

Referrals report of recommendations from Cabinet

Report number:	COU/WS/23/020 (Part one)	
Report to and date:	Council	19 December 2023
Documents attached:	Report number: COU/WS/23/021 - West Suffolk Local Plan Publication (Regulation 19) Consultation and Submission	

A. Referrals from Cabinet: 14 November 2023

There are no referrals emanating from the meeting of Cabinet held on 14 November 2023.

B. Referrals from Cabinet: 5 December 2023

1. Treasury Management Report (September 2023)

Portfolio holder: Councillor Diane Hind

Cabinet Report number: [CAB/WS/23/055](#)

Financial Resilience Sub-Committee Report number: [FRS/WS/23/005](#)

Recommended:

That the Treasury Management Report (September 2023), as contained in Report number FRS/WS/23/005, be approved.

- 1.1 Following the Financial Resilience Sub-Committee's consideration of report number [FRS/WS/23/005](#) on 13 November 2023 the Committee received a verbal report on the Sub-Committee's consideration of the report.
- 1.2 The Council held £54,500.000 of investments as of 30 September 2023. Interest receivable in the first half of the financial year amounted to £1,271,924.94 against a budget for the period of £357,500. This has created a budgetary surplus of £914,424.94 due to two main reasons:

- the Council holding higher levels of cash balances than anticipated; and
- the rising Bank of England base rate having a knock-on effect on investment returns.

- 1.3 External borrowing as of 30 September 2023 was £9,625,000 a reduction of £125,000 from 1 April 2023 which relates to the repayment plan for the recent PWLB £10 million 40-year loan), with the Council's level of internal borrowing increasing slightly to £48,028,084 as of 30 September 2023. The overall borrowing total of both external and internal is expected to increase over the full financial year.
- 1.4 The Sub-Committee scrutinised the investment activity for 1 April 2023 to 30 September 2023 at its meeting on 13 November 2023 and asked questions to which responses were provided.
- 1.5 The Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee on 23 November 2023 scrutinised the report. Detailed discussions were held on Arlingclose, the Council's external treasury advisors. The Committee questioned the advice they provided to the Council; specifically, around what the cost of Arlingclose was to the Council; the length of the contract and whether a procurement exercise is carried out to appoint external advisors. In response the Cabinet Member for Resources would provide a written response on the length of the contract and the cost to the Council.
- 1.6 The Cabinet endorsed the recommendation of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee, as reproduced above and supports its referral to Council for final approval.

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2. West Suffolk Local Plan Publication (Regulation 19) Consultation and Submission

Portfolio holder: Councillor Jim Thorndyke

Cabinet Report number: [CAB/WS/23/056](#)

An updated version following its consideration by Cabinet is attached in full as Report number: **COU/WS/23/021** to this Council report. Appendix A to that report refers to the West Suffolk Local Plan Proposed Submission (Regulation 19) document itself which now includes the Policies Map.

Recommended, that:

1. **The West Suffolk Local Plan Proposed Submission (Regulation 19) document (Appendix A to Report number: COU/WS/23/021) together with supporting documents be approved for public consultation and its subsequent submission to the Secretary of State for the purposes of independent examination.**
2. **Delegated authority be given to the Director (Planning and Growth), in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning to make any presentational improvements or minor non-material consequential changes to the document as necessary prior to the consultation commencing.**
3. **Delegated authority be given to the Director (Planning and Growth), in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning to agree and consult upon a set of proposed modifications during the examination process.**

- 2.1 On 5 December 2023, the Cabinet considered Report number: CAB/WS/23/056 'West Suffolk Local Plan Publication (Regulation 19) Consultation and Submission'.
- 2.2 The Cabinet considers that the West Suffolk Local Plan Proposed Submission (Regulation 19) document is both final and sound and that, subject to the outcome of the independent examination, it has recommended to Council that it approves the Local Plan and supporting documentation for public consultation and its subsequent submission to the Secretary of State for the purposes of independent examination. The Cabinet has made a minor amendment to Recommendation (3) which removes a potential time constraint and Appendix A (the West Suffolk Local Plan Proposed Submission (Regulation 19) document itself) has since been updated following the Cabinet meeting to include the Policies Map.
- 2.3 Members are therefore requested to consider Report number: COU/WS/23/021 attached to this report, which provides an updated version of the Cabinet report (CAB/WS/23/056). For clarity, this captures the amended Recommendation (3) and provides a link to the West Suffolk Local Plan Proposed Submission (Regulation 19) document which now includes the Policies Map (Appendix A).

See Part Two of Report number: COU/WS/23/020 for the remaining Cabinet referrals.