

CABINET**Tuesday, 7th March, 2017**

Present:-

Councillor Burrows (Chair)

Councillors	T Gilby	Councillors	Huckle
	Bagley		P Gilby
	Blank		Ludlow
	A Diouf		Serjeant
Non Voting	Catt		J Innes
Members	Dickinson		

*Matters dealt with under the Delegation Scheme

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

No declarations of interest were received.

153 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

154 FORWARD PLAN

The Forward Plan for the four month period 1 April to 31 July, 2017 was reported for information.

***RESOLVED –**

That the Forward Plan be noted.

155 DELEGATION REPORT

Decisions taken by Cabinet Members during February, 2017 were reported.

***RESOLVED –**

That the Delegation Report be noted.

156 DEMOLITION OF GARAGES AT DEVONSHIRE CLOSE

The Housing Manager submitted a report to recommend action in respect of 16 garages at Devonshire Close, Staveley that were severely damaged by a fire on 20 November, 2016.

The report noted that Devonshire Close, Staveley, had a purpose built garage site comprising of 32 garages in two blocks of 16 and that these were let to both council tenants and private residents, on a weekly basis. On the night of 20 November, 2016 the 16 garages within one of the blocks suffered extensive damage, resulting from a fire which was believed to have been started deliberately. The Housing Manager advised that as the block of garages was now unsafe for the tenants to continue to occupy, arrangements had been made to cease rental charges and for alternative garages to be offered to the tenants of the garages.

The report included details of the options that had been considered for the future of the site which included repairing the garages, demolishing and rebuilding the garages and demolishing the garages and replacing them with an area of marked out car park places for the benefit of residents in the area. The Housing Manager advised that after assessing the costs and potential benefits to all council tenants in the area it was recommended that the garages should be demolished and replaced with an area of marked out parking spaces. This option would benefit all the residents of Devonshire Close by providing increased parking for visitors and residents as well as offering the best value option for the council.

***RESOLVED –**

1. That the purpose built block of 16 garages at Devonshire Close, Staveley, be demolished.
2. That the Housing Manager be delegated authority to tender for, and appoint a contractor to carry out the demolition works.
3. That the Housing Manager be delegated authority to tender for, and appoint a contractor to make the site into a parking area with marked bays.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To help meet the council plan priority 'to improve the quality of life for local people'.

157 HS2 CONSULTATION RESPONSE

The Executive Director, Michael Rich and the Development and Growth Manager submitted a report requesting Cabinet considered the implications for the council of its ongoing engagement on the HS2 project. The report also requested Cabinet considered the council's proposed response to the current consultation on the proposed route of HS2 through Chesterfield Borough.

On 15 November, 2016 the Government had published a revised route for Phase 2b of HS2 and had opened a consultation on the revised plans. The report noted that the implications of the revised route for Chesterfield and the wider area were largely positive and that the benefits of having Chesterfield station served by high speed rail services, as well as having a maintenance depot at Staveley had the potential to deliver substantial economic benefits for the borough and the wider area. The revised route did however have some negative impacts both for the borough and neighbouring districts, which the report noted would require further investigation on how these could be managed and mitigated.

The Government had requested that responses to the consultation on the revised route were received by 9 March 2017. The council's full response to the consultation was attached as an appendix to the officers' report. The response had been prepared in consultation with partners including Derbyshire County Council, East Midlands Councils and key landowners affected by the development of the proposed Staveley Depot. The response confirmed the ambition of Chesterfield Borough Council to maximise the opportunities for the borough that HS2 would bring and also included details of the main implications of the revised route for the borough. These included the lessened impact on residential areas at Woodthorpe and Netherthorpe and the significant reduction in journey times between Chesterfield, Birmingham and London and the consequent economic benefits that this could bring.

The report also provided information on how the council was working with, and planned to work with partners on the development and promotion of

plans and growth strategies to maximise the potential benefits for the area. The Executive Director advised that as all the work that would be required to maximise the benefits of HS2 could not be accommodated within existing resources approval had been given by the Joint Cabinet and Employment and General Committee for the establishment of a new project manager post to support the HS2 proposals for a station and depot in the borough (Joint Cabinet and Employment and General Committee Minute No.33, 2016/17). This post would provide the essential additional capacity to ensure that the strongest case could be made to enable Chesterfield and the surrounding area to gain the maximum benefits from HS2.

***RESOLVED –**

1. That the draft response to the current consultation on the route of HS2 be approved, and that the Development and Growth Manager, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Growth, be delegated authority to approve the final response.
2. That the proposed approach to working with partners to prepare a growth strategy for HS2 in Chesterfield in order to maximise the benefits of HS2 for the borough, be approved.
3. That authority be delegated to the Development and Growth Manager, in consultation with the Deputy Leader, to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with HS2 Ltd.
4. That the decision made by Full Council on 23 February, 2017, to allocate £100,000 from the Service Improvement Reserve to increase officer capacity to lead on delivery of the growth strategy for Chesterfield, be noted.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS

To maximise the benefits to Chesterfield of HS2.

To increase officer capacity over the next two years in order to enable Chesterfield Borough Council to work closely with partners and to lead delivery of the growth strategy for Chesterfield.

158 **OUTDOOR SPORTS AND RECREATION FEES AND CHARGES**

The Commercial Services Manager submitted a report recommending for approval the proposed fees and charges for Outdoor Recreation facilities to take effect from 1 April, 2017.

