

CABINET**Tuesday, 26th February, 2019**

Present:-

Councillor P Gilby (Chair)

Councillors Bagley
Blank
BruntCouncillors T Gilby
Huckle
SerjeantNon-voting Catt
Members Dickinson

J Innes

*Matters dealt with under the Delegation Scheme

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

No declarations of interest were received.

99 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Diouf and Ludlow.

100 MINUTES**RESOLVED –**

That the minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 5 February, 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Vice-Chair.

101 FORWARD PLAN

The Forward Plan for the four month period 1 March to 30 June, 2019 was reported for information.

***RESOLVED –**

That the Forward Plan be noted.

102 DELEGATION REPORT

Decisions taken by Cabinet Members during January and February, 2019 were reported.

***RESOLVED –**

That the Delegation Report be noted.

103 RE-SIGNING THE DERBYSHIRE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT

The Assistant Director – Policy and Communications submitted a report recommending for approval the re-signing of the updated Derbyshire Armed Forces Covenant.

During 2012, the Council joined with all Derbyshire districts and Derbyshire County Council to sign and adopt an Armed Forces covenant and have worked together to deliver on pledges. The Ministry of Defence, in collaboration with the Royal British Legion, have updated the covenant to better reflect the challenges currently faced by the armed forces community and highlight key areas where local authorities and other partners can provide support.

Members of the Derbyshire Armed Forces Covenant Partnership work together to maximise the Council's impact in these areas and seek external funding to support projects. The partnership had recently been successful in bidding for £50k of external funding to deliver a research project which will provide qualitative and quantitative data about the Derbyshire armed forces community and their needs.

By re-signing the Derbyshire Armed Forces Community Covenant, the Council will continue working with its partners in the Derbyshire Armed Forces Covenant Board to develop an updated action plan to continue to maximise the Council's support for the armed forces community and deliver on community covenant pledges.

***RESOLVED –**

1. That it be recommended to full Council that the Council re-sign and commit to implementing the updated Derbyshire Armed Forces Community Covenant.
2. That the Council works with our partners in the Derbyshire Armed Forces Covenant Partnership to develop an updated action plan to deliver on community covenant pledges.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To demonstrate our support and commitment to the armed forces community.

104 2019/20 BUDGET & MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

The Director of Finance and Resources submitted a report on the draft General Fund budget. The report included recommendations that would be made to full Council on budget allocations and the Council Tax level for 2019/20.

The original budget for 2018/19 was approved in February, 2018 and predicted a surplus of £56k. Throughout 2018/19 there had been active management of budget variances and regular budget monitoring reports to identify further variances. Due to this strict budgetary control, the updated revised budget for 2018/19 showed an estimated surplus of £162k.

The report also detailed the Local Government Finance Settlement announced in December, 2018 which confirmed the continued reduction of the Revenue Support Grant received by local authorities which will be phased out by 2020/21.

The budget had been prepared assuming a council tax increase of £5 for a Band 'D' property, or 3.13% in percentage terms, which equates to 9.6 pence a week.

Members were informed of the expenditure estimates for the coming financial year as well as the medium term forecasts for 2020/21 through to 2023/24.

***RESOLVED –**

That it be recommended to full Council that:

1. The revised budget for 2018/19 be approved.
2. Delegated authority be granted to the Director of Finance and Resources, in consultation with the Deputy Leader of the Council, to make decisions related to the application of the business rates retail relief scheme.
3. The Collection Fund and Tax Base forecasts be noted.
4. The overall revenue budget summary for 2019/20 be approved.
5. The use of capital receipts to fund the revenue costs of the ICT programme be approved on the basis that implementation of the programme will lead to budget savings.
6. The budget forecasts for 2020/21 and the medium term forecasts, as well as the strategy for addressing the projected deficits, be noted.
7. The estimates of reserves including maintaining the General Working Balance at £1.5m be approved.
8. The budget risks and sensitivity analysis be noted.
9. The recommended £5 increase in the Council's share of Council Tax for a Band 'D' property in 2019/20 be approved.
10. The 2019/20 Council Tax Requirement and financing be approved.
11. The Director of Finance and Resources' assurances be noted.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

In order to meet the statutory requirements relating to setting a budget and the council tax.

