

## Council

Tuesday, 18 December 2018

7.30 pm

### Present:

The Worshipful the Mayor, Cllr David Hurley  
The Deputy Mayor, Cllr Lesley Boycott

Councillors:	Valerie Ashenden	Sara Langdale
	Gurjit Kaur Bains	John Loughlin
	Conrad Broadley	Jordan Meade
	Gurdip Ram Bungar	Lyn Milner
	John Burden	Shane Mochrie-Cox
	Julia Burgoyne	Leslie Pearton
	Colin Caller	Anthony Pritchard
	John Caller	Peter Rayner
	Harold Craske	Lenny Rolles
	Lee Croxton	Brian Sangha
	Brian Francis	Peter Scollard
	Sandra Garside	Derek Shelbrooke
	Greta Goatley	Makhan Singh
	Rob Halpin	Lauren Sullivan
	Gary Harding	Narinder Singh Thandi
	Leslie Hills	Robin Theobald
	Karen Hurdle	Steve Thompson
	Samir Jassal	David Turner
	John Knight	Jenny Wallace
	William Lambert	Michael Wenban

David Hughes	Chief Executive
Stuart Bobby	Director (Corporate Services)
Nick Brown	Director (Environment & Operations)
Kevin Burbidge	Director (Housing & Regeneration)
Melanie Norris	Director (Communities)
Wendy Lane	Assistant Director (Planning)
Jan Guylar	Head of Legal Services, Medway Council
Simon Walsh	Service Manager (Communities)
Tony Chadwick	Acting Planning Policy Manager
Ashley Wilcox	Communications Manager
Carlie Simmonds	Committee Services Manager (Minutes)

### 23. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bronwen McGarrity and Alan Ridgers.

## 24. Minutes

The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 9 October 2018 were signed by the Mayor.

## 25. Declaration of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

## 26. To answer any questions received from members of the public of which notice has been given under Council Procedure Rule 13

No questions had been received.

## 27. Petition - 'Do Not Build on Gravesham's Green Belt'

In accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme, Mr Bob Lane (Petition Organiser) presented the Council with the following petition as it had achieved the signatures required:-

### ***Do Not Build on Gravesham's Green Belt***

*Gravesham Borough Council is considering options to remove 80 hectares of land from the Green Belt to allow 2,000 new homes to be built. These homes will not be affordable, and this will do nothing to address the problems faced by the residents of Gravesham – all it will do is attract more people to the area and put more strain on local services and infrastructure.*

*We do not believe it is necessary to build 8,000 new dwellings to meet local need.*

*We call on Gravesham Borough Council to reject government imposed targets, and to focus on developing brown-field sites to provide affordable housing where it is needed and for the local people who need it.*

At the conclusion of the presentation, the Mayor invited the three Group Leaders to speak for up to 5 minutes each as the debate was not to exceed fifteen minutes in accordance with paragraph 3.10 of the Council's Procedure Rules.

The Mayor thanked Mr Bob Lane for attending the meeting.

## 28. Minutes of Committees

Motions that proceedings, reports and recommendations of Committees, except those reserved under Council Procedure 5.2(6) as referred to below be received and adopted and where applicable the Orders made by them be ratified and confirmed were duly proposed, seconded and resolved in each case.

Minutes of the Cabinet held on Monday, 8 October 2018;  
Minutes of the Overview Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday, 18 October 2018;  
Minutes of the Regulatory Board (Planning) held on Wednesday, 31 October 2018;  
Minutes of the Cabinet held on Monday, 12 November 2018;  
Minutes of the Finance and Audit Committee held on Wednesday, 14 November 2018;  
Minutes of the Overview Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday, 22 November 2018;  
Minutes of the Regulatory Board (Planning) held on Wednesday, 28 November 2018;  
Minutes of the Licensing Committee held on Wednesday, 5 December 2018.

The Council's attention was drawn to Minute 83 of the Finance and Audit Committee held on Wednesday 14 November 2018.

## **29. Reserved Minutes**

There were no reserved minutes.

## **30. Lower Thames Crossing**

The Chief Executive advised that Highways England commenced its statutory consultation on its proposals for a Lower Thames Crossing on 10 October 2018. The Council needed to submit its comments by the end of 20 December 2018.

