PRESENT: Councillor Graham Swift in the Chair. Councillors Rebecca Burnett, Mike Chambers, Phil Ireland, Stan Lumley and Andy Paraskos.

Late Arrivals: None

Early Departures: None

48/19 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: An apology for absence had been received from Councillor Richard Cooper. (5.30 pm)

49/19 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: There were no declarations of interest. (5.30 pm)

50/19 – MINUTES: The Minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 18 September 2019 were submitted. It was noted that under Minute 35/19 the expression “took art in the debate” should be amended to read “took part in the debate”. The Minutes were then approved unanimously as a correct record and signed by the Chair. (5.32 pm)

51/19 – EXEMPT INFORMATION: The appendices to the report considered at Minute 54/19 were considered to be exempt under paragraphs 1 and 3 of Schedule 12a to the Local Government Act. Discussion on the item, however, took place in open session. (5.32 pm)

MATTER REFERRED TO COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION

52/19 - TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY - MIDYEAR REVIEW 2019/20: The Head of Finance submitted a written report which provided a mid-year review of the authority’s Treasury Management activity and performance for the year 2019/20. The Treasury Management Strategy had been approved by Council in March 2019 and Cabinet were requested to endorse a proposed amendment to the investment strategy to include Property Funds and Money Market Funds as potential investment options.

The report had been prepared in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management and began with an economic update, which set the context for the Council’s investment and borrowing strategy. The first half of the 2019/20 financial year had seen the UK experiencing political upheaval in relation to the uncertainties surrounding Brexit. This meant that interest rate forecasts were subject to change as the situation evolved and the Monetary Policy Committee had left the Bank Rate unchanged at 0.75% throughout 2019.
Section 9 of the report provided an update on the Council’s capital expenditure plans and how such plans were to be financed; Section 10 gave details of the Council’s investment portfolio and Section 11 outlined borrowing activities for 2019/20. The Council’s budgeted investment return for 2019/20 was £411k and performance for the first six months was £35k above budget. In addition no new external borrowing had been undertaken during the first six months of 2019/20. Within the first six months of 2019/20 the approved limits within the Annual Investment Strategy were not breached.

RECOMMENDED (UNANIMOUSLY):

That  (1) the report be received; and

(2) the Investment Strategy be clarified to include Property Funds and Money Market Funds as potential investment options.

(5.32 pm – 5.33 pm)