The Assistant Director – Policy and Communications submitted a report to recommend for approval the Council Plan for 2019 – 2023.

In 2015, the Council moved to a four year Council Plan which aligned with the medium term financial forecast. This approach had been successful in targeting resources and collective effort on key priorities and delivering positive outcomes for local communities.

A new four year plan had been developed for 2019 – 2023 which defined the Council's key priorities, objectives and commitments over the four year period. A year one delivery plan for 2019/20 had also been developed setting out the key milestones and measures needed to keep the Council Plan on target for delivery. The delivery plan will need to be reviewed annually and approved by Council in February alongside the budget and medium term financial plan.

In addition, a new performance management framework will be introduced to underpin the Council Plan. This framework will measure and demonstrate the Council's success in terms of milestones, outputs, outcomes and measures, and effectively review and challenge performance.

***RESOLVED –**

That it be recommended to full Council that:

1. The Council Plan 2019 – 2023 be approved.
2. The Council Plan 2019/20 delivery plan be approved.
3. The performance management framework be approved. Delegated authority be granted to the Deputy Leader to approve any minor drafting and design changes that may be required in order to improve the readability and accessibility of the plan.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To provide the Council with a clear statement of its strategic priorities for 2019 – 2023, approve the year 1 delivery plan and establish a new performance management framework to support plan delivery.

The Director of Finance and Resources submitted a report recommending for approval the General Fund Capital Programme for the financial year 2019/20.

The report provided details of the updated expenditure forecasts, new schemes added to the Capital Programme during the last year and progress made on current major schemes. Members were also made aware of the Council's capital financing arrangements, the level of capital receipts and its net financing position.

***RESOLVED –**

That it be recommended to full Council that the updated General Fund Capital Programme expenditure and financing, as detailed in Appendix A of the officer's report, be approved.

REASON FOR DECISION

To update the Council's General Fund Capital Programme and ensure that it is affordable and deliverable over the medium term.

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HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) - BUDGET 2019/20 TO 2023/24

The Director of Finance and Resources submitted a report presenting the probable outturn on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for 2018/19, and the budget estimates for 2019/20 through to 2023/24.

The Council is required to produce a 30 year HRA Business Plan that is financially viable and maintains at least the minimum Decent Homes Standard.

The probable outturn for the HRA in 2018/19 was reported in section 5 of the officer's report.

The financial strategy for the HRA is to deliver a balanced and sustainable budget which is self-financing in the longer term and reflects both the requirements of tenants and the strategic vision and priorities of the Council. The initial budget forecast for 2019/20 was detailed in section 7 of the officer's report.

***RESOLVED –**

1. That it be recommended to full Council that:
2. The probable outturn for the current financial year 2018/19 be noted.
3. The draft budget estimates for 2019/20 and future financial years be approved.
4. The growth request, as detailed in annexe 6 of the officer's report, be approved.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS

1. To enable the council to set the Housing Revenue Account budget for 2019/20.
2. To continue with the financial strategy contained in the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan and self-financing debt settlement arrangements.

108

HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME: NEW PROGRAMME FOR 2019/20 THROUGH TO 2023/24

The Director of Finance and Resources submitted a report seeking approval for the public sector Housing Capital Programme for 2019/20 and provisionally for 2020/21 through to 2023/24.

The overall financing strategy continued to focus on maintaining the Decent Homes Standard, improving non-traditional housing stock, delivering improvements to the estate environment and increasing the development programme of new council housing in the immediate short term.

The Housing Capital Programme had been set in accordance with the profile set out in the stock condition survey carried out by Savills in 2017. Improvements to existing housing stock will include the continuation of the central heating and roof replacement programmes, replacement of aging UPVC windows and installation of external wall insulation to non-traditional and solid wall properties.

In addition, the second phase of environmental improvements at the Barrow Hill London Boroughs Estate will commence in April 2019, a further two former sheltered housing schemes will be refurbished and a new build housing programme will deliver up to 100 units over the 5 year period. The report also detailed the portion of the Capital programme that will be allocated to the Council's operational services division.

