

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council Statement of Decisions made at a meeting of the Executive on Wednesday, 15 March 2023

Published:

The following decisions were made by the Executive at its meeting on **Wednesday, 15 March 2023**. These decisions will come into force on **Wednesday, 22 March 2023**. A decision by the Executive may be called-in (in accordance with Part 4 – Scrutiny Procedure Rules of the Council’s Constitution) by **21 March 2023**. Should you have any queries about any decision that has been made, contact should be made in the first instance to Democratic Services at democratic_services@sandwell.gov.uk. Any declaration of interest made by any member of the Executive is shown below.

	Item	Reason for Decision:	Alternative options:	Lead officer:
5	<p>Friar Park Urban Village Masterplan</p> <p>Agreed:--</p> <p>(1) That the results of the public consultation undertaken on the Friar Park Redevelopment Project (hereby known as Friar Park Urban Village with this report) during November to December 2022 as set out in the Consultation Report be received.</p> <p>(2) That in connection with 1 above, approval be given to the Friar Park Urban Village masterplan as amended.</p>	<p>Sandwell significantly underperformed against the annual housing delivery target of 1467 new dwellings set out in the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA). The 630 units on the Friar Park site would make a significant contribution to those targets although delivery would be over a number of years. A minimum of 25% of the new homes would be affordable in accordance with planning policy.</p>	<p>Not progressing with the masterplan would not give the surety and design framework to have brought the site forward in partnership with the West Midlands Combined Authority.</p> <p>Option 1: Do nothing - this option would signify a continuation of the status quo and fail to deliver against Sandwell’s housing delivery targets. The site would continue to be underutilised, remain highly contaminated and would not deliver any wider regenerative benefit to Friar Park.</p>	

	Item	Reason for Decision:	Alternative options:	Lead officer:
	<p>(3) That approval be given to the proposed procurement strategy for developer selection, including the use of the Homes England Framework, and that the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Growth and the Director of Regeneration and Growth be authorised to progress the procurement strategy as proposed in partnership with the West Midlands Combined Authority.</p> <p>(4) That approval be given to the use of the Masterplan in assessing developer bids as part of the agreed procurement process.</p> <p>(5) That in light of community concerns arising from the consultation exercise, the Director of Regeneration and Growth be authorised to develop a potential scheme which accommodates the extension of the Millennium Centre, and that the outcome of that work, including the detailed proposals and funding strategy scheme implementation are reported to Cabinet at a future date.</p> <p>(6) That the comments made by the Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board at their meeting held on 28 February be</p>		<p>Option 2: Do not proceed with the masterplan and instead, the Council could look to dispose of the site to a developer without a level of surety. Alternatively, the Council could have chosen to sell their site in isolation. However, this would fail to deliver a comprehensive regeneration proposal.</p>	

	Item	Reason for Decision:	Alternative options:	Lead officer:
	<p>received.</p> <p>(7) That subject to resolutions (1) - (6) above, the Director of Regeneration and Growth, be authorised to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the use of a Local Lettings Policy on the site be explored; (b) regular air quality monitoring is undertaken as the development progresses and once it is complete; (c) different options to utilise appropriate vegetation to help address air pollution is considered for the site. 			
6	<p>Award of Unified Communications Telephony Contract</p> <p>Agreed:-</p> <p>(1) That the Director of Regeneration & Growth and the Director of Finance – Section 151 Officer, in consultation with Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, be authorised to award a contract for Corporate Unified Communications – replacement Contact Centre telephony, via the Crown Commercial Services Network Services 2 (RM3808) framework for a 5-year period (3 + 2), following a successful</p>	<p>The Council telephony system Avaya CS1000 and Avaya CS 1000 (AACCC6) which were in use within the Council’s Contact Centres had been in place since 2007. This system was out of date and unsupported as a result.</p> <p>A large proportion of the Council’s customer contact was still through received the telephony route (2020-2021 - 617.7k calls received, 2021-2022 - 641.0k calls received and 2022 - March 2023 - 511k calls were received), despite continued digital solutions being offered and therefore, the Council required a system that was fit for purpose, responsive and future proof.</p>	<p>An options appraisal was completed as part of the Business Case for this project and the option presented was found to be the most appropriate.</p>	

