

Town Hall, Rose Hill,
Chesterfield, Derbyshire S40 1LP

DX 12356, Chesterfield

Email democratic.services@chesterfield.gov.uk

To: All Members of the Council
Chief Executive

Please ask for Graham
Ibberson
Direct Line 01246 345277
Fax 01246 345252

Our Ref
Your Ref

Dear Councillor,

Record of Decision taken by Cabinet - 5 February, 2024

At a meeting of the Cabinet held on 5 February, 2024, the following decisions were reached on the items listed in the attached schedule.

The implementation of these Cabinet decisions is suspended until the call-in period has expired without a call-in being validly invoked. Any Member of the Council shall be entitled to call for a decision to be suspended by giving notice to the Monitoring Officer *either by telephone, fax, email or in writing not later than 5.00 pm on the day following the date of the Cabinet meeting.*

Any decision so suspended shall not be capable of implementation for a period of five calendar days from the date of the Cabinet meeting which will expire on, 10 February 2024.

(DURING THE CALL-IN PERIOD A REQUEST MAY BE MADE IN RESPECT OF ANY DECISION SO SUSPENDED BY NOT LESS THAN ONE QUARTER OF THE TOTAL MEMBERSHIP OF THE OVERVIEW AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE. TO DO THIS YOU WILL NEED TO NOTIFY THE MONITORING OFFICER IN WRITING, BY FAX OR BY EMAIL BY 5.00 PM ON 10 FEBRUARY 2024 BEING FIVE DAYS FOLLOWING THE DAY OF THE CABINET MEETING.)

continued

Public Information

5. Cultural Services Review - Hasland Village Hall, Assembly Rooms and Revolution House

***RESOLVED –**

1. That alternative operational arrangements be devised for Hasland Village Hall so that the premises can be provided to the community without requiring an operational subsidy, and that the building can be let for certain uses without the requirement for a council employee to be on site.
2. That officers be authorised to progress with a community asset transfer process for Hasland Village Hall, including carrying out appropriate engagement activities with residents and community organisations as part of the process.
3. That the letting of the Assembly Rooms be ceased to external parties as from 30th June 2024, or earlier if that can be achieved, and that officers provide guidance about the availability of alternative facilities to the regular community hirers.
4. That officers be authorised to advertise the Assembly Rooms for commercial letting, and to develop heads of terms to establish appropriate lease arrangements for the Assembly Rooms, in line with the desire to generate sufficient rental income to cover the costs of providing and maintaining the premises.
5. That the temporary closure of Revolution House be approved, as from 1st April 2024, until such time as a suitable alternative arrangement can be put in place to achieve budget savings.
6. That the disposal of Revolution House to a suitable organisation, be approved, in line with the desire to support the conservation of this significant historical asset for the benefit of the borough.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

The proposals have been brought forward to respond to the savings targets identified in the Budget Strategy Implementation Plan, which was approved in November 2023. This will enable the Council to work towards

developing a balanced 2024/25 budget and MTFP, which will support the Council to continue to deliver against the vision and priorities set out in the Council Plan.

6. Cultural Services fees and charges 24/25

***RESOLVED –**

1. That the changes to the room hire charges, equipment hire and staffing charges at Hasland Village Hall be approved from 1 April 2024, as detailed in Appendix A of the officer's report.
2. That the changes to the room hire charges, equipment hire and staffing charges at the Assembly Rooms be approved from 1 April 2024, as detailed in Appendix B of the officer's report.
3. That the introduction of room hire charges for the meeting rooms at the Town Hall be approved from 1 April 2024, as detailed in Appendix C of the officer's report.
4. That the changes to miscellaneous charges for the provision of Museum services be approved from 1 April 2024, as detailed in Appendix D of the officer's report.
5. That authority be delegated to the Service Director for Leisure, Culture and Community Wellbeing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Town Centres and Visitor Economy, to apply appropriate negotiated fees and charges for new activities and opportunities that are introduced during the period covered by the officer's report.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Council continues to face significant financial challenges. The sustained period of austerity since 2010, the ongoing risks and uncertainties over future funding arrangements, the budgetary impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic and a sustained period of exceptionally high inflation, have all impacted on the Council's financial position.
2. The Council's budget strategy is to deliver a balanced and sustainable budget. Given the forecast budget deficits it is important

that all potential increases to income streams are implemented as soon as possible to help mitigate these pressures.

