

Referrals Report of Recommendations from Cabinet

Report No:	COU/WS/19/006	
Report to and date:	Council	19 September 2019
Documents attached:	None	

(A) Referrals from Cabinet: 23 July 2019

1. Proposal to Establish a West Suffolk Environment and Climate Change Taskforce

Portfolio Holder: Cllr John Griffiths

Report No:
[CAB/WS/19/016](#)
[Appendix A](#)
[Appendix B](#)

RECOMMENDED:

That a Climate Emergency be declared.

- 1.1 At the Annual Meeting of Council held on 22 May 2019, the Leader of the Council announced that he would be proposing to set up two taskforces, one of which would be requested to look at ways in which the Council could improve on its current and previous actions taken to mitigate the effects of adverse environmental factors and climate change.
- 1.2 On 23 July 2019, the Cabinet agreed to establish an Environment and Climate Change Taskforce. Report No: CAB/WS/19/016 (see links above) contained proposals for the terms of reference for the Environment and Climate Change Taskforce that had been announced at the Annual Meeting. In summary, the Taskforce aims to ensure that the Council uses the opportunity to review and assess its existing activities and future opportunities in response to increased societal awareness of environmental issues. The Taskforce will explore how the Council can enhance its environmental stewardship, recognising the need for balance with other urgent social and economic priorities.
- 1.3 It is anticipated that initial findings and feedback will be presented to Cabinet in autumn 2019, with final recommendations coming forward in 2020.

- 1.4 In addition to the recommendations contained in the report and in recognition of a Climate Emergency being called for the whole of Suffolk, the Cabinet agreed to recommend to West Suffolk Council that it declares a Climate Emergency. Acknowledgement was given at the Cabinet meeting to how West Suffolk will specifically play its part, including what exactly calling a Climate Emergency in West Suffolk will actually mean, and more importantly, the action needed to be taken to make a significant difference.

(B) Referrals from Cabinet: 10 September 2019

1. Annual Treasury Management Report 2018-2019 (FHDC)

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Sarah Broughton

Report No:
[CAB/WS/19/021](#)

**Financial Resilience
Sub-Committee:**
15 July 2019

Report No:
[FRS/WS/19/001](#)

RECOMMENDED:

That the Annual Treasury Management Report for 2018-2019 for the former Forest Heath District Council, being Report No: FRS/WS/19/001, be approved.

- 1.1 The former Forest Heath District Council's Annual Treasury Management Report for 2018-2019 includes tables summarising interest earned and the average rate of return achieved during 2018-2019; investment activity during the year; investments held as at 31 March 2019; capital borrowing budget 2018-2019 and borrowing and temporary loans.
- 1.2 The budget for investment income in 2018-2019 was £224,000 (target average rate of return 0.75%). Interest actually earned during the financial year totalled £145,597 (average rate of return of 0.724%), against a budget for the year of £224,000; a budgetary deficit of £78,404.
- 1.3 The budgetary deficit was due to lower cash balances as a result of re-phasing of some income generating projects. These projects were budgeted to be funded through external borrowing, which would have boosted the cash balances and resultant interest. However, given the high cash balances of the council use of those cash balances was utilised resulting in a saving of the external borrowing costs over the short term. In addition, investments were made on a shorter term basis for liquidity resulting in lower yields.



2. Annual Treasury Management Report 2018/2019 (SEBC)

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Sarah Broughton

Report No:
[CAB/WS/19/022](#)

**Financial Resilience
Sub-Committee:
15 July 2019
Report No:**
[FRS/WS/19/002](#)

RECOMMENDED:

That the Annual Treasury Management Report for 2018-2019 for the former St Edmundsbury Borough Council, being Report No: FRS/WS/19/002, be approved.

