

CABINET
Thursday 24 February 2022

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for Absence**

2. **Declarations of Interest**

To receive declarations of interest from Members including the terms(s) of the Grant of Dispensation (if any) by the Audit Board or the Chief Officer & Director of Corporate Services.

3. **Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on 27 January 2022 (Pages 1 - 6)**

Summary:

To consider the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 27 January 2022 as an accurate record.

Recommendation:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 27 January 2022 be confirmed as an accurate record.

4. **Urgent Items**

The Chairman will announce his decision as to whether there are any urgent items and their position on the agenda.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PUBLIC

5. **To receive the Minutes of the Cabinet Advisory Panel held on 21 February 2022**

To follow

6. **References from Committees**

None at this stage.

A - Strategies, Policies, Key Decisions, Consultations

7. **Draft Budget 2022/23 and Fees and Charges 2022/23 (Pages 7 - 182)**

Summary:

To consider the Draft Budget for 2022-23. The report:

- proposes and recommends the draft Budget 2022/23 to the General Assembly of the Council for approval;
- recommends the freezing of rents for Housing Revenue Account properties and the chargeable for pitches at Claywood Lane, Caravan Site, Bean; and
- recommends approval of Fees and Charges schedules for the General Fund and HRA.

Recommendations:

1. That, for the reasons detailed in paras. 3.4 and 3.5 of the report, the rents relating to Housing Revenue Account properties and the chargeable for pitches at Claywood Lane, Caravan Site, Bean be frozen from the first rent week in 2022/23;
2. That the draft Budget, including an update on the current financial position, at Appendix A to the report, be proposed and recommended to the General Assembly of the Council for approval;
3. That the Customer Access Review, at Appendix B to the report, be noted; and
4. That the Fees and Charges 2022/23 (at Appendix B(ii) and C(iii) - draft Budget), with effect from 1 April 2022, be approved.

8. **Proposals for Public Spaces Protection Order The Dartford Borough Council Public Spaces Protection Order 2022 - Nuisance Vehicles - Borough of Dartford (Pages 183 - 226)**

Summary:

To consider a proposal to implement Part 4, Section 59 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 to make a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO), to suppress the growing incidents of traffic offences and associated anti-social behaviour occurring principally due to nuisance vehicles across the Borough. The Cabinet is also asked to keep the existing Public Spaces Protection Order in Town Ward in place.

Recommendations:

1. That on being satisfied that the anti-social behaviour activities detailed in paras.3.91 and 3.92 of the report are having, or are likely to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, are persistent or continuing nature and unreasonable, the Director of Housing and Public Protection be authorised to commence the statutory consultation to enable the Council to make a Public Spaces Protection Order prohibiting anti-social behaviour associated with the gathering displaying and racing of

motor vehicles as well as driving on land other than a road on terms set out in Appendix A to the report, to apply to the whole of the Council's administrative area, as identified on the Order Map, at Appendix B to the report;

2. That, should recommendation 2.1 be approved, a second report be presented to Cabinet which takes into account the outcome of the consultation process with a view to seeking authority for the Head of Legal Services to make The Dartford Borough Council Public Spaces Protection Order 2022 – Nuisance Vehicles – Borough of Dartford, for a period of three years; and
3. That the Public Spaces Protection Order for Dartford Town Centre remains in place.

9. **Climate Change Impact Assessment (Pages 227 - 234)**

Summary:

The Council recognises the serious impact of climate change and is committed to playing its part in pursuing measures that address environmental decline.

As part of this commitment this report sets out a new approach that will ensure that climate change impact assessments are undertaken as part of the service design and report formulation process for all future Committee reports. This will put a clear focus on the impact of Council's actions on climate change at the heart of all future decision making

Recommendation:

That for the reasons set out in the report, a climate change impact assessment is undertaken as part of all future reports, and for the outcome to be reported as a mandatory requirement, ensuring that formal decisions are made having considered the potential impact on climate change.

10. **Risk Management Strategy Review 2021 (Pages 235 - 256)**

Summary:

To consider the revised Risk Management Strategy and associated guidance following consideration by the Audit Board on 26 January 2022.

Recommendation:

That the Risk Management Strategy, at Appendix A to the report, be approved.

11. **Proposed Response to the Consultation on the Introduction of Tenant Satisfaction Measures by the Regulator of Social Housing (Pages 257 - 280)**

Summary:

The Regulator of Social Housing is seeking views on its proposals for tenant satisfaction measures which are part of implementing changes to consumer regulation set out in the Government's 'The Charter for Social Housing Residents: Social Housing White Paper. The report sets out the Council's proposed response to the consultation.

