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Our reference:
Your reference:
Date: 10 March 2021

Record of Decisions taken by Cabinet – Tuesday, 9 March 2021

At a meeting of the Cabinet held on Tuesday, 9 March 2021 the following decisions were reached on the items listed in the attached schedule.

The implementation of any key decisions are suspended until the call-in period has expired without a call-in being validly invoked.

Under the Rushcliffe Borough Council Constitution, call-in is available in respect to key decisions only.

The call-in deadline for any key decisions contained in this Decision Notice is before the end of the working day on Thursday, 18 March 2021. Subject to any call-in request being received, all the decisions will be actioned after Thursday, 18 March 2021.

Any Member of the Council shall be entitled to call for a decision to be suspended. To effect the call-in procedure, the appropriate form should be completed and returned to the Chief Executive by the end of the working day on Thursday, 18 March 2021.

REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING 2020/21 - FINANCIAL AND COVID UPDATE QUARTER 3

It was RESOLVED that the report be approved, and the following be noted:

- a) the expected net revenue efficiency for the year of £0.721m;
- b) the capital budget efficiencies of £7.3m; and
- c) the expected outturn position for Special Expenses of £0.087m deficit.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To demonstrate good governance in terms of scrutinising the Council's on-going financial position and compliance with Council Financial Regulations.

MANAGEMENT OF OPEN SPACES IN NEW DEVELOPMENTS

It is RESOLVED that:

- a) the inclusion of guidance within a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to provide consistency to future Open Space schemes be supported; and
- b) the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning write a letter to the Secretary of State highlighting the issues raised and recommends they bring forward guidance to address the issues identified.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

A Supplementary Planning Document would provide a policy basis for establishing a standard expected for the management and maintenance of open spaces on new housing developments in the Borough. This would allow officers to take steps to negotiate the content of open space schemes to include and exclude matters relevant to the scheme.

Legal Agreements that secure the Open Space Schemes will support consistency and clarity. However, the Borough Council has no powers to dictate which management company must be used, or the prices they can charge for the services. Furthermore, the Borough Council has no ability to get involved with disputes over price increases, hidden costs and currently residents have no ability to request / elect a new management company to act on their behalf. These are matters that would require a change in legislation, and the letter from the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning to the Secretary of State will highlight the issues and request that guidance be brought forward to address them.

EDWALTON GOLF COURSE STRATEGIC REVIEW

It was RESOLVED that:

- a) the feedback from the Communities Scrutiny Group, which includes the endorsement of a golfing need at Edwalton Golf Course be acknowledged; and
- b) the utilisation of £0.05m of 2020/21 projected in-year budget efficiencies be allocated to undertake a further detailed technical risk assessment of the site and thereafter a further £0.25m for further master planning work, assuming the risks identified are not prohibitive so that a realistic and deliverable masterplan can be achieved for the site.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To ensure that the Council's Edwalton Golf Course asset continues to deliver maximum value for money for taxpayers across the Borough, whilst providing appropriate community infrastructure and the right level of leisure provision. More work is needed on refining future options for the site which includes further technical

assessments of the site.

USE OF FIREWORKS AT BOROUGH COUNCIL EVENTS

It was RESOLVED that:

- a) the discontinuation of the use of loud fireworks at Council events be approved; and
- b) the launch of a public communications campaign to encourage external event operators and residents to adopt the Council's approach to use of fireworks.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

There is a growing body of evidence regarding the health impacts of firework noise, both upon vulnerable people and animals. By increasing the Council's controls on the use of loud fireworks at Rushcliffe Borough Council events, the Council would be demonstrating community leadership and promoting the delivery of more inclusive and considerate events. The recommendation to restrict to the Council's use of fireworks to low / zero noise would replicate a similar policy decision made by a neighbouring district council.

GOVERNMENT CALL FOR STEP SITES

It was RESOLVED that the submission of the expression of interest for the Ratcliffe on Soar site as one of several sites being put forward in the East Midlands to the STEP programme be endorsed.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

The chosen site will have global visibility and form the centre of a programme of activity supporting thousands of high-quality high-tech jobs. STEP will support economic growth, providing the opportunity to attract £1.5bn of inward investment, and the training of highly skilled engineers. It will also be an integral part of meeting the global net zero challenge.

The proposal complements other opportunities being progressed for the redevelopment of the Ratcliffe on Soar site including the proposals for a Development Corporation and the recently submitted Freeport bid. STEP is an additional option to be explored with potential to complement the decarbonisation and innovation objectives of the region and it is a none binding expression of interest at this stage.

OFFICIAL

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Sull', written on a light-colored background.

Sanjit Sull
Monitoring Officer