The Chief Executive stated that, following attendance at all three Group meetings (Gravesham Independent Conservatives, Labour and Conservative), the Council's response to the statutory consultation had been revised to incorporate the comments made at those meetings. The revised response had been published on the Council's website and circulated to Members in advance of the meeting.

Due to the interest in the item and time constraints, the Mayor invited four Members of each Group to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

### **Resolved that:-**

1. Highways England (HE) be thanked for carrying out the statutory consultation process whilst noting that insufficient time has been allowed to properly digest and respond to it given the volume of material involved.
2. the resolutions of 8 December 2015, opposing in principle a new Lower Thames Crossing (LTC) to the east of Gravesend, be re-affirmed.
3. the Council is of the view that LTC will only provide temporary alleviation of congestion at Dartford and will only defer a requirement to take action at that location.
4. the Council considers the Preliminary Environment Information Report (PEIR) to be deficient in a number of areas and it fails the requirements of the relevant Regulations.
5. the Council considers that further design work, environmental assessment and consultation needs to be carried out on the Thong Lane Bridge north and the tunnel portal to mitigate the impacts of the scheme on local residents through consideration of, amongst other things:
  - i. Extension of the tunnel southwards whether bored or cut and cover.
  - ii. Widening of the Thong Lane green bridge to a minimum of 80m.
  - iii. Mitigation for Riverview Park and Thong residents from the impacts of noise, disturbance and air quality
6. the environmental impact of the new LTC/A2/M2 junction on the A2 corridor is unacceptable and further detailed work is required if an acceptable solution is to be produced, which needs to address, amongst other things:
  - i. Design speed of the junction slip roads ensuring free flow.
  - ii. Width of Thong Lane South and Brewers Road green bridges.
  - iii. Loss of HS1 landscaping and the overall impact on landscape, nature conservation and historic environment, particularly in the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

7. the Council considers that the Gravesend East junction should connect direct to the A2/M2 east-bound and, if possible, Lower Thames Crossing but that it is not in a position to make a definitive judgement in the absence of a proper assessment of alternative junction designs and detailed highway modelling.
8. the Council cannot provide a definitive view on the issue of variable charging, given the lack of information, transport modelling and consequential impacts, but basic principles should be:
  - i. Same charging regime at both Dartford Crossing and Lower Thames Crossing.
  - ii. GBC residents receive the same discount as those in Dartford and Thurrock which should apply to both crossings and start from commencement of construction.
  - iii. No additional charging in the peaks.
  - iv. A proportion of the revenues collected from tolls should be paid to a Community Fund administered by this Council to undertake leisure and other projects that will benefit the local community.
  - v. The above and other matters should be examined in detail through a working group.
9. in any event, the Council considers that the transport modelling needs to reflect the requirements of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, National Policy Statement for National Networks (2014), and the National Planning Policy Framework (2018), and associated guidance, upon Local Authorities for the delivery of housing.
10. there is considerable concern over the wider impacts on the wider highway network in Kent, in particular on A227, A228, A229 and M2 and well as the potential implications for local roads from the junction arrangements. These are not assessed as part of this consultation and this is a serious omission on the part of Highways England. It is imperative that a full assessment is conducted and that any improvements to the local strategic highway network found necessary are programmed and implemented prior to the opening of the new Crossing. The Council is particularly concerned at the absence of any evaluation of the Bluebell Hill junction on the A229 and considers that the suggestion of vehicles using the A249 as an alternative is completely unrealistic.
11. the information about the construction compounds is unclear and there is considerable concern over the implications for local residents and the environment given the long timescale involved and the activities that may take place.
12. there will be considerable disruption to the lives of residents both during the construction period and when the Crossing is in use and there should be arrangements for adequate financial compensation to those affected.
13. during the construction phase Highways England should require its contractors to use local labour wherever possible, including the creation of apprenticeships to provide a long term legacy of a higher skills base in the area.
14. the contents of this report, the minutes, the appraisal (with appendices) and the responses to the consultation questions (as amended) set out in Appendix 2 be submitted to Highways England (Lower Thames Crossing and Chief Executive Officer), Adam Holloway MP, Minister of State for Transport, with the Director (Housing and Regeneration) being granted delegated authority to make minor amendments.

