

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - 20 JULY 2020

Present: Councillor Brock (Chair);

Councillors Page (Vice-Chair), Barnett-Ward, Duveen, Ennis, Hoskin, Rowland, Skeats, Stevens and White

RESOLVED ITEMS

17. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 22 June 2020 were agreed as a correct record and would be signed by the Chair.

18. PETITIONS AND QUESTIONS

Catherine Whipple presented a petition about improving air quality and road safety on Crescent Road. Councillor Page, Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning & Transport, responded to the petition.

Questions on the following matters were submitted by members of the public:

| | <u>Questioner</u> | <u>Subject</u> | <u>Reply</u> |
|----|-------------------|---|--------------|
| 1. | Tom Lake | Health & Wellbeing Board | Cllr Hoskin |
| 2. | Els de Mets | Pedestrian Crossing - Upper Redlands Road | Cllr Page |

Questions on the following matters were submitted by Councillors:

| | <u>Questioner</u> | <u>Subject</u> | <u>Reply</u> |
|----|-------------------|--|-------------------|
| 1. | Cllr Duveen | Council Accounts | Cllr Brock |
| 2. | Cllr White | Risks of Covid-19 to the Black, Asian and Minority Communities | Cllr Ennis |
| 3. | Cllr White | Road Safety on Crescent Road | Cllr Page |
| 4. | Cllr White | Road Safety on Upper Redlands Road | Cllr Page |
| 5. | Cllr R Singh | Litter | Cllr Barnett-Ward |
| 6. | Cllr McGonigle | Litter in Parks | Cllr Barnett-Ward |

(The full text of the petition, questions and responses was made available on the Reading Borough Council website).

19. DECISION BOOKS

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The Assistant Director of Legal & Democratic Services submitted a report listing the Decision Books that had been published since the meeting of the Committee held on 22 June 2020.

Resolved -

That Decision Book Nos 601-606 be noted.

20. HOUSEHOLD WASTE - IMPLICATIONS OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON THE FOOD WASTE AND 140L BINS TIMETABLE

The Executive Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report providing an update on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the current project timetable for the delivery of the food waste/140 litre bin project and to present a revised timetable for consideration and approval. Maps showing the locations of the early adopters, and the results and responses from the consultation with the Citizen's Panel, were attached to the report.

The report noted that the pandemic had impacted on the resources available to the team and the ability to deliver an effective early adopters' phase. This initial phase was considered vital to the success of the project, with learning outcomes being fed into the main roll out. The early adopters' phase had originally been planned for July 2020, but it was now proposed to commence in October 2020 with a full roll out of the scheme planned for February 2021. The main roll out would be dependent on the success of the initial phases of work, which would still be liable to some risks associated with the on-going implications of the pandemic on resources and the community's capacity to embrace a change to the collection process. The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy had expected £171k of savings to be delivered in 2020/21 and a further £171k in 2021/22. The preferred option would not achieve the 2020/21 saving due to the later than anticipated full roll out of the service. However, it was anticipated that in 2021/22 the full saving of £342k would be achieved.

Resolved -

That the introduction of a food waste collection service and the introduction of 140 litre bins project be commenced from 5 October 2020 (Early Adopters) and 1 February 2021 (Main Roll Out).

21. HIGH STREET HERITAGE ACTION ZONE PROGRAMME 2020-2024

The Executive Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report seeking approval to add the High Streets Heritage Action Zones (HSHAZ) Project to the Capital Programme. A map showing the area covered by the Project was attached to the report.

The report explained that Historic England (HE) had launched the High Street Heritage Action programme with the goal to make the high street a more attractive, engaging and vibrant place for people to live, work and spend time. HE had invited applications to run

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programmes with the main criteria being that the high streets should lie in conservation areas. The Council had been successful in its bid to HE following significant input from the local community. The high streets that would be the focus of the HSHAZ would be the eastern end of Oxford Road, Castle Street, London Street, the southern end of St Mary's Butts and Market Place.

