

## SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Report of:** Cabinet

**To:** South Holland District Council Wednesday, 31 July 2019

**(Author:** Christine Morgan Democratic Services Officer)

**Subject** Report from Cabinet meeting on 18 June 2019

**Purpose:** To consider recommendations of the Cabinet in respect of:

- a) **2018/19 Financial Outturn – To provide information on the outturn financial position of the Council as at 31 March 2019 (Cabinet minute 6/19) (Cabinet agenda item 7)**
- b) **Economic Action Plan, Inward Investment Marketing Strategy, Skills Service future funding options, creation of a new Economic Development Officer post – To present to members a package of proposed activity that has been designed to support interventions in respect of Economic Development and Inward Investment delivery in South Holland, including the adoption of a South Holland Economic Action Plan (Cabinet minute 7/19) (Cabinet agenda item 8)**

### **Recommendations to Council:**

#### **a) 2018/19 Financial Outturn**

- 1) That the net General Fund underspend of £631,859 be transferred to the Council Tax Reserve.
- 2) That the revised General Fund capital programme of £8.268m **Appendix A – Table 6** and the revised HRA capital programme for 2019/20 of £14.875m **Appendix A – Table 8** are approved.

#### **b) Economic Action Plan, Inward Investment Marketing strategy, Skills Service future funding options, creation of a new Economic Development Officer post**

- 3) That in order to support with the delivery of recommendations 1, 2 and 3 (to Cabinet), and to provide additional resilience to the Economic Development and Inward Investment team, that Council gives consideration to and approves the creation of a new Economic Development Officer post.

## **1.0 BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 Article 4 of the Council's Constitution provides that only the full Council may exercise the functions of approving, adopting or amending the policy framework and budget, and adopting or changing the Constitution. Staffing matters are also a Council function. The Cabinet however has a responsibility for advising the Council on such matters. At its

meeting on 18 June 2019, the Cabinet made recommendations to Council in respect of the above items which may affect the budget and policy framework, Constitution or comprise staffing issues.

- 1.2 The remainder of this report details the recommendations of the Cabinet which must be read in conjunction with the individual reports to Cabinet, copies of which are attached as appendices.

2.0 **2018/19 FINANCIAL OUTTURN  
(Report submitted to Cabinet – Item 7 attached)**

Consideration was given to the report of the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Executive Director Commercialisation (S151) which provided information on the outturn financial position of the Council as at 31 March 2019.

In response to when new leisure facilities would be considered in the South Holland area, members were advised that surveys on facilities and outside space were currently underway. These would last for 12 months. A consultation was also due to start shortly. Outcomes would be considered at the end of this period which would inform future provision.

**DECISION:**

- a) That the report and Appendix A be noted;
- b) That the contributions to and use of reserves be agreed in line with para 5.5.2 to 5.5.4 and Appendix A, Tables 3 and 4 of the report;

*(Other options considered:*

- *To note the report and not approve the recommendations detailed in Appendix A; or*
- *To do nothing.*

*Reasons for decision:*

- *To provide members with information on the Council's overall financial performance in 2018-19 and to provide an updated financial position on reserves for 2019-20.)*

3.0 **ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN, INWARD INVESTMENT MARKETING STRATEGY, SKILLS SERVICE FUTURE FUNDING OPTIONS, CREATION OF A NEW ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICER POST  
(Report submitted to Cabinet – Item 8 attached)**

Consideration was given to the report of the Portfolio Holder for Growth and Commercialisation, which presented to members a package of proposed activity that had been designed to support interventions in respect of Economic Development and Inward Investment delivery in South Holland, including the adoption of a South Holland Economic Action Plan.

Members questioned how the Authority would measure the success of the proposals detailed within the report. Officers confirmed that that the results of the

action plan would be monitored very closely. Areas such as the number of jobs created, the number of businesses attracting to the district, and the value they brought to the economy would all be measured.

**DECISION:**

- a) That the adoption of the South Holland Economic Action Plan and associated work programme be approved, with a view to embed the actions contained within as part of the Council's delivery of its wider corporate plan;
- b) That the proposed funding for the delivery of the 'Skills Service' across secondary schools in South Holland for a 12 month period be approved, whilst a longer term funding strategy for the service is developed;
- c) That in view of the findings of the 'Inward Investment Communications and Marketing Audit' as prepared by Opportunity Peterborough, implementation of the elements contained in paragraph 3.12 of the report, relating to communication with businesses within the district be approved; and

*(Other options considered:*

- *To approve some or all of the recommendations, with or without changes; or*
- *To do nothing.*

*Reasons for decision:*

- *The adoption of the Economic Action Plan would provide an evidence based action plan/policy to guide and inform the direction of the service;*
- *The adoption of the communications recommendations within the Marketing and Communications Audit would help drive improvements in how the Authority communicated with key stakeholders on matters relating to economic and jobs growth;*
- *Funding to support the continuation of work being done by the Skills service with local schools and businesses would allow the Authority to support local school leavers and businesses in promoting career opportunities within the local economy; and*
- *The addition of an Economic Development Officer post to the existing team would strengthen the Grants4growth project and the Economic Development/Inward Investment service.)*

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Background papers:-	None
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**Key Decision:** N

**Exempt Decision:** N

**Appendices attached to this report:**

Appendix A Cabinet Agenda Item 7

Appendix B	Cabinet Agenda Item 7 – Appendix A
Appendix C	Cabinet Agenda Item 8
Appendix D	Cabinet Agenda Item 8 – Appendix A
Appendix E	Cabinet Agenda Item 8 – Appendix B
Appendix F	Cabinet Agenda Item 8 – Appendix C
Appendix G	Cabinet Agenda Item 8 – Appendix D
Appendix H	Cabinet Agenda Item 8 – Appendix E