

CABINET**Tuesday, 23rd October, 2018**

Present:-

Councillor P Gilby (Chair)

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

*Matters dealt with under the Delegation Scheme

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

No declarations of interest were received.

44 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors...

45 MINUTES**RESOLVED –**

That the minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 2 October, 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

46 FORWARD PLAN

The Forward Plan for the four month period November, 2018 to February, 2019 was reported for information.

***RESOLVED –**

That the Forward Plan be noted.

47 DELEGATION REPORT

Decisions taken by Cabinet Members during September, 2018 were reported.

***RESOLVED –**

That the Delegation Report be noted.

48 CONSIDERATION OF THE OVERVIEW AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY FORUM REPORT ON HS2

The Lead Member of the HS2 Scrutiny Project Group, Councillor Flood, presented the report and recommendations of the Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum on HS2.

The full report of the Scrutiny Project Group was attached at Appendix 1 to the Cabinet report.

The recommendations of the Scrutiny Project Group had been considered and approved by the Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum on 11 September, 2018.

The Committee's recommendations were now required to be considered by Cabinet and a formal response provided to the Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum, in accordance with the Council's Scrutiny Procedure rules.

The Scrutiny Project Group had consulted with officers from across the council along with staff from HS2 Ltd and the National College of High Speed Rail. Their input had helped to develop the report's recommendations which were focussed on maximising the benefits that HS2 will bring to the Borough and ensuring that future developments were monitored and aligned to the council's plans and strategies.

***RESOLVED –**

1. That the Cabinet thanks the Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum for the first class work that has been taken forward in looking at how the Council is preparing for HS2 and, in particular, for the

Forum's efforts in broadening and deepening the understanding of Council Members of the subject matter.

2. That Cabinet notes and endorses the recommendations of the Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum.
3. That Cabinet endorses, in particular, the Forum's recommendation to establish a new Skills Scrutiny Project group and resolves to defer to the Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum further consideration of the merit of establishing new Scrutiny Project Groups to look at particular aspects of HS2 as part of the future work programming discussions.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS

1. To promote a joined up approach by the Council to ensure that the benefits of HS2 are maximised.
2. To contribute towards the delivery of the Council Plan objectives under the priorities "to make Chesterfield a thriving borough" and "to improve the quality of life for local people".

49 QUARTER 2 BUDGET MONITORING 2018/19 & UPDATED MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

The Director of Finance and Resources presented a report outlining the Council's budget position at the end of the second quarter of 2018/19, and the updated medium term financial forecast through 2022/23.

A revised year end surplus of £298k had been reported to members on 17 July, 2018 as part of the month 2 budget monitoring. Revised figures at the end of the second quarter were now forecasting a deficit of £130k at the year end.

The council had recently informed HMRC of the intention to implement Sporting Exemption from VAT on its sports centres; this would be implemented from August 2018 and was expected to save £200k in 2018/19 and £300k in future years. However, employee costs at the two sports centres had risen and significant income streams had not achieved their expected levels; the assistant director for health and wellbeing was putting in place a number of measures to remedy the position. A table

containing all the key variances was included in section 4 of the officer's report.

The report noted the anticipated movement in the council's reserves. An uncommitted balance of £869k remained in the budget risk reserve and the service improvement reserve, however there would be significant demands on these reserves in the future to fund budget deficits, investment in transformation projects and staffing restructures.

The report provided details of the General Fund Capital Programme; the capital receipts were forecast to bring in £1.9m for 2018/19. The Director of Finance and Resources advised that further large capital receipts needed to be identified beyond 2019/20 to avoid putting further pressure on the General Fund.

The Housing Revenue Account Budget was detailed in section 8 of the officer's report and it was noted that the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan would be reviewed to take into account changes to the repairs spend.

RESOLVED –

That it be recommended to full Council:

1. That the financial performance in the first half of the financial year and the new medium term forecast be noted.
2. That the changes to the medium term forecast, as outlined in section 4 of the officer's report, be noted.
3. That the supplementary estimate for registration of electors, as detailed in paragraph 4.2.7 of the officer's report, be approved.
4. That the proposed use of reserves and the new applications for funding, as set out in section 5 of the officer's report, be approved.
5. That the updated capital programme, as detailed in section 7 of the officer's report, be noted.
6. That the proposed additions to the capital programme, as detailed in paragraph 7.2 of the officer's report, be approved.

7. That the position of the HRA budgets, as detailed in section 8 of the officer's report, be noted.
8. That the indexation of the housing repairs contract for 2017/18 onwards, as detailed in paragraph 8.1 of the officer's report, be approved.
9. That the application for 75% Business Rates Pilot status for 2019/20, as detailed in section 9 of the officer's report, be noted.
10. That the budget preparation guidelines for the financial year 2019/20, as detailed in paragraph 10.1 of the officer's report, be approved.
11. That the approach to budget consultation, as detailed in paragraph 10.3 of the officer's report, be approved.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To actively manage the Council's finances in the current financial year and forecast forward the emerging budget position to future financial years.

50 REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S ALLOCATIONS POLICY - FEEDBACK FROM CONSULTATION

The Assistant Director – Housing presented a report to inform members of the feedback from the consultation with current applicants and stakeholders regarding the proposed changes to the Council's Allocations Policy. The consultation pack was attached at Appendix A to the officer's report.

The revised Home Options Policy was attached at Appendix B to the officer's report and had been approved for consultation by Cabinet on 17 July, 2018.

Overall, 67% of respondents thought that the changes would have a positive impact, 22.3% had a neutral opinion and 9.5% indicated that they felt the impact of the changes could be negative. The introduction of the new policy would enable the housing options team to improve how council properties are allocated and create more sustainable tenancies by

properly assessing individual circumstances and providing appropriate information and advice.

The Assistant Director proposed to implement the new policy in March 2019 to coincide with the introduction of the new Locata IT system for administering the choice based lettings process.

RESOLVED –

That it be recommended to full Council:

1. That the feedback from the consultation be noted.
2. That the new Home Options Policy be adopted and its implementation be approved, incorporating local differences for Chesterfield.
3. That the Local Lettings Plan, approved in June 2017, be rescinded.
4. That the Assistant Director for Housing in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Homes and Customers be granted delegated authority to make minor operational amendments to the Home Options Policy.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To enable the council, through the Housing Options Team, to be in the best possible position to allocate council housing stock to applicants most in need, and to provide a customer focussed and user friendly service.