

CABINET**Tuesday, 29th November, 2016**

Present:-

Councillor Burrows (Chair)

Councillors T Gilby
T Murphy
Blank
Huckle

Councillors Ludlow
Serjeant
A Diouf

Non Voting Members Bagley
J Innes
Brown

Hollingworth
Wall

*Matters dealt with under the Delegation Scheme

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

No declarations of interest were received.

92 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

93 MINUTES**RESOLVED –**

That the minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 15 November, 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

94 FORWARD PLAN

The Forward Plan for the four month period 1 December, 2016 to 31 March, 2017 was reported for information.

***RESOLVED –**

That the Forward Plan be noted.

95 CIVIC ARRANGEMENTS 2017/18

The Democratic Services Manager submitted a report to confirm arrangements for the civic year 2017/18 in respect of the election of the Deputy Mayor, the Annual Council Meeting and Civic Dinner, and Civic Service.

The report noted that each year the Council is asked to confirm its civic arrangements for the forthcoming municipal year, namely the appointment of Deputy Mayor, the date of the Annual Council meeting to elect the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and the associated civic events. The appointment of Deputy Mayor as Vice Chairman of the Council is a statutory appointment under Part 1 of the Local Government Act 1972. In the case of a Borough Council the Vice Chairman is entitled to use the title of Deputy Mayor.

RESOLVED –

1. That it be recommended to Council that Councillor Stuart Brittain be invited to become Deputy Mayor of the Borough for 2017/18.
- *2. That it be noted that the Annual Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 10 May 2017, followed by a civic reception at the Winding Wheel.
- *3. That it be noted that the Annual Civic Service and Procession will be held on Saturday 13 May 2017.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To enable the Council to confirm civic arrangements for 2017/18

96 VENUES FEES AND CHARGES 2017/18

The Arts and Venues Manager submitted proposals for the levels of fees and charges to be levied for lettings at the Pomegranate Theatre, the Winding Wheel, the Assembly Rooms in the Market Hall and Hasland Village Hall for 2017/18.

The report provided details of the charges currently applied to different categories of hirers at the two main cultural venues, and set out proposed increases. It also included details of charges and proposed increases at the Market Hall Assembly Rooms and Hasland Village Hall.

Following a review in 2011 the Council had implemented an improvement programme for the venues with the key aims of integrating the operation of the venues, improving the arts and cultural offer and reducing the overall subsidy to the Council tax payer. It was noted that the review had contributed in part to the reductions in subsidy required by the venues, with savings in net controllable costs of £282,000 being achieved compared to the 2011/12 outturn.

The report recommended that after no increases in charges in 2016/17 for the Pomegranate Theatre and the Winding Wheel, there should now be an increase in the hire rates charged for the two venues in order that the net operational costs of running the venues could continue to be reduced. It was also recommended that the charges for the Assembly Rooms at the Market Hall as well as for Hasland Village Hall should be increased.

The option of introducing a significantly greater increase to the charges was ruled out as there would have been a risk of losing potential hirers. Another option of leaving the charges unchanged was also ruled out as increases in the charges were still required to develop a sustainable business plan for the Venues.

***RESOLVED –**

1. That an average increase of 5% be levied on the theatre hire charges for the Pomegranate Theatre, as detailed at Appendix A of the officer's report, from 1 April 2017.
2. That an average increase of 4% be levied on the room hire charges at the Winding Wheel, as detailed at Appendix B of the officer's report, from 1 April 2017.
3. That an average increase of 3.5% be levied on all equipment hire charges at the Winding Wheel, as detailed at Appendix B of the officer's report, from 1 April 2017.

4. That an average increase of 4.5% be levied on professional companies and commercial use at the Winding Wheel from, as detailed at Appendix C of the officer's report, from 1 April 2017.
5. That an average increase of 3.5% be levied on all room hire charges at the Assembly Rooms in the Market Hall, as detailed at Appendix D of the officer's report, from 1 April 2017.
6. That an average increase of 3.5% be levied on all current room hire charges at Hasland Village Hall, as detailed at Appendix E of the officer's report, from 1 April 2017.
7. That the new Council Concessions Policy be applied to cultural venues fees and charges, where applicable, from 1 April 2017.
8. That the booking fee for tickets be increased to £1 per ticket from 1 May 2017.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To make further progress towards a sustainable financial position for the venues.

97 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH FEES AND CHARGES 2017-18

The Senior Environmental Health Officer submitted a report recommending for approval proposed fees and charges for various environmental health functions, including Pest Control, Dog Control and Fixed Penalty Levels, for 2017/18. The proposed fees and charges were outlined at Appendix A of the officer's report.

