



REPORT TO:	South Holland District Council
DATE:	Wednesday, 19 January 2022
SUBJECT:	Report from Cabinet meeting on 14 December 2021
PURPOSE:	To consider recommendations of the Cabinet in respect of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Garden Waste Scheme Update – To provide an update on the garden waste scheme and consider future options (Cabinet minute 27) (Cabinet agenda item 7);b) Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2022/23 – To seek Cabinet decision on the final proposals for the 2022/23 Local Council Tax Support scheme, to be presented to Council for approval on 19 January 2022 (Cabinet minute 32) (Cabinet agenda item 12);c) 2021/22 Financial Report Quarter 2 – To provide information on the Quarter 2 (to 30 September 2021) financial position of the Council (Cabinet minute 33) (Cabinet agenda item 13)
KEY DECISION:	No
PORTFOLIO HOLDERS:	Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercialisation & Partnerships
REPORT OF:	Cabinet
REPORT AUTHOR:	Christine Morgan
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	N/A
EXEMPT REPORT?	No

SUMMARY

This report provides Members of the Council with detail on issues considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 14 December 2021, which require decisions by Full Council. Relevant extracts from the Cabinet minutes are detailed at Sections 2, 3 and 4 below, and the relevant Cabinet reports and appendices are attached as appendices to this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Garden Waste Scheme Update

- 1) That the current establishment is increased by 3 full time posts, a full-time supervisor, full-time garden waste HGV driver and full-time garden waste loader and that the costs for these posts be funded from the income generated by the scheme;
- 2) That, should the review of terms and conditions of the garden waste scheme prove it necessary, a consultation with staff commence to consider changing start times for garden waste crews to 6am; and

- 3) That delegated authority be given to the Head of Environmental and Operational Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder of Environmental Services, to implement the outcome of that consultation;

Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2022/23

- 4) The continuation of the current Local Council Tax Support scheme, including uprating in line with DWP's annual update of allowances and premiums for housing benefit for 2022/23;
- 5) The introduction of a provision in the scheme for discretion to disregard national schemes introduced during a financial year in the calculation of Council Tax Support; and
- 6) Delegation to the Deputy Chief Executive (Corporate Development) and S151 Officer, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Partnerships and Commercialisation, to approve the final 2022/23 scheme in line with this report, and any administrative and minor changes;

2021/22 Financial Report Quarter 2

- 7) To approve adjustments to the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account Capital programme as set in table 5 and 7 of Appendix A (to the original Cabinet report attached)

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

The reasons for recommendation are detailed within the individual reports attached, and are summarised in the relevant Cabinet minute below.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Other Options considered are detailed within the individual reports attached, and are summarised in the relevant Cabinet minute below.

1. 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 responsibility for advising the Council on such matters. At its meeting on 14 December 2021, the Cabinet made recommendations to Council in respect of the above items which may affect 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. GARDEN WASTE SCHEME UPDATE (Report submitted to Cabinet – Agenda Item 7 attached)

Consideration was given to the report of the Portfolio Holder for Environmental and Operational Services, and the Assistant Director – Neighbourhoods, which provided an update on the garden waste scheme and considered future options.

DECISION:

That, subject to Council approval of recommendations 7 to 9:

- 1) The contents of the report and the update on the garden waste scheme so far be noted;

- 2) That approval be given for the Garden Waste Collection Scheme to be further extended to incorporate more areas of South Holland by way of three collection vehicles;
- 3) That approval be given to procure route optimisation software to ensure the most efficient and effective routes and for it to be added to Capital and Revenue budgets;
- 4) That delegated authority be given to the Head of Environmental and Operational Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services, to amend the terms and conditions for subscribers as necessary, including start times;
- 5) That in accordance with the legal requirement of the Environment Act 2021, the purple sack garden waste collection service be removed to ensure that SHDC are compliant with the requirement for separate collection of garden waste, which must be recycled or composted;
- 6) That approval be given to purchase an additional 5,040 bins for the expansion being a £29,000 capital investment in 2021/22, funded from the Investment and Growth reserve. The remaining costs to be built into the capital budget for 2022/23 and paid back over 15 years through contributions to reserves;