	Item	Reason for Decision:	Alternative options:	Lead officer:
	<p>further competitive exercise.</p> <p>(2) That the Director of Law and Governance – Monitoring Officer be authorised to execute any documentation necessary to enable the action referred to in resolution 1 above to proceed.</p> <p>(3) That in relation to resolution (2) above, approval be given to fund the costs in 2023/24 from a combination of HRA resources and the Customer Journey Priority Service Investment budget, and future costs be considered as part of the 2024/25 budget setting process strategy as proposed in partnership with the West Midlands Combined Authority</p>			
7	<p>Haden Hill Leisure Centre - Levelling Up Fund (LUF) Programme</p> <p>Agreed:-</p> <p>(1) That the Director of Finance be authorised to provide the minimum 10% match funding contribution to the Haden Hill Leisure Centre Levelling Up Fund programme from the identified LUF contribution for this project of £2,000,000, including via prudential borrowing if necessary.</p> <p>(2) That the Director of Finance be authorised to identify and provide an</p>	<p>Cabinet previously agreed partnership funding contribution of up to £8,000,000 for four Sandwell Levelling Up Fund submissions. On the basis that only one bid was successful, the match funding required was £2m for the Haden Hill project. Partnership funding was required to deliver the Haden Hill Leisure Centre programme as project costs exceeded £20,000,000 awarded by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC).</p>	<p>The original project scope be reduced to address the current funding gap if further partnership funding cannot be secured.</p>	

	Item	Reason for Decision:	Alternative options:	Lead officer:
	<p>initial £300,000 capital budget in advance of receipt of grant monies and draw down of any partnership funding to enable necessary key project developments to be undertaken in the interim.</p> <p>(3) That in connection with (2) above, the Director of Regeneration and Growth be authorised to procure and appoint architects via an industry framework utilising identified capital budget prior to receipt of grant.</p> <p>(4) That in connection with (2) above, the Director of Borough Economy be authorised to take all the necessary steps to appoint the project team utilising identified capital budget prior to receipt of grant.</p> <p>(5) That the Head of Human Resources be authorised to provide exemptions for recruitment processes as necessary to ensure avoidance of project delays.</p> <p>(6) That the Director of Borough Economy be authorised to finalise and enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.</p> <p>(7) That the Director of Borough Economy be authorised to agree to the terms of the Levelling Up Funds Local Authority Assurance Framework provided by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.</p>			

	Item	Reason for Decision:	Alternative options:	Lead officer:
	<p>(8) That the Director of Borough Economy be authorised to formally accept the grant awarded (£20,000,000) by Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and all associated grant terms.</p>			
8	<p>The Future Use of Langley Swimming Centre</p> <p>Agreed-</p> <p>(1) That approval be given to allocate the site at Vicarage Road, Oldbury for the development of new affordable rent council housing, subject to planning permission being obtained.</p> <p>(2) That approval be given to allocate funding from the Council's Housing Revenue Account to demolish the existing buildings/structures at Vicarage Road, Oldbury as a pre-requisite for site investigation to facilitate compliance with the Homes England funding timescales.</p> <p>(3) That in connection with (1) above, the Director of Finance be authorised to allocate adequate resources from the Council's Housing Revenue Account, subject to being satisfied that the proposal provides value for money, to deliver the scheme and to utilise grant funding offered by Homes</p>	<p>Following the Cabinet decision made on 31 January 2018 (minute 18/18 refers) Langley Swimming Centre was due to close in summer 2023 when the leisure provision would be located at the new Sandwell Aquatics Centre, Smethwick. Following the opening of the new Aquatics Centre the Council had the opportunity to develop the site at Vicarage Road, Oldbury with circa 27 homes (subject to planning consent), as part of the new strategic approach to provide more and better housing in the borough.</p>	<p>Option 1 – Disposal of the site on the open market</p> <p>The Council could have disposed of the site on the open market. This would have resulted in the loss of a Council asset that could have been used for the Council build programme. The Council would have had minimal control over the future use of the building. This option increased the risk of ASB should the building become vacant.</p> <p>Option 2 – Clear the site and disposal on the open market</p> <p>Clearing the site and disposal of the site on the open market would have reduced ASB issues but as identified in Option 1, would result in the loss of a Council asset that could be used for the Council build programme.</p>	