Recommendation:

That the Council's proposed response, at Appendix A to the report, be approved for submission to the Regulator of Social Housing.

B - Non-Key Decisions, Monitoring Reports

12. **Extension of the Transitional Relief and Supporting Small Business Rates Relief Scheme 2022/23 (Pages 281 - 292)**

Summary:

To consider the proposed approach to delivering the Government's extension to Transitional Relief and Supporting Small Business Rates Relief.

Recommendations:

1. That, the Government's announcement to extend the current transitional relief and supporting small business rates relief for small and medium properties, for one year to the end of the current revaluation cycle, be noted; and
2. That the Extension to the Transitional Relief and Supporting Small Business Rates Relief Scheme (2022/23), as set out in Appendix A to the report, be approved.

13. **Council Tax Discounts for Unoccupied and Unfurnished Dwellings and Long Term Empty Premium (Pages 293 - 298)**

Summary:

To consider the level of Council Tax discount for unoccupied and unfurnished dwellings and to consider increasing the premium on dwellings that are long term empty (unoccupied and unfurnished for

more than 2 years).

Recommendations:

1. That Cabinet recommend to the General Assembly of the Council that the Council Tax discount for unoccupied and unfurnished dwellings, be changed from 100% for one month to 0%; and
2. That Cabinet recommend to the General Assembly of the Council that the additional charge for dwellings that are unoccupied and unfurnished for 5 years to one day less than 10 years, be increased from 100% to 200% and dwellings that are unoccupied and unfurnished for 10 years or more, be increased to 300%.

14. **Write-off of National Non-Domestic Rates (Pages 299 - 304)**

Summary:

To consider writing-off Non Domestic Rate debts where it has not been possible to obtain payment because of insolvency, because the ratepayer cannot be traced or where the debt is otherwise irrecoverable.

Recommendation:

That the sums shown at Appendix A, in the confidential part of the report, amounting to £252,367.72, be written off as uncollectible.

15. **Calendar of meetings of the General Assembly of the Council, Committees, Boards and Panels 2022-24 (Pages 305 - 310)**

Summary:

To seek Members' views on the proposed calendar of meetings for the Municipal Year 2022/23 and the provisional calendar for 2023/24.

Recommendation:

That the proposed calendar of meetings for the Municipal Year 2022/23 and the provisional calendar of meetings for 2023/24 be submitted to the Annual Meeting of the Council.

C - Items for Information, noting, endorsing

16. **Delegated Action taken under Standing Order 38:
Decarbonisation Works to Public Buildings (Pages 311 - 316)**

Summary:

To report to Cabinet, in accordance with the requirements of

Standing Order 38(2)(b), the delegated action taken under Standing Order 38(2)(a) by the Director of Housing & Public Protection, in consultation with the Cabinet Chairman, relating to a revised scheme for decarbonisation works to public buildings, utilising funding from the Government and additional Council funding, and to place orders to ensure that the works can be completed by the end of June 2022 as stipulated in the conditions of the funding agreement.

Recommendation:

That Cabinet notes the action taken by the Director of Housing & Public Protection, in consultation with the Cabinet Chairman, under Standing Order 38(2)(a), to implement a revised scheme for decarbonisation works to public buildings, utilising funding from the Government and additional Council funding, and to place orders to ensure that the works can be completed by the end of June 2022 as stipulated in the conditions of the funding agreement with the Government.

17. Committee Minutes (Pages 317 - 336)

Summary:

To consider the minutes of the following meetings:

(a) Policy Overview Committee held on 14 December 2021; and

(b) Strategic Housing Board held on 28 January 2022.

Recommendation:

That the minutes of the Policy Overview Committee held on 14 December 2021 and of the Strategic Housing Board held on 28 January 2022 be noted.

Exclusion of the Press and Public

TO RESOLVE: That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information.

D - Items for Consideration in Private

A. Write-off of National Non-Domestic Rates - Exempt Appendix A (Exempt Category SO 46(1)(b) Annex 1 Paragraph 3) (Pages 337 - 338)

Summary:

To consider Exempt Appendix A to the main report providing details of cases where the Cabinet is being asked to write-off Non Domestic Rate debts where it has not been possible to obtain payment because of insolvency, because the ratepayer cannot be traced or where the debt is otherwise irrecoverable.

Recommendation:

That the sums shown at Exempt Appendix A to the main report, amounting to £252,367.72, be written off as uncollectible.