

UPDATE/PROGRESS WITH MATTERS PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED BY THE SOCIETY, ENVIRONMENT, AND COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT EAB

Date of Meeting	Item	Lead Officer	Lead Councillor	Action Agreed	Progress to date
7Jan 2016	Housing Revenue Account Estimates 2016-17	Philip O'Dwyer (Director of Community Services)	Councillor Tony Rooth	The Board approved the recommendations to the Executive (19/01/16), as submitted in the report.	The Council adopted the HRA budget for 2016-17 at the Budget Council meeting on 10 February 2016.
	General Fund Capital Programme (2016-17 to 2020-21)	Claire Morris (Head of Financial Services)	Cllr Nigel Manning (now Cllr Michael Illman)	<p>The Board advised the Executive</p> <p>(i) That external funding for Chilworth Gunpowder Mills and all appropriate projects be explored by officers.</p> <p>(ii) That annual forecast balances of the respective costs and benefits be included in capital expenditure proposals whenever possible.</p>	
	Service and Financial Planning - General Fund Budget 2016-17	Claire Morris (Head of Financial Services)	Cllr Nigel Manning (now Cllr Michael Illman)	Board members reiterated the need to be aware of the potential risks of capital programme debt given the position and outlook for the Council's revenue account.	The Council adopted the General Fund budget for 2016-17 at the Budget Council meeting on 10 February 2016.
25 Feb 2016	Procurement	Satish Mistry (Director of Corporate Services)	Councillor Matt Furniss	The Board agreed to invite officers back to a meeting in six to nine months, to report on what had been achieved and to provide new information regarding a targeted approach to cost savings.	Report back now scheduled for 23 February 2017
	Play Strategy	Jonathan Sewell (Leisure Services Manager)	Councillor Iseult Roche	The Board reviewed the objectives of the strategy, the preparation process and the policy decisions and were supportive of the content.	Executive adopted the Play Strategy on 19 April 2016

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7 April 2016	The Future of the Electric Theatre	James Whiteman (Director of Environment)	Cllr Geoff Davis (now Councillor Nikki Nelson-Smith)	<p>The Board fully supported the recommendations for Executive's consideration.</p> <p>The Board suggested that detailed specifications for community use of the Electric Theatre, as well as a break clause, should be included when setting out the terms and conditions as part of the procurement exercise</p>	<p>On 19 April 2016, the Executive authorised the Director of Environment, in consultation with the Lead Councillor, the Director of Corporate Services and the Electric Theatre and Yvonne Arnaud Theatre Working Group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) To agree the precise form of the procurement exercise b) To agree the criteria to be used in the procurement exercise (including the nature and extent of the community use to be secured) c) To agree the nature and form of any disposal of The Electric Theatre pursuant to the procurement exercise d) To carry out the procurement exercise e) To report back to the Executive at the conclusion of the above and prior to the award of any contract and/or disposal of The Electric Theatre <p>On 3 January 2017, the Executive will consider a confidential report on the outcome of the procurement exercise referred to above and award a lease to a new operator.</p>
26 May 2016	Business Rates Discretionary Rate Review	Steve White (Director of Resources)	Councillor Michael Illman	<p>The Board indicated that the application process should encourage the dual-use of properties, as well as offering incentives for pursuits that may complement local authority activity.</p> <p>The Board suggested that the Executive should receive an explanation of what each organisation</p>	<p>On 19 July 2016, the Executive agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) to make no changes to the discretionary rate relief scheme, but noted that there will be an increase in cost over the next three years; (2) to review the scheme again in 2019 when there will be more information available about both future funding and