	Item	Reason for Decision:	Alternative options:	Lead officer:
	<p>England, under any relevant Homes England Strategic Partnerships, to assist with the delivery of the project.</p> <p>(4) That subject to receiving the necessary Strategic Investment Unit appraisal approval mark of 65 or above, the Director of Regeneration and Growth in consultation with the Director of Finance and the Director of Housing be authorised to prepare tendering documentation and subsequently procure, in accordance with any statutory regulations and the Council's Procurement and Financial Regulations a contractor/contractors to develop, on behalf of the Council, the proposed housing scheme; to enter into or execute under seal any financial agreement in relation to the Homes England grant on terms and conditions to be agreed by the Director of Finance.</p> <p>(5) That subject to 1.3 and 1.4 above, the Director – Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer be authorised to enter into or execute under seal any documentation in relation to award of the contract and/or development/partnership agreement, Homes England developer status, licence, undertaking, framework joining agreement, any consents or applications required for Planning or Highways appertaining to the delivery</p>			

	Item	Reason for Decision:	Alternative options:	Lead officer:
	<p>of the scheme and any other agreements with the procured contractor(s) and with the Homes England, as may be deemed necessary to facilitate development of the site with a housing scheme on terms and conditions to be agreed by the Director of Regeneration and Growth.</p> <p>(6) That the Director of Regeneration and Growth in consultation with the Director of Finance and subject to confirmation of the funding rules applicable, to submit an application for funding to the WMCA and any other relevant funding sources and, in the event the funding bid is successful, the Director of Regeneration and Growth in consultation with the Director of Finance and the Director of Housing be authorised to accept the funding and execute under seal any financial agreement in relation to the WMCA and any other relevant funding sources grant on terms and conditions to be agreed by the Director of Finance.</p> <p>(7) That following practical completion of each property at the site of Vicarage Road, Oldbury, the Director of Housing be authorised to manage and let the properties built in accordance with the Council's</p>			

	Item	Reason for Decision:	Alternative options:	Lead officer:
	<p>housing allocation policy.</p> <p>(8) That the Director of Finance be authorised to make any necessary adjustment required to appropriate the site at Vicarage Road, Oldbury, for housing purposes</p> <p>(9) That the Director of Regeneration and Growth in consultation with the Director of Housing and Director of Finance be authorised to amend funding sources available from the balance of 1-4-1 replacement receipts or Homes England to ensure the most appropriate use of funding for the scheme to ensure expenditure of Homes England funding within the contracted timescales and ensure the use of the time limited receipts generated from the sale of properties within the specified time periods.</p>			
9	<p>The Future Use of Smethwick Swimming Centre</p> <p>Agreed:-</p> <p>(1) That approval be given to test the market and advertise the site at Thimblemill Road, Smethwick on the open market to ascertain if there is any commercial or other interest to purchase the site, subject to any planning consents that may be</p>	<p>Following the Cabinet decision made on 31 January 2018 (minute 18/18 refers) Smethwick Swimming Centre was due to close in summer 2023 when the leisure provision would be located at the new Sandwell Aquatics Centre, Smethwick. A working group of officers from Planning, including the Conservation Officer, Strategic Assets and Sports Strategy was created to look at options for the future use of the building. The working group assumption was that no other Council service would have</p>	<p>In order to enforce the legislation and fulfil its statutory duty, the Council required a policy that outlined what fines would be for breaches of the legislation. The Council could have decided to construct its own framework for calculating the amount of a civil penalty however, this risked not being aligned with other authorities which could impact the Council's ability to justify in the event of any</p>	