- 2.1 The former St Edmundsbury Borough Council's Annual Treasury Management Report for 2018-2019 includes tables summarising the interest earned and the average rate of return achieved during 2018-2019; investment activity during the year; investments held as at 31 March 2019 and capital borrowing budget 2018-2019.
- 2.2 The budget for investment income in 2018-2019 was £308,000 (target average rate of return 0.70%). Interest actually earned during the financial year totalled £344,766 (average rate of return of 0.751%), against a budget for the year of £308,000; a budgetary surplus of £36,766.

3. Treasury Management Report (June 2019)

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Sarah Broughton

Report No:
[CAB/WS/19/023](#)

**Financial Resilience
Sub-Committee:
15 July 2019
Report No:**
[FRS/WS/19/003](#)

RECOMMENDED:

That the Treasury Management Report for 2018-2019, being Report No: FRS/WS/19/003, be approved.

- 3.1 Following the creation of West Suffolk Council, the total amount invested at 1 April 2019 was £47,750,000 and at 30 June 2019 £46,250,000. Various deposit accounts were closed in the lead up to the year end in order to wind up both Forest Heath District Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council. These balances were held in the current account until the first trading day of West Suffolk Council when new deposit accounts could be opened.



- 3.2 The 2019-2020 Annual Treasury Management and Investment Strategy sets out the Council's projections for the current financial year. The budget for investment income in 2019-2020 is £142,141 which is based on a 0.90% target interest rate of return on investments.
- 3.3 As at the end of June 2019, interest actually earned during the first quarter of the financial year amounted to £96,725 against a profiled budget for the period of £35,535; a budgetary surplus of £61,190. The budgetary surplus relates to higher than expected cash balances due to slippage in the Capital programmes for both Forest Heath District Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council during 2018-2019 and also the favourable interest rates secured on the investments carried over from the previous councils.
- 3.4 The report includes assumptions on borrowing for the capital projects included within it, alongside the current external borrowing in respect of the previous Newmarket Leisure Centre build. This new borrowing requirement is based around three specific projects as per their agreed business cases:
- West Suffolk Operational Hub, Bury St Edmunds
 - Mildenhall Hub
 - Investing in Our Growth Fund.
- 3.5 The report also includes a summary of the capital borrowing budget for 2019-2020; a summary of capital borrowing for quarter one; borrowing and income – proportionality; borrowing and temporary loans as at 30 June 2019 and other market considerations.

4. Single Issue Review (SIR) of Core Strategy Policy CS7: Planning Inspector's Report and Adoption

Portfolio Holder: Cllr John Griffiths

Report No:
[CAB/WS/19/024](#) and
[Appendix A](#); [Appendix B](#);
[Appendix C](#); [Appendix D](#);
[Appendix E](#)

- 4.1 The recommendations from the Cabinet will be considered separately as part of Agenda Item 8 (Report No: COU/WS/19/007).

5. Site Allocations Local Plan (SALP): Planning Inspector's Report and Adoption

Portfolio Holder: Cllr John Griffiths

Report No:
[CAB/WS/19/025](#) and
[Appendix A](#); [Appendix B](#);
[Appendix C](#); [Appendix D](#);
[Appendix E](#); [Appendix F](#)

- 5.1 The recommendations from the Cabinet will be considered separately as part of Agenda Item 9 (Report No: COU/WS/19/008).



6. Western Way Development – Final Business Case

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Jo Rayner

Report No:
[CAB/WS/19/026 and Final Business Case; Appendix 1; Appendix 1 \(Attachment 1\); Appendix 2; Appendix 3](#)
(alongside various other public Background Papers available via link below **[Public Background Papers](#)**)

- 6.1 The recommendations from the Cabinet will be considered separately as part of Agenda Item 10 (Report No: COU/WS/19/009).

7. Investing in our Commercial Asset Portfolio (para 3) (Exempt)

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Susan Glossop

Exempt Report No:
[CAB/WS/19/030](#)

- 7.1 As this referral from the Cabinet is exempt, it is attached separately for consideration in private session under Agenda Item 17.

