

COUNCIL**Wednesday, 19th July, 2023**

Present:-

Councillor Brady (Chair)

Councillors	Bagley	Councillors	P Innes
	Baldauf-Good		Jacobs
	B Bingham		Kellman
	J Bingham		McLaren
	Blakemore		Miles
	Brady		Niblock
	Brock		Ogle
	Caulfield		Perkins
	Culley		Redihough
	Davenport		Sarvent
	Davies		Serjeant
	Dyke		Snowdon
	Falconer		Staton
	Flood		Stone
	P Gilby		Thompson
	Hollingworth		Thornton
	Holmes		Twigg
	J Innes		Yates
	P Innes		

*Matters dealt with under the Delegation Scheme

6 TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 15 MAY AND 17 MAY, 2023**RESOLVED –**

That the Minutes of the meetings of Council held on 15 May and 17 May, 2023 be approved as correct records and be signed by the Chair.

7 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor referred to the following engagements that he and the Mayoress had attended since their election to office in May 2023:

- The Chesterfield Festival of Cricket at Queen's Park to watch the county championship cricket match between Derbyshire and Yorkshire.
- The opening of the new Health and Wellbeing Hub at Chesterfield Royal Hospital to mark the 75th anniversary of the National Health Service.
- The Mercian Regiment's Annual Pilgrimage to the Regimental War Memorial at Crich to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Crich Memorial Tower.
- Chesterfield Football Club Community Trust's Chatsworth Concert, where the Mayor made the opening address recognising the Trust's outstanding achievements and its contribution to the wellbeing of communities in Chesterfield and North Derbyshire.

The Mayor had also been invited to attend a ceremony at the University of Derby's Chesterfield Campus to rename the simulation training facility 'The Florence Nightingale Ward' in honour of the founder of modern nursing. The Princess Royal had been in attendance and the Mayor had thoroughly enjoyed meeting and speaking with her.

The Mayor and Mayoress had also welcomed their first school visit to the Parlour, the children from Hasland Infant School. The children had been fascinated to hear about Chesterfield's history and went away eager to learn more about the role of the Council.

Finally, the Mayor reminded members that he and the Mayoress would be hosting a bottle stall at the Medieval Market on Tuesday 25 July and they hoped to see members and officers there, supporting the Mayor's charity appeal.

8 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Callan and Wheeldon.

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

No declarations were received.

10 PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL

Under Standing Order No. 12, the following question was asked by Mr Kris Stone:

In April 2022 I asked a question due to my concerns about food supplies and shortages in the future. Does the Borough Council know of any updates of plans in place in case of food shortages? And does the Borough Council support the idea of Chesterfield residents growing their own food in back gardens and on allotments, as well as looking positively on and supporting those with disabilities; so that they may do the same?

Councillor Jonathan Davies provided a verbal response assuring Mr Stone that Chesterfield Borough Council was an active member of the Derbyshire Local Resilience Partnership (DLRP) and routinely worked with partners such as the emergency services, the NHS and other Derbyshire councils to co-ordinate the county's emergency planning arrangements, including strategic and tactical oversight of Derbyshire's preparedness for emergency situations such as widespread food shortages.

The DLRP's plans had been tested during the Covid-19 pandemic, and the Partnership's response to the food shortages seen across many districts and boroughs had been positive and effective.

Councillor Davies informed Mr Stone that Chesterfield Borough Council was very supportive of the idea of Chesterfield residents growing their own food. Ranging from small scale container gardening, private gardens, allotments and community gardens, the Council encouraged and provided support where required to enable residents from all of Chesterfield's communities to take part.

Many Chesterfield residents already grew their own food, not just to feed themselves and their families but also for fun, exercise, social interaction and in their own small way as a contribution towards biodiversity and addressing climate change.

The following supplementary question was asked by Mr Stone:

Could you provide specific details of the measures in place for any future food shortages?

Councillor Davies advised that he would supply a written response to Mr Stone.

11 PETITIONS TO COUNCIL

No petitions had been received.

12 QUESTIONS TO THE LEADER

There were no questions to the Leader.

13 BUDGET OUTTURN 2022/23

Pursuant to Cabinet Minute No. 11 (2023/2024) the Service Director – Finance submitted a report on the draft General Fund Revenue, Housing Revenue Account and Capital Outturn positions for 2022/2023 and provided details of significant variations.

RESOLVED –

1. That the draft General Fund Revenue, Housing Revenue Account and Capital Outturn positions for 2022/2023 be noted.
2. That the use of the Budget Risk Reserve to cover the year-end General Fund Revenue budget deficit of £292k (paragraph 4.15) be approved.
3. That the in-year movement in General Fund Revenue Reserves and Provisions (paragraphs 4.10 to 4.16) be noted and approved.
4. That the General Fund Capital financing arrangements (Appendix A) be approved.

14 BUDGET STRATEGY

Pursuant to Cabinet Minute No. 10 (2023/2024) the Service Director – Finance submitted a report recommending the adoption of a new Budget Strategy to enable the Council to achieve a balanced budget for 2024/2025 and over the term of the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) through 2027/2028.

RESOLVED –

1. That the challenging financial operating context and the current Medium-Term Financial Plan gaps be noted.
2. That the Budget Strategy and the five thematic interventions (paragraphs 4.24 to 4.45) be approved.
3. That the proposal to move £1m of reserves from the Business Rates Reserve to the Budget Risk Reserve in 2023/2024 (paragraph 4.51) be approved.