	Item	Reason for Decision:	Alternative options:	Lead officer:
	<p>required for change of use.</p> <p>(2) That the Director for Regeneration and Growth be authorised to work with a community consortia, The People's Orchestra, in parallel with recommendation (1), to allow the group 3 months to develop proposals to determine their projects viability and allow them to undertake a business planning exercise to confirm whether they are able to take on the premises under a Community Asset Transfer.</p> <p>(3) That in connection with (2) above, a further report be submitted to the Cabinet in June 2023 which will outline the disposal options identified through market testing and full details of the community-led option.</p>	<p>use for the building once it closes and the Council could not afford to retain the building. The listed status of the building constrained uses to those that would interfere least with its significance as a designated heritage asset and consequently appropriate uses were limited. Proper maintenance of such buildings was both necessary and potentially costly.</p>	<p>appeal against a penalty levied. As a result of the requirement for all authorities in England to have regard to the policy of the Lead Enforcement Authority, the adoption of this policy would ensure that the approach is consistent with that of other authorities.</p> <p>The Council had the opportunity to support the People's Orchestra, a community based non-profit organisation to convert the building into a music venue. This change of use would provide a 'community development and training hub' and concert hall, ensuring the building was retained as a community venue. Such a use would be expected to be compatible with the conservation of the building's significance. However, it would likely involve the Council underwriting building related revenue risk in the short to medium term.</p>	
10	<p>Use of Compulsory Purchase Order Powers to enable strategic acquisitions in West Bromwich Town Centre</p> <p>Agreed-</p> <p>(1) That approval be given to authorise the Director of Regeneration and Growth to use Compulsory Purchase</p>	<p>Use of a Compulsory Purchase Order would assist SMBC in the delivery of the aspirations outlined in the West Bromwich Masterplan, which sought comprehensive regeneration of the town centre.</p>	<p>Option 1: Continue to negotiate by agreement only - without proactive use of CPO powers it was likely that the status quo would persist. This would fail to deliver against the Councils regeneration agenda in West Bromwich and would fail to deliver against the Towns Fund outputs resulting in grant funding</p>	

	Item	Reason for Decision:	Alternative options:	Lead officer:
	<p>Order powers to acquire any land and property interests necessary to enable delivery of zones 1 & 2 identified in the West Bromwich Masterplan.</p> <p>(2) That the Director of Law and Governance, in consultation with the Director of Regeneration & Growth, be authorised to take all preparatory actions to enable the making of a Regeneration Compulsory Purchase Order, subject to a further resolution to formally make the Compulsory Purchase Order and confirm the agreed (red-lined) order lands.</p> <p>(3) That the Director of Regeneration & Growth be authorised to procure any professional services required to advise the council on the preferred Compulsory Purchase Order strategy and execution, including a revised Property Cost Estimate (PCE) on any necessary interests.</p>		<p>clawback. Reputation of the Council would be at risk as a result of failing to secure and spend government grant.</p> <p>Option 2: Identify another site that could achieve the Town Fund project and submit another change request - this area of West Bromwich was specifically being targeted due to acutely high levels of vacancy. A comprehensive options appraisal had been conducted by officers and there were currently no other sites in the area that deliver similar strategic benefits and satisfy the grant funding criteria.</p>	
11	<p>Demolition Framework 2023-2027</p> <p>Agreed:-</p> <p>(1) That approval be given to authorise the Director of Regeneration and Growth, in consultation with the S151 Officer, Director of Law & Governance-Monitoring Officer and</p>	<p>The Council operated a successful demolition framework agreement, this ended in March 2023. The new framework needed to be in place before the previous one ended to provide the Council with a continuity of demolition options and resources.</p>	<p>The alternative option to the demolition framework was that demolition projects would instead be undertaken individually and are procured on a project by project basis. This would result in the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • additional procurement costs; 	

	Item	Reason for Decision:	Alternative options:	Lead officer:
	<p>the Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Growth, to commence procurement of contractors for a demolition framework agreement to undertake demolition works on council managed properties in accordance with the public procurement rules, the Council's procurement and contract procedure rules and financial regulations.</p> <p>(2) That the Director of Regeneration and Growth be authorised to award contracts to the successful demolition framework contractors in accordance with (1) above.</p> <p>(3) That subject to (1) and (2) above, the Director of Law and Governance & Monitoring Officer be authorised to enter into and execute under seal as may be required, any documentation in relation to the award of framework contract and/or other agreements with the procured contractor(s) as deemed necessary.</p> <p>(4) That any necessary exemption be made to the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules to enable the course of action referred to in (1) above to proceed.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • extended programme to appoint a contractor; • inability to react quickly to urgent works; • potential loss of income from external clients; • loss of opportunity to develop close working relationship with specialist demolition contractor(s) and other local public sector bodies. 	
12	Parking Enforcement Contract Exemption	Efforts to properly procure a new parking	No suitable Frameworks had been	