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				in receipt of rate relief offered to the community.	the health of the high street.
	Business Planning: Assumptions, Priorities and Deficit Reduction	Claire Morris (Head of Financial Services)	Councillor Michael Illman	<p>The Board suggested that the public should be consulted before the transformation of any Council services.</p> <p>The Board recommended that the Executive consider adopting a mixed economy of the organisational models described in the report for the medium term financial strategy.</p>	On 19 July 2016, the Executive agreed the various budget assumptions, but decided that the Council should adopt an 'Entrepreneurial Council' model for the medium term financial strategy.
14 July 2016	Arts Development Strategy	Jonathan Sewell (Leisure Services Manager)	Councillor Nikki Nelson-Smith	<p>The Board suggested that a review should be carried out to identify any missed opportunities due to a lack of resources and to determine how additional funding could be used to enhance the arts development provision in the Borough.</p> <p>The Board resolved that the officers and the lead councillor review the budget for the Arts Development Service.</p>	
8 September 2016	Local Council Tax Support Scheme for 2017-18	Steve White (Director of Resources)	Councillor Tony Rooth/Councillor Michael Illman	The Board recommended that no changes be made to the current Local Council Tax Support Scheme, subject to the feedback the Council would receive from stakeholder consultation.	This was considered by the Executive at their meeting on 29 November, and Full Council at the meeting on 6 December.
	Website Development Project	Jenifer Davis (Web Programme Manager)	Councillor Paul Spooner	The Board suggested that as both Councillors and residents used Modern.Gov and the search system for planning applications regularly, it	<p>Council agreed to make no changes.</p> <p>This project is progressing well and all set to be delivered before Christmas.</p> <p>The actions arising from the meeting referred</p>

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				<p>was important that they functioned properly and should be included in the project.</p>	<p>to two specific areas where the website is integrated to internal systems – the planning system (Idox) and Modern.Gov, which the committee services team use for managing and publishing committee information.</p> <p>As part of the website development project we are working with Modern.Gov to ensure a consistent look and feel across the two areas, we are also looking at the way that the information is presented to simplify the user journey. Additionally, by introducing a “Council and Democracy” area on the site, we hope to make this type of information more easily accessible to all.</p> <p>The action to look at the planning application searches is more complex, as the system for the storage and retrieval of planning applications is provided by Idox and the roadmap to deliver upgrades and improvements needs to be agreed with them directly. We are working with them to determine whether we can change the look and feel of the area, and can make requests for functional changes, but, as part of a large group of customers using the same system, we are not able to determine the timescale or priority for any functional development or implementation. The planning team work directly with Idox and will continue to ensure the system meets our customer needs. We will report back to EAB once progress is made with Idox. The new website went live as planned in December 2016.</p>

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20 October 2016	Smart Cities: An Energy, Climate Change and Sustainability Perspective		Councillor Nikki Nelson-Smith	The Board asked the Lead Councillor to consider the matters discussed at the meeting with the other members of the Executive at the relevant time.	
21 November 2016	Proposed Leisure Strategy	Jonathan Sewell (Leisure Services Manager)	Councillor Richard Billington	The Board agreed that the development of a facilities led Leisure Strategy should be dependent on the outcome of the public consultation on the feasibility of a new sports and entertainment venue and the non-user survey being commissioned by Freedom Leisure.	
	Business Planning – General Fund Outline Budget 2017-18	Claire Morris (Head of Financial Services)	Councillor Michael Illman	<p>The Board submitted the following comments to the Executive:</p> <p>(a) no comment on the medium term financial strategy</p> <p>(b) In relation to the variances in section 11 and Appendix 3 between the 2016-17 budget and the 2017-18 outline budget, the Board expressed concern:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • over the inference from paragraph 11.10 of the report that the Council is pushing the solution to the funding gap into the future by identifying the necessary savings of around £5m over the five-year period to 2020-21; • that some of the potential actions for reducing the funding gap listed (a) to (h) in paragraph 11.17, for example, adjusting some of the assumptions, do not give the impression that real savings will be achieved. Officers responded by 	The General Fund Budget will be considered by the Executive on 24 January and full Council at the budget meeting on 8 February 2017.

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				<p>acknowledging that the funding gap is being addressed by the Council's transformation programme but that proposals arising inevitably take time to introduce. The Lead Councillor for Finance accepted the need to face up to the significant financial challenges facing the Council in the future.</p> <p>(c) The Board supported the proposed growth bids and proposals for savings or income</p> <p>(d) The Board supported the proposed use of the new homes bonus, business rates equalisation and budget pressures reserves as described in the report</p> <p>(e) In relation to the suggested ways, outlined in paragraph 11.17 that officers proposed to balance the budget for 2017-18, the Board expressed concern that some of the potential actions for reducing the funding gap listed (a) to (h) in paragraph 11.17, for example, adjusting some of the assumptions, did not give the impression that real savings would be achieved.</p> <p>(f) In relation to the proposed fees and charges, the Board expressed concern that the proposed increase in burial charge for an earthen grave 6ft x 3 ft (children's section) was 10.6% (£85), the highest percentage increase in all the proposed cemetery charges.</p>	