

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 19th January, 2021

Present: Cllr J L Sergison (Chairman), Cllr Mrs A S Oakley (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Mrs J A Anderson, Cllr M C Base, Cllr T Bishop, Cllr J L Botten, Cllr M D Boughton, Cllr C Brown, Cllr R W Dalton, Cllr M O Davis, Cllr M A J Hood, Cllr D Keers, Cllr H S Rogers, Cllr M Taylor and Cllr Miss G E Thomas

Councillors Mrs P A Bates, Mrs S Bell, R P Betts, V M C Branson, A E Clark, M A Coffin, N J Heslop, S A Hudson, D W King, J R S Lark, D Lettington and P J Montague were also present pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No 15.21.

An apology for absence were received from Councillor F G Tombolis.

PART 1 - PUBLIC

OS 21/1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

OS 21/2 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 3 December 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS FOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE CABINET

OS 21/3 REVENUE ESTIMATES 2021/22

The report of the Director of Finance and Transformation referred to the responsibility of the Cabinet under the Constitution for formulating initial draft proposals in respect of the Budget. Reference was made to the role of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in assisting the Cabinet and the Council in preparation of the Budget for 2021/22 within the context of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and the Council's priorities.

Attention was drawn to the difficulties experienced within the budget setting process of incorporating an estimate of the scale of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the Borough Council's finances in 2020/21 and 2021/22 and over the medium term.

RECOMMENDED: That

- (1) the draft Revenue Estimates presented to the meeting of the Finance, Innovation and Property Advisory Board be endorsed for consideration by Cabinet at its special meeting on 11 February 2021; and
- (2) the Savings and Transformation Strategy be updated to reflect the latest projected funding gap as part of the budget setting process.

Referred to Cabinet*OS 21/4 CAPITAL PLAN 2021/22**

The report of the Director of Finance and Transformation considered progress on the 2020/21 Capital Plan Review and requested endorsement of recommendations to the Cabinet.

RECOMMENDED: That

- (1) the recommendations of the Finance, Innovation and Property Advisory Board detailed at paragraph 1.3 be endorsed;
- (2) the Cabinet be invited to endorse the Capital Strategy as attached (at Annex 5) for adoption by Council and publication on the Borough Councils' website.

Referred to Cabinet*OS 21/5 KING HILL PARISH COUNCIL - REQUEST FOR ADVANCE OF PRECEPT MONIES**

The joint report of the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance and Transformation advised of a request received from Kings Hill Parish Council for an advance of part of the 2021/22 local precept. At the meeting of the Finance, Innovation and Property Advisory Board held on 6 January, Members recommended that the request be supported given the exceptional circumstances.

Recommendations from both the Advisory Board and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be referred to Cabinet on 26 January 2021 for a final decision.

It was confirmed that the advance would be automatically recovered through the biannual payment of precept and therefore there was no risk to the Borough Council.

RECOMMENDED: That

- (1) the request from Kings Hill Parish Council for an advance of £60,000, and repayment as set out in the report, be supported due to the exceptional circumstances;
- (2) the recommendation from the Finance, Innovation and Property Advisory Board of 6 January 2021 be noted; and
- (3) Cabinet at its meeting on 26 January 2020 approve the request from Kings Hill Parish Council so that the payment timescale of 31 January 2021 could be met.

***Referred to Cabinet**

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PRIVATE**OS 21/6 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

There were no items considered in private.

PART 2 - PRIVATE**OS 21/7 URGENT ITEMS**

The meeting ended at 8.00 pm