	Item	Reason for Decision:	Alternative options:	Lead officer:
	<p>Agreed:-</p> <p>(1) That the Director of Borough Economy be authorised to extend the contract to APCOA for a period until 30 June 2023 at a value of £994,510 to deliver Parking Enforcement Services representing an increase of £34,561 (3.6%) on the value for 2021/22 of £959,949.</p> <p>(2) That the Director of Borough Economy be authorised to extend the contract to APCOA for a period from 1 July 2023 until 29th February 2024 at a value of £704,613 to deliver Parking Enforcement Services, equivalent to an increase of £6.3% on the value for the equivalent period in 2022/23.</p> <p>(3) That the Director of Borough Economy, in consultation with the Director of Finance, be authorised to extend, in the event of process delays, the contract to APCOA for a period from 1st March 2024 until 30th June 2024 at a value of £349,644 to deliver Parking Enforcement Services.</p> <p>(4) That approval be given to the procurement of a new four-year parking enforcement contract with provision for two, one-year extensions to include transferring the following staff from APCOA to the Council for the future in-house delivery of these services, at an</p>	<p>enforcement contract, with available internal resources and external commissions, over the last year had been unsuccessful. The scope of the contract requirements had been changing and were dependent on the balance between in-house and contract provision, the best practice use of new technology, the adoption of new enforcement powers, confirmation of the approval of revised parking charges and the post pandemic stabilisation of parking demand. These factors were unforeseen at the outset.</p> <p>The recommendations set out the approvals necessary to provide sufficient time to commission external subject matter expertise and capacity to develop the options and carry out potential procurement activity if required.</p>	<p>available and there had not been a positive response to the ITT for Consultancy Services that were sent out December 2021 to January 2022.</p>	

	Item	Reason for Decision:	Alternative options:	Lead officer:														
	<p>annual value of approximately £200,000 and would reduce the scope of the new contract accordingly.</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="168 343 763 694"> <tr> <td style="text-align: left;">Service</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Staff Transfer Numbers</td> </tr> <tr> <td>First Line Notice Processing Officers</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Notice Processing Supervisor</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bus Lane Enforcement officer (3 days per wk)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TRO Officer, Surveyor</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Representation and Appeals Officer</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Operations Supervisor</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1</td> </tr> </table> <p>(5) That any necessary exemptions be made under the Council's Contract Procedure Rules, the exception that we will use is a VEAT Notice to mitigate any risk to enable the course of action referred to in (1), (2) and (3) above to proceed.</p> <p>(6) That any necessary exemptions be made to Council Policy or approved processes to enable the course of action referred to in (4)</p> <p>(7) That the Director of Law and Governance be authorised to take any necessary actions to bring the proposals referred to in (1) – (6) into effect.</p>	Service	Staff Transfer Numbers	First Line Notice Processing Officers	2	Notice Processing Supervisor	1	Bus Lane Enforcement officer (3 days per wk)	1	TRO Officer, Surveyor	1	Representation and Appeals Officer	1	Operations Supervisor	1			
Service	Staff Transfer Numbers																	
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13	Organisational Culture, Values and Behaviours	The Council's organisational values and behaviours were central to customer experience and would both drive and be	There was no alternative option as this recommendation had been agreed as part of the Single															

	Item	Reason for Decision:	Alternative options:	Lead officer:
	<p>Agreed:-</p> <p>(1) That approval be given to adopt the following set of values and behaviours for Sandwell Council following the work that has taken place as part of the culture workstream within the Single Improvement Plan:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are one team - united and working together with the shared purpose of achieving great results. • We are customer focused– caring about providing the best possible public service. • We are inclusive – treating each other with respect and knowing our diversity is our strength. • We are ambitious – striving for excellence, always looking to get better and making sure everyone can take pride in our borough. • We are accountable – delivering what we say we will. 	<p>embedded through work on customer journey and around equality, diversity and inclusion.</p>	<p>Improvement Plan</p>	
<p>14</p>	<p>Cape Primary School and Uplands Manor Primary School - Making significant changes (prescribed alternations).</p> <p>Agreed:-</p> <p>(1) That in connection with the proposed prescribed alterations to reduce the pupil admission number (PAN) of</p>	<p>The reduction in the Pupil Admission Number (PAN) will lessen the impact on the schools' budgets where the existing PAN is not being filled as the projected demand is considerably less than the PAN.</p>	<p>Do nothing and keep the PAN at their existing numbers – The Reception classes were not forecast to fill to their maximum, meaning the schools would not receive the maximum funding to enable the required classes per year group. There would be an expectation from the Local Authority that the schools</p>	