(Other options considered:

- *Do nothing – This would mean that the scheme remained at capacity and no further residents would be able to join, resulting in continued growth of the register of interest and potentially increased frustration from those seeking to access the service.*

Reasons for decision:

- *The service could be provided to more residents of SHDC. The service was well liked and often challenged as to why it was not available to more residents - this would enable that additional capacity;*
- *This growth would provide an improved customer satisfaction and reduce the list of people on the Register of Interest, waiting for a subscription;*
- *The service was discretionary, and its growth would ensure it remained cost effective and commercially viable and would continue to be developed with this in mind;*
- *Increased household recycling rate and reduction of garden waste sent for residual disposal. Therefore, improved opportunity to dispose of waste in a more environmentally beneficial way, as set out in the waste hierarchy;*
- *Compliance with the Environment Act 2021 regarding disposal of garden waste;*
- *Improved consistency for the garden waste collection service that could be offered to residents;*
- *Additional job opportunities for the local economy; and*
- *More efficient and cost-effective routing to ensure no service disruption and economical collections as the seasons change).*

3. LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2022/23 (Report submitted to Cabinet – Agenda Item 12 attached)

Consideration was given to the report of the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercialisation and Partnerships, and the Deputy Chief Executive (Corporate Development) and S151 Officer, which sought a Cabinet decision on the final proposals for the 2022/23 scheme, to be presented to Council for approval on 19 January 2022.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

- 1) That the current Local Council Tax Support scheme, including uprating in line with DWP's annual update of allowances and premiums for housing benefit for 2022/23, be continued;
- 2) That a provision in the scheme be introduced for discretion to disregard national schemes introduced during a financial year in the calculation of Council Tax Support; and

3) That delegation be given to the Deputy Chief Executive (Corporate Development) and S151 Officer, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Partnership and Commercialisation to approve the 2022/23 final scheme, in line with this report, and any administrative and minor changes.

(Other options considered:

- *No alternative options were proposed. Any other changes to the scheme would require consultation.*

Reasons for decision:

- *To provide continuity for working age claimants, maintaining current levels of support).*

4. 2021/22 FINANCIAL REPORT QUARTER 2 (Report submitted to Cabinet – Agenda Item 13 attached)

Consideration was given to the report of the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Commercialisation and Partnerships and the Deputy Chief Executive (Corporate Development) and S151 Officer, which provided information on the Quarter 2 (to 30 September 2021) financial position of the Council.

The following issues were raised:

- In relation to savings targets, members questioned whether there were any other savings that could be made. Officers responded that this information was currently being drawn together for the Q3 Financial Report, and that there would be one very large saving that would contribute to anticipated savings.
- The pandemic had affected the Authority quite substantially and assumptions were therefore being made very carefully.
- Members questioned whether VAT had to be paid on Public Conveniences – this issue had been raised some time ago but there had not been clarity at the time. Officer responded that legislation had been passed earlier in the year with regard to business rates being paid on Public Conveniences – VAT was no longer payable on them however, it was from a specific date and there was therefore no rebate.

DECISION:

- 1) That the report and Appendix A be noted;
- 2) That the estimated position with regard to the approved contributions to and use of reserves be noted; and
- 3) That the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account Capital programme be noted as set out in table 5 and 7 of Appendix A;

(Other options considered:

- *Do nothing.*

Reasons for decision:

- *To provide timely information to members on the overall financial position of the Council).*

APPENDICES

Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report: -

APPENDIX A	Garden Waste Scheme update report
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APPENDIX B	Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2022/23 covering report
APPENDIX C	Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2022/23 (Appendix A to original Cabinet report)
APPENDIX D	2021/22 Financial Report Quarter 2 covering report
APPENDIX E	2021/22 Financial Report Quarter 2 (Appendix A to original Cabinet report)

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers as defined in Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the production of this report.

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THIS REPORT

Name of body	Date
Cabinet	14 December 2021

REPORT APPROVAL

Report author:	Christine Morgan cmorgan@sholland.gov.uk
Signed off by:	The individual reports have previously been signed off by the relevant Directors and Portfolio Holders
Approved for publication:	As above