and income figures for the Sevenoaks Switch and Save service were requested by Members.

Action 2: The Head of Finance to report to Members the budget and income figures for the Sevenoaks Switch and Save service.

Public Sector Equality Duty

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

Resolved: That the provisional outturn report for 2019/20 be noted.

Item 12 - Earning Income from Council Owned Assets

The attached report was considered by the Finance & Investment Advisory Committee on 8 July 2020. The relevant Minute extract is below.

Finance & Investment Advisory Committee (8 July 2020, Minute 56)

The Strategic Head of Property and Commercial gave an update on the report outlining the plans for Council owned assets.

As part of the due diligence process, officers found that the land adjacent to 9 Pound Lane should not be within the Council's ownership. Although registered in the Council's name, it had been established the land should have been transferred to Sevenoaks Town Council following the reorganisation of local government between 1972-1974. The Council were now seeking to transfer the land to Sevenoaks Town Council.

Since the publishing of the report, officers had considered other options for the disposal of the land to the rear of Sealcroft Cottages. Officers had proposed that an updated report be presented at a later meeting of Cabinet once further due diligence had been completed in order to consider if further benefits could be obtained from the land's disposal.

It was suggested by Members that the relevant parish and town councils be notified should any disposal of land be proposed by the Council in the future.

Public Sector Equality Duty

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

Resolved: That the disposal of Land to the Rear of Sealcroft Cottages be agreed in principle, subject to further due diligence work being undertaken, and that the following recommendations to Cabinet be endorsed:

That

- a) a further report be presented to Cabinet to approve the terms of the disposal of Land to the Rear of Sealcroft Cottages, following additional due diligence being undertaken to establish if further benefits can be derived from the sale of this land; and
- b) the transfer of the parcel of land at 9 Pound Lane, Sevenoaks to Sevenoaks Town Council be noted.

Item 13 - COVID-19 Financial Impact

The attached report was considered by the Finance & Investment Advisory Committee on 8 July 2020. The relevant Minute extract is below.

Finance & Investment Advisory Committee (8 July 2020, Minute 55)

The Chief Officer Finance & Trading presented the report which outlined the financial impact of Covid-19 and the intended financial recovery plan. The report was based on the latest financial return that was provided to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). The position would continue to change as ongoing financial impacts become clearer.

The financial implications of Covid-19 started in March 2020 with additional expenditure and reduced income of £178,000 in the 2019/20 financial year. This was offset by the funding received from Government meaning there was no overall impact for the 2019/20 year.

The financial impact had been much greater in the current year 2020/21. Funding from Government received so far had not offset the additional costs or reduced income. The impact currently forecast was £4.661m.

It was currently forecast that there would be £536,000 of additional expenditure incurred this financial year. This included the District Emergency Response aiming to provide support to those in most need. It was forecast that there would be £4.4m of reduced income for the year. The largest item was car parking income with low occupancy during lockdown and the suspension of charges. Other services with reduced demand during lockdown included trade waste, planning, building control and land charges. Council tax collection had also been impacted as staff had tried to support residents and businesses.

Government had provided £1.2m of funding to the Council so far and further funding had since been announced.

The 10-year budget process had put the Council in a strong financial position. The report proposed that the Council continues to use the 10-year budget process a framework for financial recovery from the impact of Covid-19. This would allow Members the opportunity to engage in the process and put forward their ideas.

In response to queries, the Chief Officer Finance & Trading advised that there was currently no impact of the leisure operator's current financial situation included in the assumptions.

In response to queries, Chief Officer Finance & Trading advised that the business rate retention scheme had a safety net which was a minimum level the Council would receive from business rates regardless of how much was collected. This was how much the Council had budgeted for, meaning there was no financial impact expected this year.

The Committee requested their vote of thanks to be recorded, to all staff in the Revenues and Benefits team within the Council, to acknowledge their hard work in distributing business grants and delivering financial relief to residents quickly during the lockdown period.

Public Sector Equality Duty

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

Resolved: That

- a) the financial impact of Covid-19 on the Council be noted; and
- b) it be recommended to Cabinet that the Council address the impact of the Covid-19 response and recovery through the thorough 10-year budget setting process as set out in the report.