***RESOLVED –**

That it be recommended to full Council that:

1. The Housing (Public Sector) Capital Programme for 2019/20 be approved and its procurement, as necessary, be authorised.
2. The Housing (Public Sector) Capital Programmes for 2020/21 to 2023/24 be provisionally approved.
3. The Commercial Services share of the 2019/20 programme be approved.
4. Delegated authority be granted to the Assistant Director – Housing and/or Director of Finance and Resources to transfer funds between programme heads and budgets in order to effectively and efficiently manage the Capital Programme.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS

1. The Council will be able to maintain its 'Decent Homes Standard' targets in line with the Council's Vision and Corporate Plan.
2. The condition of the Public Sector housing stock and its environment will be maintained and improved.
3. To contribute to the aims of the Borough Housing Strategy and to deliver the HRA Business Plan.

109 HOUSING REPAIRS BUDGET 2019/20

The Director of Finance and Resources and Assistant Director – Commercial Services submitted a report recommending for approval the Housing Repairs Budget for 2018/19.

During 2016/17, a detailed review of the way in which the Council delivers future repairs and maintenance programmes was undertaken. As a result, actions were put in place to ensure the long term viability of the Housing Revenue Account. These actions included reducing the Housing Repairs Budget by £500k in 2017/18 and again in 2018/19, and making changes to the tenant repair obligations and repair response times.

Actual savings in the housing repair budgets had exceeded the £500k target for both financial years. This had provided some mitigation against changes in national housing and welfare policy, and will contribute to ensuring the HRA Business Plan remains balanced, sustainable and self-financing in the longer term.

***RESOLVED –**

1. That the Housing Repairs Budget of £8.355m for 2019/20, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the officer's report, be approved.
2. That delegated authority be granted to the Assistant Director - Commercial Services to transfer funds between responsive repairs budget heads in order to effectively manage and respond to fluctuations in tenant-led or weather dependent repairs.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS

1. To permit the required maintenance of the Housing Stock.
2. To contribute to the delivery of a balanced and sustainable Housing Revenue Account, which is self- financing in the longer term.
3. To support the Council's vision and priorities within the Council Plan.

110 SCRUTINY PROJECT GROUP REPORT ON SKILLS

The Lead Member of the Skills Scrutiny Project Group, Councillor Simmons, presented the report and recommendations of the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on Skills.

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

The recommendations had been considered and approved by the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on 5 February, 2019. The Committee's recommendations were now required to be considered by Cabinet and a formal response provided to the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee, in accordance with the Council's Scrutiny Procedure rules.

The Scrutiny Project Group had received excellent support from officers within the Council and had engaged with external stakeholders including careers leads at schools in the borough. Their input had helped to develop the report's recommendations which were focussed on supporting the achievement of objectives within the Council's Skills Action Plan 2017 – 2020 and improving on the excellent work carried out in schools and colleges through the co-funded Enterprise Co-ordinator and the Economic Development team.

***RESOLVED –**

1. That the Cabinet thanks the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee for the report which highlights an important area of work for the Council and reflects our commitment to driving skills development in the Borough through our support of the Skills Action Plan and continued engagement with key partners and stakeholders.
2. That the Cabinet notes and endorses the recommendations, and acknowledges that the recommendations can be accommodated within the normal work programme and through partners.
3. That the decision to co-fund the Enterprise Co-ordinator post be deferred for consideration as a growth request as part of the budget setting process for 2020/21. The Cabinet recognises the positive impact of the Enterprise Co-ordinator for Chesterfield and that this is currently co-funded for 2 years until 2019/20.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS

1. To improve the capturing of developments that are or will be subject to local labour agreements; and to promote best practice, encouraging smaller developments to get involved in the local skills and employment agenda.

2. To promote consistency and high quality apprenticeships across the borough.
3. To continue the good work currently being undertaken with schools to prepare students for future employment and skills pathways, particularly in preparation for HS2.
4. To encourage the consideration of future impacts, such as HS2 and EU exit, ensuring the skills and employment priorities stay relevant and meet the changing demands.