

Report to the Council

Date: 20 December 2016

Subject: Overview and Scrutiny Rule 53 (Call-In and Urgency)

1. TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME – ACCOMMODATION REVIEW

Recommending:

To note that the Chairman of Council agreed that the following decision of the Leader (15 November 2016) be treated as a matter of urgency and not be subject to the call-in provisions of the Constitution, in accordance with Overview and Scrutiny Rule 53 (Call-In and Urgency):

(a) That the quotation of £18,500 received from PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) for the extension of the scope of the current accommodation review, be accepted.

- 1.1 In April 2016, the Cabinet agreed that a review be undertaken to examine possible efficiencies in the use of the Council's office space. An initial funding allocation of £50,000 was made for this work and PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) were appointed by the Cabinet in June 2016.
- 1.2 The preliminary findings of PwC were considered by the Cabinet in September 2016, when it was also agreed that the initial scope of the study should be extended. As a result, PwC were asked to provide a quote and timescale for such extension to the accommodation review. A quotation provided by PwC in this regard was considered by the Finance and Performance Management Cabinet Committee on 10 November 2016, who supported acceptance of the quotation and asked that the work be commissioned to start as soon as is possible. However, the Cabinet Committee only has the authority to make recommendations to Cabinet and a decision of the Leader of the Council (as the member of the Cabinet responsible for the Transformation Programme) was necessary to progress the completion of the review.
- 1.3 The Chairman of Council agreed to waive the call-in procedure set out in the Constitution, as any delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would seriously prejudice the Council's interests, as a result of the inability of PwC to undertake the additional element of the accommodation review until early in 2017.

2. DRAFT CHIGWELL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL RESPONSE

Recommending:

To note that the Chairman of Council agreed that the following decision of the Planning Policy Portfolio Holder (24 November 2016) be treated as a matter of urgency and not be subject to the call-in provisions of the Constitution, in accordance with Overview and Scrutiny Rule 53 (Call-In and Urgency):

(a) That the Council's response to the Chigwell Neighbourhood 2015-2030 Pre-Submission Plan, be confirmed.

- 2.1 Chigwell Parish Council submitted an application for the designation of a neighbourhood area in November 2013. The Neighbourhood Plan Area Application was approved by the Cabinet meeting on 3 March 2014, following an eight week

consultation. The Parish Council subsequently published its Draft Neighbourhood Plan for a period of formal public consultation, which was due to close on 25 November 2016.

- 2.2 An officer review of the Draft Chigwell Neighbourhood Plan was considered and endorsed by the Neighbourhoods Select Committee on 15 November 2016. However, the terms of reference of the Select Committee do not provide for it to respond to such consultation approaches and the Council's proposed response to the Draft Neighbourhood Plan was therefore formally endorsed by the Planning Policy Portfolio Holder.
- 2.3 The Chairman of Council agreed to waive the call-in procedure set out in the Constitution, as any delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would seriously prejudice the Council's interests, as the deadline for response to the Draft Chigwell Neighbourhood Plan was 25 November 2016,