15 ASSET MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Pursuant to Cabinet Minute No. 13 the Service Director – Economic Growth submitted a report seeking Council approval for the adoption of a new Asset Management Strategy for the period 2023 – 2027. The Strategy would ensure the Council was managing its assets safely, effectively and efficiently and also making the best use of its land and property, in support of the Council’s priorities and objectives, as set out in the Council Plan.

RESOLVED –

1. That the Chesterfield Borough Council Asset Management Strategy 2023 to 2027 be approved for adoption and publication.
2. That future delivery plans, including any budgetary implications, be brought to future Cabinet and Council meetings for consideration and approval, as appropriate.
3. That authority be delegated to the Service Director – Economic Growth, in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Asset Management, to make minor amendments, if required, to the final version of the Asset Management Strategy.

16 OPTIONS FOR REPLACING THE COUNCIL'S FLEET

Pursuant to Cabinet Minute No. 20 (2023/2024) the Asset Management and Programmed Works Manager presented a report on options for replacing the Council’s fleet. It was noted that the majority of the Council’s fleet was ageing, and the current lease was due to expire early 2024 with no option to extend.

The Council's Climate Change Strategy target was for the Council to be carbon neutral by the year 2030. Decarbonisation of the Council's fleet was a key action to achieving this target, due to emissions from petrol and diesel vehicles. The report described the proposed journey towards a fully carbon neutral fleet.

RESOLVED –

1. That the principle of replacing the current fleet with a new lease of 34 electric vehicles and using short term hire for the Council's remaining vehicle requirements, as part of a phased approach to decarbonising the fleet before 2030, be agreed.
2. That responsibility for the associated procurement activity and budget decision making be delegated to the Service Director – Housing, in conjunction with the Service Director – Finance, the Deputy Leader, the Cabinet Member for Housing and the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Planning and Environment.
3. That responsibility for entering into the associated legal contracts be delegated to the Service Director – Housing in conjunction with the Service Director – Finance and the Monitoring Officer.
4. That the additional costs of taking forward the recommended option be funded through the Council's General Fund Revenue and Housing Revenue Account budgets for the financial year 2024/2025.
5. That an annual report be prepared to update Council on the economy, efficiency, and effectiveness of implementation of the recommended option.

17 RELOCATION OF CUSTOMER SERVICES CENTRE

Pursuant to Cabinet Minute No. 5 (2023/2024) the Service Director – Digital, HR and Customer Services submitted a report asking Council to approve the relocation of the Council's Customer Service Centre from its current location at 85 New Square to Chesterfield Town Hall. The annual revenue savings achieved were projected at 132k as a result of the anticipated reduction in the running costs of the Council's operational estate.

RESOLVED –

1. That the Council's Customer Service Centre and the operational services based at 85 New Square be relocated into Chesterfield Town Hall during the financial year 2023-2024.
2. That £157k be allocated from the Council's Capital Programme to enable the provision of an appropriate customer service centre at Chesterfield Town Hall.
3. That painting, decoration, and minor property repairs be carried out to the second and third floors of the Town Hall, as part of the routine maintenance programme for the building, and that these works be funded through the Property Repairs Fund (PRF).
4. That 85 New Square be marked as surplus to operational requirements.
5. That delegated authority be given to the Service Director for Economic Growth, in conjunction with the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Asset Management, to market 85 New Square for sale or lease, ensuring that an appropriate buyer is secured whose plans align with the Council's Town Centre Master Plan.

18 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ANNUAL REPORT**

Pursuant to Cabinet Minute No. 14 (2023/2024) the Policy Officer presented for approval the Council's Equality and Diversity Annual Report for the financial year 2022/2023. The Annual Report summarised the progress the Council has made in promoting equalities and diversity during the previous financial year and the Council's future plans.

RESOLVED –

1. That the Council's Equality and Diversity Annual Report for the financial year 2022/2023 be approved.
2. That the Council's Equality and Diversity Annual Report for the financial year 2022/2023 be published on the Council's website and circulated to partners.

19 **SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT**

Pursuant to Scrutiny Select Committee – Resilient Council Minute No. 3 (2023/2024) the Service Director – Corporate submitted a report detailing the work of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees in the financial year 2022/2023.

RESOLVED –

That the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for the financial year 2022/2023 be noted.

20 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

RESOLVED –

That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

21 STEPHENSON MEMORIAL HALL

Pursuant to Cabinet Minute No. 21 (2023/2024) the Arts and Venues Manager presented a report setting out the progress that had been made in the development of the Stephenson Memorial Hall renovation and refurbishment project.

RESOLVED –

1. That the current delivery position of the Stephenson Memorial Hall renovation and refurbishment project be noted.
2. That the revised budget for the capital works delivery elements of the Stephenson Memorial Hall renovation and refurbishment project, as outlined in Section 6 of the report, be approved.
3. That authority be delegated to the Service Directors for Economic Growth and Leisure, Culture and Community Wellbeing to negotiate and agree final amendments to project designs and costs with the principal contractor, in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Economic Growth and Town Centres and Visitor Economy.

4. That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Economic Growth, Finance and Asset Management and Town Centres and Visitor Economy, and the Service Directors for Finance and Economic Growth, to enter into the main construction contract with the principal contractor.

22 RE-ADMISSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED –

That after consideration of an item containing exempt information the public be readmitted to the meeting.

23 MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the following Committees be noted:

- Appeals and Regulatory Committee of 24 May, 7 and 14 June, 2023.
- Planning Committee of 22 May, 12 June, 3 and 5 July, 2023.

24 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CABINET OF 4 APRIL 2023

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meetings of Cabinet of 4 April, 2023 be noted.

25 QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 19

There were no questions.