

Executive Report 20 January 2016

Councillor Paul Bettison
Leader of the Council



Draft Homelessness Strategy (1)

- Big increase in homelessness in recent years
- Positive response to avoid disruptive and expensive use of bed and breakfast
 - Tenterden Lodge
 - Downshire Homes



Draft Homelessness Strategy (2)

- New draft strategy sets out 4 priorities
 - good quality advice and prevention services
 - work in partnership to avoid duplication and maximise expertise
 - meet need for emergency accommodation
 - maximise access to housing



Local Council Tax Benefit Scheme

- Changes agreed to scheme
- Relates to working age households only
 - maximum discount for working age households reduced to 80%
 - child maintenance payments taken into account when calculating income
 - self-employed assumed to earn at least national living wage after 12 months
 - income disregards for working people increased (by £5/week)
 - hardship fund increased to £20k



• **Recommended to Council**

SANGS Capital Spending (1)

- Need to enhance SANGS already agreed to avoid restrictions on occupation and/or jeopardise 5 year land supply
- All funded by S106 to no cost to Council



SANGS Capital Spending (2)

- 5 schemes at cost of £95k
 - refurbishment of bridge at Anneforde Place
 - pedestrian entrance to Englemere Pond
 - need beds and scrub improvement, Englemere Pond
 - pond restoration at Shepherds Meadows
 - car park improvements Horseshoe Lake



• **Recommended to Council**

Revenue Budget 2016/17

- Draft proposals for consultation based upon new Council Plan and Government indications of likely reduction in grant up to 40%
- £2.3m responding to demographic and legislative pressures
- Initial savings of over £4m identified
- Work of Transformation Board to identify additional savings of around £2m in 2016/17
- Draft settlement published 17 December showed 80% reduction in revenue support grant
- Additional proposals to next Executive
- **Virements over £100k recommended to Council**



Capital Programme 2016/17 – 2018/19

- Proposed programme for 2016/17 – 2018/19 approved for consultation
- Major investment in future of Borough including:
 - Bracknell town centre infrastructure
 - Binfield Learning Village
 - Coral Reef [subject to affordability]
 - additional chapel at Cemetery & Crematorium
- **Virements and use of Basic Needs Grant recommended to Council**



THANK YOU

Paul

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