

CABINET**Tuesday, 12th January, 2021**

Present:-

Councillor P Gilby (Chair)

Councillors Serjeant
Blank
Ludlow
Holmes

Councillors

J Innes
Mannion-Brunt
Sarvent
D Collins

Non-Voting P Innes
Members

*Matters dealt with under the Delegation Scheme

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

No declarations of interest were received.

33 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

34 MINUTES**RESOLVED –**

That the minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 15 December, 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

35 FORWARD PLAN

The Forward Plan for the four month period 1 January to 30 April, 2021 was reported for information.

***RESOLVED –**

That the Forward Plan be noted.

36 DELEGATION REPORT

Decisions taken by Cabinet Members during November, 2020 were reported.

***RESOLVED –**

That the Delegation Report be noted.

37 COLLECTION FUND REVISED ESTIMATES

The Acting Chief Finance Officer presented the Collection Fund revised estimates for 2020/21 which predicted an estimated deficit of £704,062 on the Council Tax elements of the Collection Fund.

The report noted that the deficit would usually be recovered in the following financial year (2021/22) from all precepting authorities. However, due to the Covid19 pandemic, billing authorities were being allowed to spread the deficit over the next three financial years from 2021/22 to 2023/24. Therefore £260,830 would be recovered in 2021/22 and £221,616 in each of 2022/23 and 2023/24.

***RESOLVED –**

That the estimated deficit on the Council Tax Collection Fund of £704,062 for the financial year 2020/21 be agreed and allocated to the major precepting authorities as detailed in Appendix A of the officer's report.

REASON FOR DECISION

To fulfil a statutory requirement and to feed into the budget setting process for 2021/22.

38 COMMEMORATIONS REVIEW OUTCOMES AND CONSULTATION APPROVAL

The Service Director – Corporate presented a report on the findings of the commemorations review that had been undertaken to develop a broader understanding of the borough's monuments, statues, plaques and street names.

In June 2020, the Leader made a commitment to review the appropriateness of commemorations on public land within Chesterfield Borough. As part of the review, residents were asked to identify any monuments, statues, plaques and street names that they would particularly like to be considered. Two street names were identified due to concerns about potential links to a British Crown colony, however the review revealed that it was most likely that the streets were named after a former Freeman of the Borough.

Phase 2 of the review would involve a public consultation on the potential for further commemorations including how best to commemorate key figures, organisations, historical events and communities. The review would also look at how to improve access to information about the monuments, statues, plaques and street names already in place across Chesterfield Borough.

***RESOLVED –**

1. That the findings from phase 1 of the commemorations review, and the work undertaken to develop a broader understanding of the borough's monuments, statues, plaques and street names, be noted.
2. That phase 2 of the review, including further public consultation to inform future commemoration activity, be commenced.
3. That information on the Chesterfield Borough Council website regarding street naming and re-naming be improved, and that Derbyshire Building Control be requested to also review and improve information on their website.
4. That Chesterfield Borough Council works with Derbyshire County Council and Chesterfield Civic Society to seek to improve the information listed about current and future blue plaques to provide more historical context and support educational opportunities.

REASON FOR DECISION

To improve access to information about current commemorations within Chesterfield Borough and to help to shape future plans.

TECHNICAL GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

The Senior Environmental Health Officer presented a report seeking approval for the East Midlands Network (Chesterfield) Air Quality Technical Guidance document, which was attached at Appendix 1 of the officer's report.

The document had been developed in partnership with the Council's Environmental Health and Planning teams, and set out guidance for dealing with planning applications where air quality needed to be addressed. The document also aimed to help developers provide the information needed to demonstrate that proposed developments would protect and improve the environment and promote health.

***RESOLVED –**

That the East Midlands Network (Chesterfield) Air Quality Technical Guidance document, attached at Appendix 1 of the officer's report, be approved.

REASONS FOR DECISION

1. The East Midlands Network (Chesterfield) Air Quality Technical Guidance document has been developed in partnership with the Council's Environmental Health and Planning teams and will support ongoing joint working on how best to improve air quality through the planning process.
2. In addition to the above and to address the part relating to the wider impacts of air quality across the East Midlands area, the Technical Guidance document has been produced in collaboration with other local authorities in the East Midlands region including Derbyshire County Council Public Health.
3. The document provides technical guidance and supports Policy CLP14 ('A Healthy Environment') of the Chesterfield Borough Local Plan. The Local Plan 2018 - 2035 provides a framework for determining planning applications following its adoption in July 2020.

The Service Director – Housing presented a report recommending the Council house rent and service charge levels for 2021/22 for approval.

Social housing rents were set according to the Government's national social rent policy and the Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016. In accordance with the Government's National Social Rent Policy, which came into effect on 1 April, 2020, the report recommended that council house rents increase by CPI plus 1% which equated to a real increase of 1.5% in 2021/22. This would give an average social rent in 2021/22 of £79.36 per week and an average affordable rent of £98.25 including services per week.

A detailed summary of the proposed service charge levels for 2021/22 was attached at Appendix A of the officer's report. It was noted that the proposed charges had been devised to ensure that as far as practicable services break even on costs.

***RESOLVED –**

1. That, for 2021/22, individual social rents be set based on the current National Social Rent Policy, giving a rent increase of 1.5% with effect from 5 April, 2021.
2. That, for 2021/22 and onwards, where a social rent property is re-let to a new or transferring tenant the rent level be increased to the target rent for that property.
3. That, for 2021/22, individual affordable rents be set based on the current National Social Rent Policy giving a rent increase of 1.5% with effect from 5 April, 2021.
4. That, for 2021/22, and onwards, where an affordable rent property is re-let to a new or transferring tenant the rent level be set by reference to 80% of the market rent (including service charges where applicable) for a similar property at the time of letting or the formula rent for the property, whichever is the greater.
5. That the Housing Revenue Account service charges for 2021/22 be increased as set out in Appendix A of the officer's report.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS

1. To enable the council to set the level of council house rents in accordance with Government guidelines and the Rent Standard.
2. To enable the council to set service charges for 2021/22 and to ensure the cost of delivering services moves towards a break-even position.
3. To contribute to the council's corporate priority 'to improve the quality of life for local people'.