

CABINET**Tuesday, 1st November, 2016**

Present:-

Councillor Burrows (Chair)

Councillors T Gilby
T Murphy
BlankCouncillors Huckle
Ludlow
A DioufNon Voting Members Bagley
J Innes
BrownHollingworth
Wall

*Matters dealt with under the Delegation Scheme

**78 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' AND OFFICERS' INTERESTS
RELATING TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

No declarations of interest were received.

79 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Serjeant.

80 MINUTES**RESOLVED –**

That the minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 4 October, 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

81 FORWARD PLAN

The Forward Plan for the four month period 1 November, 2016 to 28 February, 2017 was reported for information.

***RESOLVED –**

That the Forward Plan be noted.

82 DELEGATION REPORT

Decisions taken by Cabinet Members during September and October, 2016 were reported.

***RESOLVED –**

That the Delegation Report be noted.

83 APPROVAL OF A CORPORATE CONCESSIONS POLICY

The Policy and Communications Manager submitted a report recommending for approval a Corporate Concessions Policy for the Council. The proposed Corporate Concessions Policy had been developed as a result of the recommendations made by an Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum project group report which had examined how Chesterfield Borough Council offered concessions on fees and charges made on chargeable services.

The review had looked at the consistency, fairness and objectives in the provision and application of concessions across council services. On 12 January, 2016 Cabinet had approved in principle all of the recommendations of the scrutiny project group report, but with the caveat that before the implementation of any of the resolutions that could have a financial implication for the Council, further investigation on the impact should be carried out by officers and brought to Cabinet for consideration.

The scrutiny report had also recommended that a member and officer working group be established to further look at how the council offered concessions with the objective of developing a corporate policy on concessions. The working group had undertaken further research into how concessions were offered by the council and along with considerations regarding best practice, scrutiny recommendations and officer experience, a proposed corporate concessions policy has been developed.

The proposed Corporate Concessions Policy had been formulated to ensure that a consistent approach was taken to how concessions were implemented within discretionary services across the council, but while also retaining the flexibility for individual services to achieve the Council's

social and legal obligations, as well as allowing it to meet its commercial needs.

The full proposed Corporate Concessions Policy was attached as an appendix to the officer's report.

***RESOLVED –**

1. That the corporate concessions policy be approved and implemented for 2017/18.
2. That the Deputy Leader be delegated authority to approve minor concessions policy amendments between formal review periods.
3. That a full review of the corporate concessions policy takes place after two years of its implementation.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To ensure a consistent approach to concessions within discretionary services while retaining the flexibility needed to achieve the Council's social and legal obligations, as well as its commercial needs.

84 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED –

That under Regulation 21(1)(b) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

85 INCREASING HOUSING STOCK

The Housing Manager submitted a report seeking approval for the implementation of new methods of delivering additional council properties

and other housing tenures in Chesterfield, and to seek permission to make alterations to the Housing Acquisitions Policy in order for the council to better meet housing needs in the borough.

The report noted that housing delivery in Chesterfield had been well below Local Plan targets for many years, with a range of national and local factors creating the low delivery of housing supply which had in turn affected income to the council in the form of New Homes Bonus and Council Tax. In order to address these problems the Housing Service had identified several options to help meet demand for new council and affordable housing, as well as to increase the supply of private housing in Chesterfield

The Housing Manager outlined the proposed actions to promote increased housing supply in Chesterfield, including:

- Developing a partnership with a Registered Provider in order to develop social housing on council owned land which could not be provided by the council independently.
- Making amendments to the Strategic Acquisitions Policy to allow for more properties to be purchased and put back into use to meet the needs of larger families,
- That in areas with a high supply of social and affordable properties instead of requiring private developers to have a percentage of affordable housing to instead request a sum of money is commuted to allow small infill plots and under used garage sites in these areas to be developed.
- Conducting a review the council's garage plot sites across the borough which were under used and in poor condition, in order to look at their potential for housing development.

The report also contained details on the legal, financial and equalities implications of the proposals.

***RESOLVED –**

1. That Housing Revenue Account land, Right-to-Buy receipts and Section 106 monies for affordable housing be used to deliver a larger development programme of new Council Housing in

partnership with Registered Providers, commencing with the redevelopment of the former Brockwell Court site with Great Places Housing Group.

2. That the purchase and refurbishment cost limit on former Right-to-Buy properties and property acquisitions be increased from £90,000 to £150,000.
3. That Commuted Sums, generated from development on sites where additional onsite delivery is not required, be utilised to fund the development of small infill sites on Council estates to deliver new Council Housing units.
4. That a further report be brought to Cabinet with a proposed programme of disposal, development and refurbishment of Housing Revenue Account plot garage sites across the Borough to deliver new affordable and market houses.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS

To manage the Council's Housing assets effectively and to support the Housing Capital Investment Programme.

To contribute to the Council's Priorities - 'to improve the quality of life for local people' and 'to provide value for money services'.