	Item	Reason for Decision:	Alternative options:	Lead officer:
	<p>Cape Primary School, Cape Hill, Durban Road, Smethwick, B66 4SH and Uplands Manor Primary School, Addenbrooke Road, Smethwick, B67 6HT by a form of entry with effect from 1 September 2023 approval be given to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) publish the appropriate statutory proposals for each school; (2) delegate the decision for the prescribed alternations to the Director of Children's Services and Education, following completion of the statutory consultation period, and to request the School Adjudicator to make a final decision on the proposals to reduce the PAN's by a form of entry as the Authority has already determined its admission arrangements for those maintained schools for 2023/24 academic year. 		<p>could still take up to the maximum number of pupils throughout the whole intake year. This may have resulted in a high number of in-year allocations that could potentially require changes to class organisation during the school year which was detrimental to the pupils and the school.</p>	
15	Appointment of a non-executive director	The appointment of the previous non-	The alternative option would be to	

	Item	Reason for Decision:	Alternative options:	Lead officer:
	<p>of Sandwell Children's Trust</p> <p>Agreed:-</p> <p>(1) That Cabinet, on behalf of the Council as the sole owner of Sandwell Children's Trust:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a) notes the completed sequence of events that are contractually required to appoint a non-executive director of Sandwell Children's Trust;</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">b) notes and takes into account in its decision-making, the response from the Secretary of State for Education; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">c) agrees the appointment Jane Bleach as a non-executive director of Sandwell Children's Trust for the period of 3 years from 1 March 2023.</p>	<p>executive director ended in February 2023. To ensure that the requirement for independent non-executive directors as set out in Article 13.1.4 of the Articles of Association for Sandwell Children's Trust (the Trust) was met, a recruitment exercise was undertaken.</p>	<p>reject the recommendation. However, in line with the Governance Side Agreement with the DfE(which superseded the Memorandum of Understanding) and the Trust's Articles of Association, there would be a vacancy on the board that would still need to be filled. A new recruitment process would need to be undertaken which would leave a gap in the governance arrangements of the Trust for a period of time.</p>	
16	<p>Tree Strategy and Implementation Plan 2023 - 2028</p> <p>Agreed:-</p>	<p>The Tree Strategy refreshed the Council's approach to the protection, enhancement, and management of tree stock in Sandwell and aligned with practice in other authorities</p>	<p>There were no alternative options.</p>	

	Item	Reason for Decision:	Alternative options:	Lead officer:
	<p>(1) That approval be given to adopt the Tree Strategy and Implementation Plan 2023 – 2028 as set out in Appendix A, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Council’s policy and approach to protecting, enhancing, and managing our tree stock in Sandwell. b) The Council’s policy and approach towards trees on private land. c) The Council’s policy and approach towards tree planting. <p>(2) That the Assistant Director of Borough Economy be authorised to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Prepare a detailed action plan for the implementation of the Tree Strategy. b) Work with Climate Change colleagues and internal / external stakeholders to develop and implement a tree planting programme for the 2023 / 2024 planting season. c) Complete a baseline inspection of all trees on Council land within the red risk areas in the next 18 months, to comply with the inspection 	<p>and national guidance.</p>		

	Item	Reason for Decision:	Alternative options:	Lead officer:
	<p>framework set out within the strategy.</p> <p>d) Work with finance colleagues to identify funds for the baseline inspection and subsequent red risk remedial works arising from this.</p> <p>e) Prepare projections for the medium-term financial plan in relation to trees, following the baseline inspections, to meet the commitments set out within this strategy.</p> <p>f) Submit a further report to Cabinet to consider on recommendations addressing Ash Dieback.</p>			
17	<p>Improvement Plan Progress & Phase 2 Refresh</p> <p>Agreed;-</p> <p>(1) That progress against the Improvement Plan up to 2 February 2023 be received.</p> <p>(2) That the CIPFA FM Model Re-assessment Report be received.</p> <p>(3) That the responses to the recommendations and improvement points made in the Grant Thornton</p>	<p>A quarterly update on progress against the Improvement Plan was agreed by Council on 7 June 2022. The Improvement Plan incorporates all recommendations from the original Grant Thornton Value for Money Governance Review, the LGA Corporate Peer Challenge and the CIPFA Financial Management Review, as well as the Statutory Directions from the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.</p>	<p>The Value for Money Governance Review was undertaken as part of the external auditor's role to provide assurance on the council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. As the report included statutory recommendations, the council had a legal obligation to respond appropriately.</p> <p>The Directions issued by the Secretary of State were a statutory requirement and the council has a legal obligation to respond</p>	