The fees and charges proposals had taken into account:

- the general principles that govern the Council's approach to charging;
- the demand for, and income received from these services, especially since the introduction of a charge in April 2014 for treatment of pests posing a significant public health risk;
- a comparison of fees and charges made by other authorities in Derbyshire;

- the councils corporate concessions policy.

***RESOLVED –**

1. That the fees and charges for Environmental Health Services, including concessionary rates (where applicable), as detailed at Appendix A of the officer's report be approved and implemented from 1st April 2017.
2. That the Senior Environmental Health Officer be granted discretion to offer reduced charges for micro-chipping of dogs at promotional events and during campaigns.
3. That the Senior Environmental Health Officer be granted discretion to offer an alternative enforcement option for fly-tipping offences, where appropriate in place of issuing a fixed penalty notice.
4. That when developed, the Pest Control Business Plan be given full consideration by Cabinet.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To set the environmental health fees and charges for 2017/18.

98

SHEFFIELD CITY REGION SOCIAL HOUSING COMPACT

The Housing Manager submitted a report seeking approval for Chesterfield Borough Council to sign up to the Sheffield City Region Social Housing Compact.

In January 2016 a seminar had been held to bring local authorities, ALMO's, Housing Associations and the Homes and Communities Agency together in order to discuss how all parties could continue to work together in order to increase new housing supply in the Sheffield City Region. This seminar had resulted in the formation of a steering group to develop a Social Housing Compact for the Sheffield City Region. The report noted that the objectives of the Compact included:

- Creating a common purpose for local authorities, ALMO's and Housing Associations providing and managing social and affordable housing in the Sheffield City Region;

- Providing an effective mechanism for engagement with the Local Enterprise Partnership, Sheffield City Region Combined Authority and the Homes and Communities Agency.
- Complementing the work of key housing organisations involved in affordable housing policy issues and avoiding duplication by focusing on issues specific to the Sheffield City Region;
- Enhancing and increasing opportunities for joint working, shared services, joint procurement and bidding for external resources.

The Housing Manager also noted that Compact had an action plan that showed how its objectives would be taken forward and measured.

***RESOLVED –**

1. That Chesterfield Borough Council signs up to the Sheffield City Region Housing Compact.
2. That the Cabinet Member for Housing be delegated responsibility to sign the Social Housing Compact on behalf of Chesterfield Borough Council.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS

To help achieve the Council priorities:

- To improve the quality of life for local people.
- To increase the supply and quality of housing in Chesterfield Borough to meet current and future needs.

99 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 1 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

100 **SUPPORTED HOUSING CAPITAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2016 - 21**

The Housing Manager submitted a report recommending for approval and implementation the proposed Supported Housing Capital Investment Strategy, 2016 -2021.

The proposed Supported Housing Capital Investment Strategy, 2016-2021 had been written in order to address a series of challenges faced by the the council as a provider of supported housing, including the low demand for properties and the subsequent impact of this situation on the long term viability of the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan. The proposed strategy included a range of actions including;

- Internal and external refurbishment of some schemes
- Closure and demolition where appropriate
- Introduction of local lettings policies for supported accommodation
- Introduction of a marketing strategy specifically for supported accommodation
- An incentive scheme for people to 'downsize' and / or release general needs accommodation.

The report also sought Cabinet approval for the closure and demolition of Duewell Court at Barrow Hill. The report noted that due to the condition of the properties, the presence of asbestos and the subsequent difficulty of carrying out essential maintenance and fire safety work with the properties occupied by tenants; that the most cost effective solution and also the one best for the remaining residents would be to close and demolish Duewell Court. The remaining tenants would be offered the opportunity to transfer to alternative properties anywhere within the Borough, and would also be eligible for home loss and disturbance payments.

***RESOLVED –**

1. That the Supported Housing Capital Investment Strategy 2016 – 2021 be adopted and implemented.
2. That Duewell Court, Barrow Hill be closed and demolished, and that the Housing Manager be delegated authority to tender for, and appoint a demolition contractor.

3. That the Housing Manager be delegated authority to make offers of equivalent accommodation to the affected tenants of Duewell Court.
4. That the Housing Manager be delegated authority to make Home-loss Payments in line with statutory amounts and a disturbance payment to the displaced tenants of Duewell Court.
5. That a further report be brought to Cabinet following an appraisal of Aston Court and Mallard Court at Staveley and of Markham Court at Duckmanton.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To meet the Councils priority 'to improve the quality of life for local people' and objective 5 'To increase the supply and quality of housing in Chesterfield Borough to meet current and future needs.