

Response from Lydia Morrison, Chief Finance Officer, to questions raised by Cllr Trevor Maroney at the 25 February 2021 EHDC Full Council Meeting

Dear Cllr Moroney,

Please find below written responses to your two outstanding questions raised at Full Council on the 25th February 2021.

1. "Why aren't the Business Performance Updates for FY20-21 and Business Plan for 2021-24 that were presented to the Cabinet Shareholder Sub-committee in exempt session on 4th February 2021 included in this budget. The public and backbenchers have no idea what the real costs of running the council have been during Covid-19"

The meeting you are referring to is responsible for providing the strategic oversight of East Hampshire District Council's companies. That particular meeting was to provide an update to the Shareholders on the performance to date of East Hampshire Commercial Services Ltd and present the Business Plan for the period 2021 – 2024.

I have attached the full Terms of Reference (ToR) for this Committee which are available online within the newly adopted constitution for your ease of reference.

As you will see by the ToR the Shareholders Committee report to Cabinet, there will be an annual report to Cabinet which will be presented at the appropriate time but I would expect this to be following the closure of accounts and completion of the annual audit by the external auditors.

The information and reports presented to the Shareholders Committee are subject to the normal 'need to know' regulations and due to the content of these being commercially sensitive are exempt from publication. As this is a company and not a service department the reports which you refer to are not relevant to the Budget Report presented to Full Council on the 25th February 2021. Your final comment is also not relevant as EH Commercial Services Ltd as I have stated above is a trading company not a service department.

All relevant reporting information is including within East Hampshire Statutory Accounts on a annual basis within the Notes to the Accounting Statements – Note 28 Interests within other entities.

2. I believe your second question for Cllr Louisson 'what had append to the seven hundred thousand of surplus reported to Members at the Budget Briefing and at Overview and Scrutiny'

I have checked the presentation to all Members and the papers circulated to O&S on the 26th January 2021. I have found two figures in the region of £700k the first is referenced on page 15 the final bullet point is £716k of efficiency saving which have been found to date by the organisation (financial year 2020/21) the second is £788k found in the first bullet point on page 20 of that same report which is savings found

within service budgets following the challenge sessions with Head of Service for the financial year 2021/22. I can find no reference or mention within the documents to a surplus for the financial year 2021/22 if you could therefore point me to the figure you are referring to I will then be able to review and come back to you.