The fees and charges proposals had taken into account:

- The need to raise income and for the Council to achieve a balanced budget.
- The fees and charges structures of other local public and private sector providers.
- The ability of customers to pay against the current economic downturn and demand for facilities.
- The need to address health inequalities across the borough and to encourage young people into sporting activities.

The options of leaving the charges unchanged or introducing lower increases were ruled out as the proposed increases in the charges were required to deliver a balanced and sustainable budget. An option of introducing a significantly greater increase in the charges was ruled out as there would have been a risk in terms of deterring potential customers.

***RESOLVED –**

1. That the revised fees and charges for outdoor sports and recreation, as detailed at appendix A of the officer's report, be approved and implemented from 1 April, 2017.
2. That the Commercial Services Manager, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, be delegated authority to revise the approved fees and charges where threats to income generation emerge and/or opportunities to raise additional income arise, in line with the Council's general principles for charging.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To set the Council's outdoor sports and recreation fees for the financial year 2017/18 in accordance with the Council's Budget strategy.

159 CEMETERIES FEES AND CHARGES

The Commercial Services Manager submitted a report recommending for approval the proposed fees and charges for the Council's cemeteries to take effect from 1 April, 2017.

The fees and charges proposals had taken into account:

- The reduction in the number of burials taking place in recent years.
- A comparison of fees and charges made by other authorities in the surrounding areas, so that fees should remain competitive and affordable.
- The need for the Council to achieve a balanced budget.

The options of leaving the charges unchanged or introducing lower increases were ruled out as the proposed increases in the charges were required to deliver a balanced and sustainable budget.

***RESOLVED -**

That the revised fees and charges for cemeteries, as detailed at appendix A of the officer's report, be approved and implemented from 1 April, 2017.

REASON FOR DECISION

To generate income to contribute to the costs of providing and maintaining a burial service.

160 FUTURE USE OF THE FORMER QUEENS PARK SPORTS CENTRE

The Executive Director, Michael Rich submitted a report to update Cabinet on the progress of development plans for the future use of the former Queen's Park Sports Centre site following the completion of the public consultation on potential future uses of the site. The report sought Cabinet's agreement in principle that the preferred future use for the site should be the development of artificial sports pitches and also requested authorisation for a full business case for this option to be developed.

A public consultation had been carried out during September and October 2016 on the options for developing the site of the former Queen's Park

Sports Centre. The consultation had set out a single preferred option of artificial sports pitches, as well as providing information on a range of other possible uses for the site. The results of the consultation, to which 583 responses had been received, showed 69% of respondents agreeing with the preferred option of artificial sports pitches and 94% of respondents supporting the principles that any future development should meet, i.e. it should fit with the objectives of the council plan, integrate with the wider Queen's Park site, have evidence of demand as well as being income generating. The Executive Director advised that the consultation responses had also provided a range of suggested alternative uses for the site, the most popular being an office/community/event space, ice-rink, water play area and other outdoor leisure provision, however none of these suggestions had met all of the essential criteria set out in the consultation.

The report noted that a petition containing over 1,000 signatures calling for an ice rink to be built on the site had been debated at Council on 23 February, 2017. As a result of the debate it had been resolved:

- That the council receives and notes the petition to turn the former Queen's Park Sports Centre site into an ice rink.
- That the petition and tonight's debate at Full Council be taken into account by Chesterfield Borough Council's Cabinet when making the decision on a suitable use for the former Queen's Park Sports Centre site.
- That the council, if approached by an ice rink operator, will assist with the identification of suitable sites and provide advice on planning and funding opportunities, including the development of external funding bids, in order to enhance the Borough's sport and leisure offer.

As a result of the responses to the public consultation, an outline business case for the preferred option of artificial sports pitches had been developed and was included as an appendix to the Executive Director's report.

The Executive Director advised that having done the preliminary work the outline proposals were now at a stage where they could be developed into a full business case. This would enable the necessary work to be carried out to test the assumptions within the outline business case and to

enable further evidence to be gathered to support each element of the case. The financial and commercial elements of the business case were especially important and both required significant further work before a robust business case could be presented for consideration by Cabinet. The report also recommended that an application for planning permission for the artificial sports pitches should be prepared in parallel to the full business case so as to reduce the overall time required to bring forward development on the site.

The report also included details of the costs and human resource requirements that would be involved in the development of the full business case and noted that these costs would be contained within the approved sums allocated for budget savings / income generation in the Invest to Save and Service Improvement Reserves.

The Cabinet Member for Town Centre and Visitor Economy thanked Members, Scrutiny Members and Officers for their contributions both during the consultation as well as in the preparation of the outline business case.

***RESOLVED –**

1. That the outcomes of the public consultation on the future use of the former Queen's Park Sports Centre site be noted.
2. That the motion passed by Council on 23 February, 2017, following the debate of a public petition calling for an ice rink to be built on the site of the former Queen's Park Sports Centre, be noted.
3. That the outline business case for artificial sports pitches to be built on the site of the former Queen's Park Sports Centre, as detailed in the officer's report, be noted.
4. That the intention to use allocated funds budget savings/income generation to fund an internal secondment post to manage the project, be noted
5. That a full business case be prepared for submission to Cabinet and Council as part of any request for any future capital expenditure at the site.

6. That a planning application for artificial sports pitches on the site of the former Queen's Park Sports Centre be developed at the same times as the preparation of the full business case for the site.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS

To enable Cabinet to establish a clear way forward on its preferred use for the former sports centre site, whilst recognising that further work is required before taking a final decision and before seeking approval from Council for any additional expenditure.