The report advised that the project had been awarded a grant of up to £806,500 from HE and therefore required £808,500 to be match funded from Reading Borough Council through S106 contributions and CIL funding and other sources, such as property owners and other sponsors to make up the full cost of the scheme. The purpose of this report was to seek approval to include the HSHAZ Project within the Capital Programme.

Resolved -

- (1) That the inclusion of an additional £1,340k to the 2020/21 - 2024/25 Capital programme be approved for the High Street Heritage Action Zone to be funded from Historic England grant and central area S106 and CIL monies;**
- (2) That the funding, as set out in Section 10 of the report, be allocated and authority to receive grant money and spend funds to support the programme be delegated to the Executive Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services, in consultation with the Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport and the Lead Councillor for Culture, Heritage & Recreation;**
- (3) That it be noted that future years' funding allocations would be sought from CIL 15% (Central Area) local funds and Section 106 funds.**

22. DRAFT DESIGN GUIDE FOR HOUSE EXTENSIONS SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

The Executive Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report on a Draft Design Guide to House Extensions Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), which was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

The report explained that the SPD gave user-friendly guidance on how planning applications for house extensions would be decided. Approval was sought to undertake community involvement on the draft SPD, which would be taken into account in the preparation of the final version of the Guide. It was intended that the consultation would begin in August and last for eight weeks, rather than the usual six, to take account of the school summer holidays. The new SPD retained much of the guidance within the existing Design Guide, as good practice on the design of house extensions had not changed significantly. However, the document was brought up to date with new references and links to the new Local Plan policy. It also took account of changes that had happened in recent years, such as those to permitted development rights for house extensions. It was anticipated that the final version of the Design Guide would be adopted in the autumn 2020.

Resolved -

- (1) That the Draft Design Guide for House Extensions SPD, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved for consultation;
- (2) That the Deputy Director of Planning, Transport and Regulatory Services be authorised to make any minor amendments necessary to the SPD that did not alter the policy direction, in consultation with the Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport, prior to consultation.

23. CENTRAL AND EASTERN BERKSHIRE JOINT MINERALS AND WASTE PLAN - PROPOSED SUBMISSION

The Executive Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report on the Central and Eastern Berkshire Joint Minerals and Waste Local Plan (CEBJMWP), which was being prepared on behalf of Reading Borough Council, Bracknell Forest Borough Council, Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and Wokingham Borough Council. The Proposed Submission Central and Eastern Berkshire Joint Minerals and Waste Plan and an equality impact assessment were attached to the report.

The report noted that the Plan had now been through several stages of consultation, and it recommended the approval of a Proposed Submission version of the Plan for consultation followed by submission to the Secretary of State. This was intended to be the final consultation draft of the document, and submission would be followed by a public examination, which would include a set of public hearings, before final approval could be granted.

Resolved -

- (1) That the results of consultation on the Draft Central and Eastern Berkshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan and Focussed Regulation 18 Consultation be noted;
- (2) That the Proposed Submission Central and Eastern Berkshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan, as set out in Appendix 2 to the report, be approved;
- (3) That community involvement on the Proposed Submission Central and Eastern Berkshire Joint Minerals and Waste Plan and associated supporting documents be authorised;
- (4) That the Deputy Director of Planning, Transport and Regulatory Services be authorised to make any minor amendments necessary to the Proposed Submission Central and Eastern Berkshire Joint Minerals and Waste Plan in consultation with the Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport, prior to community involvement;

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- (5) That the Proposed Submission Central and Eastern Berkshire Joint Minerals and Waste Plan be authorised for submission to the Secretary of State should no significant issues arise during community involvement that would necessitate a substantive change to the document;
- (6) That the Deputy Director of Planning, Transport and Regulatory Services be authorised to make any minor amendments necessary to the Proposed Submission Central and Eastern Berkshire Joint Minerals and Waste Plan that did not alter the policy direction, in consultation with the Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport, prior to their submission to the Secretary of State and prior to the consequent Public Examination of the plan.

(The meeting started at 6.30 pm and closed at 7.53 pm)