7. Sport and leisure fees and charges 24/25

***RESOLVED –**

1. That the proposed fees and charges for sports centre activities, as set out in Appendix 1 of the officer's report, be approved with effect from 1 April 2024 until 31 March 2025.
2. That the proposed fitness membership fees for new customers, as set out in Appendix 1 of the officer's report, be approved with effect from 1 April 2024 until 31 March 2025, whilst the fitness membership fees for existing members be held at their current levels.
3. That approval be given to remove racket sports from the current Fitness Membership package and replace this with a racket only membership fee.
4. That authority be delegated to the Service Director – Leisure, Culture and Community Wellbeing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, to apply appropriate fees and charges to new activities that are introduced during the period covered by the officer's report.
5. That authority be delegated to the Service Director – Leisure, Culture and Community Wellbeing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, to make changes to the approved fees and charges, if required to stimulate usage, support the retention of customers, develop income and /or to respond to external forces.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To comply with the Council's Budget Strategy for recovering fees and charges to contribute to the costs of service delivery.
2. To balance the need between competitive pricing and maximising income alongside wider community wellbeing priorities.

3. To continue discretionary pricing to support the most vulnerable and given the range of current pressures maintaining existing concessions is an appropriate method of targeting support.

8. Housing Services Complaints Performance Report

***RESOLVED –**

1. That it be noted that the Council's Housing Service currently complies with the Housing Ombudsman's code of practice, as evidenced in the self-assessment provided in Appendix 1 of the officer's report.
2. That the Housing Service's complaints handling performance for the first three quarters of the financial year 2023/24 be noted.
3. That the measures proposed at paragraph 4.22 of the officer's report be endorsed to bring about immediate improvements to the Housing Service's complaints handling performance.
4. That officers be asked to prepare an end of year performance report for the financial year 2023/24 and to provide regular performance reports throughout the financial year 2024/25.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

It is important for the Council to receive feedback from tenants who are not satisfied with the performance of the service and to make improvements as a result. Monitoring complaints and reporting activity is required in order to meet the requirements of the Housing Ombudsman and the Social Housing Regulator.

10. Changes to Careline and Independent Living Service

***RESOLVED –**

1. That the information set out in the report regarding changes to the Careline Service, as a result of Derbyshire County Council ending contracts and removing funding be noted.
2. That the information provided with regards to the risk to Council customers and employees if the service is discontinued, and the

risks associated with the Council continuing to provide the service be noted.

3. That continuation of the Careline Service be approved, as a 24 hour calls and falls response service, with a view to it being provided on a cost-neutral basis, in recognition of the critical role it plays in supporting vulnerable customers and the wider health and social care system.
4. That the new service strategy set out in paragraph 4.8 of the officer's report, be approved, including the changes to the charging structure for the service, for existing and new customers, as set out in paragraph 4.8b of the officer's report.
5. That authority be delegated to the Service Director – Housing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing, to review and make changes to the detailed schedule of additional charges, as and when appropriate.
6. That the allocation of £150k from General Fund budget reserves, to fund new digital equipment, for existing customers, including any who are seeking to transfer from DCC provision, and the development of a marketing strategy to drive the estimated growth in customer numbers, be approved.
7. That officers be authorised to commence a reshape of the Careline service to reflect the new delivery model, in line with the Council's Human Resources policies and procedures.
8. That a contribution from the Housing Revenue Account reflective of the proportion of Careline customers who are council tenants, be approved, in recognition of the important role Careline plays in helping people to sustain their tenancies.
9. That the establishment of a £300,000 Careline budget risk reserve to recognise the financial risk that the Council will be taking in 2024/25, in striving to establish a cost-neutral position, be approved.
10. That it be noted that that there will be frequent and regular reviews of service operations and the financial standing of the Careline Service throughout 2024/25, and that if sufficient progress is not being made towards the achievement of a cost neutral position,

officers be authorised to develop options to reconsider the future of the service, including bringing the service to an end.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To ensure that services to our most vulnerable residents are protected, and to mitigate risks to our Careline employees who deliver vital services.
2. To ensure that Members are aware of the risks of continuing with the service, and to put in place mitigating action to manage the potential financial risk of the service not achieving a cost neutral position in 2024/25.

Yours sincerely,



Head of Regulatory Law and Monitoring Officer