The Council thanked the officers involved for the hard work which had been undertaken to date.

### **31. Licensing Act 2003 - Revision of Statement of Licensing Policy**

The Council received a report which apprised Members of the steps taken in reviewing the Statement of Licensing Policy under the Licensing Act 2003. Section 5 of the Act required licensing authorities to review the policy every five years.

The Council was informed that the amendments to the revised policy were of a minor or administrative nature to reflect changes of wording in the statutory guidance or for the sake of greater clarity/accuracy. The draft policy had been presented to the Licensing Committee for consideration.

**Resolved** that the revised Gravesham Statement of Licensing Policy under the Licensing Act 2003 (attached as Appendix 2 to the report) be approved.

### **32. Gambling Act 2005 - Revision of Statement of Licensing Policy**

The Council received a report which apprised Members of the steps taken in reviewing the Statement of Licensing Policy under the Gambling Act 2005. Section 349 of the Act required licensing authorities to review the policy every three years.

The Council was informed that the amendments to the revised policy were of a minor or administrative nature to reflect changes of wording in the statutory guidance or for the sake of greater clarity/accuracy. Specific mention of a 'no-casinos' resolution remained within section 8 of the draft policy. The draft policy had been presented to the Licensing Committee for consideration.

**Resolved** that the revised Gravesham Statement of Licensing Policy under the Gambling Act 2005 (attached as Appendix 2 to the report) with the continued inclusion of a no-casinos resolution be approved.

### **33. Extending the Property Acquisition Strategy**

The Council received a report seeking approval of an extension to the funding available to deliver the Council's Property Acquisition Strategy.

Two further acquisitions had been identified that would be beneficial to the Council's investment property portfolio and would meet the set criteria. The combined purchase price and purchase cost of the two acquisitions would be beyond the current funding authorised of £21.7m. Taking this into account, and following a review of the Council's long-term cash flow position, Full Council was therefore requested to approve a further £4.5 million of investment balances to be made available to facilitate these and further purchases, taking the total funding to deliver the Council's Property Acquisition Strategy to £26.2 million.

**Resolved** that:-

- additional funding of £4.5 million be made available for further purchases under the Council's Property Acquisition Strategy, taking the total funding made available to deliver the Council's Property Acquisition Strategy to £26.2 million;
- the additional funding be met from investment balances; and
- the additional funding be included in the current year's capital programme.

### **34. Notice of Motion**

It was moved by Cllr David Turner and seconded by Cllr Michael Wenban that:-

*This Council calls upon all elected Members to represent their electorate effectively by attending meetings of all Committees, Boards and other Council forums to which they have been appointed. If they are unable to attend a meeting, the Council calls upon them to ensure their apologies are submitted and that they are represented by a substitute where the Council's Constitution provides for this.*

The motion was declared to be carried unanimously.

During the debate, the meeting was adjourned in order to provide the Palantypist with an appropriate break.

### **35. Appointments to Outside Body (Elizabeth Huggins' Cottages Charity)**

The Council noted that Colin Meredith had been appointed by Elizabeth Huggins' Cottages Charity as a family trustee and **resolved** that Colin Meredith be replaced with Kav Tour as a representative trustee for the remainder of his term.

The Chief Executive advised that Cllr David Hurley had been appointed by Elizabeth Huggins' Cottages Charity as the Honorary Secretary.

### **36. To consider questions from Members of the Council of which notice has been given under Council Procedure Rule 14.**

No questions had been received.

### **37. To receive the Mayor's Announcements**

The Mayor invited Members to attend:-

- the Mayor's Charity Dinner Fund Raising event on Saturday, 16 February 2019 with music to suit all taste;
- the Mayor's Charity Concert on Saturday, 2 March 2019 at St George's Church, Gravesend with music from the Kent Police Male Voice Choir; and
- the Mayor's Charity Dinner and Dance Fund Raising event on Friday, 5 April 2019 at The Woodville, Gravesend.

Tickets for these events would be available via The Woodville's Box Office.

The Mayor wished everyone a Merry Christmas and invited those present to join him in the Parlour for refreshments.

### **Close of Meeting**

The meeting ended at 9.33pm