

**MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**23 JUNE 2021**

**REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE**  
**COMMITTEE HELD ON 13 APRIL 2021**

**LOCAL PLAN REVIEW BUDGET**

**Issue for Decision**

The Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Committee have requested that the Local Plan Review Budget become a standing agenda item for the Policy and Resources Committee, to have full surveillance on it.

**Recommendation Made**

That the Committee consider the request to make the Local Plan Review Budget a standing agenda item.

**Reasons for Recommendation**

The Local Plan Review budget was presented to the SPI Committee on 13 April 2021.

Extract of Minute 357 from the above-mentioned meeting is outlined below:

*'The Director of Finance and Business Improvement introduced the report and referenced the Committee's request to the Policy and Resources Committee, for additional funding to be allocated to the Local Plan Review (LPR) budget. In response, the Policy and Resources Committee had requested that officers re-examine the budget allocated for the LPR, with the outcomes of the review presented to that Committee in March 2021.*

*The work undertaken by the Finance and Planning Teams was highlighted, with the projected expenditure up until 2023 outlined in Appendix A to the report. The expenditure had been split into Core Funding, New Requirements and Discretionary categories.*

*The projections included a £30,000 contingency fund for both 2021/22 and 2022/23, with the proposed work relating to the Town Centre Plan to be funded separately through Section 106 contributions. The additional £200,000 required for 2021/22 would be funded through the Corporate Contingency Fund, which would be supported by additional income that the Council was expecting. The £135,000 required for 2022/23 would be considered as part of the annual review of the Council's budget proposals, with it likely that another £100,000 would be brought forward from future year's expenditure to supplement the funding.*

*Several Members of the Committee expressed concerns over the LPR budget's viability and the feasibility of the actions proposed, which were felt to be overly*

*optimistic, particularly in reference to Development Plan Documents (DPD). However, as mitigating actions had been proposed, it was felt that the budget should continue to be monitored'.*

In noting the report, the request was made for the Policy and Resources Committee to have the Local Plan Review Budget as standing item to have full surveillance on the matter, as the body that is responsible for overseeing the Council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

### **Alternatives Considered and Why Not Recommended**

None.

### **Background Documents**

[Minutes Template \(maidstone.gov.uk\)](https://www.maidstone.gov.uk) – Minutes of the Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on 13 April 2021.

### **Appendices**

None.