	Item	Reason for Decision:	Alternative options:	Lead officer:
	<p>reissued Value for Money Governance Review Report, Grant Thornton Follow Up Review Report and the LGA Corporate Peer Challenge Progress Review be received.</p> <p>(4) That the Improvement Plan Risk Register as now submitted be received.</p> <p>(5) That details of changes to the Improvement Plan as a result of the follow-up external reviews and change to the Improvement Plan monitoring method be received.</p> <p>(6) That any recommendations or comments made by Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board and the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee in relation to the Improvement Plan will be reported to a future meeting of the Cabinet.</p>		<p>appropriately. Failure to do so would likely result in further intervention measures.</p> <p>Reviewing progress against the Improvement Plan enabled senior officers and members to have oversight of delivery, and take corrective action, as necessary. Alternative methods of monitoring progress could be adopted. The current monitoring method was regularly reviewed to ensure it remained fit for purpose and provided Leadership Team with the oversight they require.</p>	
18	<p>Performance Management Framework - Q3 Monitoring</p> <p>Agreed that that the progress on the further development of the Corporate Performance Management Framework be received and approval be given to the Q3 monitoring reports.</p>	<p>Council approved a corporate Performance Management Framework (PMF) on 12 April 2022, to address the recommendations of the Governance Value for Money Review by Grant Thornton and as a key element of the Council's Improvement Plan.</p> <p>The corporate PMF had been further refined and built into business processes. The report</p>	<p>The Directions issued by the Secretary of State, including the requirement to have a performance management framework in place, were a statutory requirement and the council had a legal obligation to respond appropriately. Failure to do so would likely result in further intervention measures.</p>	

	Item	Reason for Decision:	Alternative options:	Lead officer:
		<p>on Q3 sought to build on the intelligence gathered for Q1 and Q2 and offered the opportunity to assess in year progress.</p>	<p>The council had various options on what type of performance management framework to establish. The Council's approach had been developed through understanding the needs of the organisation and drawing on best practice from other local authorities.</p>	
20	<p>Refurbishment of Alfred Gunn House</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) That approval be given to increase the Housing Revenue Account Capital Investment Programme budget by an amount in the range £9.997m to £11.254m for completion of the major project at Alfred Gunn House, which includes the refurbishment of the block, new build flats within the block and new build homes in the vicinity of the block. 2) That the Director of Housing, in consultation with the Director of Finance, be authorised to remodel the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Investment Programme in order to accommodate the increased costs set out at (1). 3) That the Director of Housing, in 	<p>As the projected total cost of the project has risen, compared to the original contract value, Cabinet approval is required in order to authorise the additional £9.997m to £11.254m spend from the HRA Capital Investment Programme.</p>	<p>The option to terminate the current contract and re-tender for the outstanding work has been considered by officers but had been ruled out on the basis that additional costs have already been incurred and there had been no significant breach of contract by the contractor that would entitle the council to terminate.</p>	

	Item	Reason for Decision:	Alternative options:	Lead officer:
	<p>consultation with the Director of Finance and the Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer, be authorised to identify and implement the appropriate process for approving contract variations, in accordance with legal, financial and procurement procedures and advice.</p> <p>4) That negotiations with the contractor, Seddon, be finalised in order to confirm the full and final costs of the Alfred Gunn House project, which shall not exceed £11.254m, and the completion date for the project.</p> <p>5) That a review of contract performance and management on the Alfred Gunn House project be undertaken in order to learn the lessons and put more robust project and contract management in place for ongoing and future major complex projects of this type, and the review be reported to the Cabinet Member for Housing.</p>			