

CABINET**Tuesday, 15th December, 2020**

Present:-

Councillor P Gilby (Chair)

Councillors Serjeant
Blank
Holmes
J Innes

Councillors

Mannion-Brunt
Sarvent
D Collins

Non-voting P Innes
Members

*Matters dealt with under the Delegation Scheme

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

No declarations of interest were received.

17 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ludlow.

18 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED –

That the minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 1 December, 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

19 **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.

20 **STAVELEY TOWN DEAL INVESTMENT PLAN**

The Interim Director (Projects), Michael Rich, presented a report to update Members on the Staveley Town Investment Plan that had been submitted to Government as part of the national Town Funds programme.

Staveley was chosen to develop proposals for a Town Deal as part of Government's £3.6bn Towns Fund. A prospectus was issued in November, 2019 which set out the aims of the programme and required eligible towns to establish a Town Deal Board to lead the process of developing a vision, strategy and investment plan for each town.

The Town Deal Board was convened in January 2020 with Ivan Fomin, Managing Director of MSE Hillier, appointed as independent chair and Councillor Tricia Gilby as vice-chair. Further guidance was issued in June, 2020 which provided greater detail on the Town Deal process and set out revised timelines for towns to submit their Town Investment Plans.

To inform the development of the Staveley Town Investment Plan, engagement activities took place during late summer and autumn 2020. These activities included a community survey, focus groups and material generated through the national 'my town' website. A copy of the engagement plan was attached at Appendix 1 of the officer's report. Thinking Place consultants used the results of the engagement activities to generate a new vision for Staveley.

The Town Investment Plan set out how the vision for Staveley would be delivered over the long term and made the case to Government for funding to be allocated to specific Towns Fund projects. A copy of the Town Investment Plan was attached at Appendix 2 of the officer's report.

The final stage of the process would involve the development of a full business case for each of the projects included within the Town Investment Plan. As the accountable body for the funds allocated to Staveley, Chesterfield Borough Council would be responsible for running the business case assurance process.

The Chair thanked Ivan Fomin, Lindsay Wetton, Lynda Sharp, Michael Rich and the consultants for their work in developing the Plan.

***RESOLVED –**

1. That the Staveley Town Investment Plan submitted to the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government on 11 December, 2020 be noted and endorsed.
2. That the proposed allocation of resources to fund a masterplan review for Staveley Town Centre be noted and endorsed.
3. That the role which Chesterfield Borough Council will play throughout the 5 year Town Deal programme as the accountable body for the Towns Fund allocated to Staveley be noted.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To ensure that Cabinet is aware of the work underway within the Town Deal programme and the role that Chesterfield Borough Council will play as the accountable body for future funding within that programme.

21

GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET SUMMARY

The Acting Chief Finance Officer submitted a report to update members on the development of the General Fund Revenue Budget Summary for 2021/22 and future years.

The latest revised budget for 2020/21 showed a projected deficit of £165k. The report attributed the deficit largely to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the Council's main income streams, notably the sports centres, car parks and venues.

The Acting Chief Finance Officer reported that the Council had made good use of various Government Covid-19 reliefs and grant schemes including the furlough scheme, compensation for lost sales fees and charges income and the cultural recovery grants scheme.

The report also provided an update on the Medium Term Financial Forecast. The latest projected deficit for 2021/22 was £40k, which increased to £183k by 2025/26. The deficit position for 2021/22 assumed savings from the ICT Digital Innovation Programme and that the Council's core trading income streams would be sustained at estimated levels.

The Acting Chief Finance Officer advised that, in advance of the final General Fund Revenue Budget Summary report for 2020/21 being agreed

by Full Council on 24 February, 2021, work would be undertaken between Cabinet Members and the Corporate Leadership Team to identify further savings and income generation proposals.

***RESOLVED –**

1. That the updated budget projections for 2020/21 and future years, as detailed in Appendix A of the officer's report, recognising the difficulty of producing accurate estimates in the current climate and the continued risks associated with these budget estimates, be noted.
2. That work continues to refine the draft estimates for 2020/21 and future years and to develop budget saving proposals to address the forecast deficits from 2021/22.
3. That the changes to budget assumptions outlined in paragraph 7.3 of the officer's report be approved.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To keep Members informed about the council's current financial standing, the budget estimates for 2020/21 and 2021/22 and the latest medium term financial forecasts.

22 LEISURE CENTRES FEES AND CHARGES 2021/22

The Service Director – Leisure, Culture and Community Wellbeing submitted a report setting out the proposed fees and charges for sport and leisure activities at Queen's Park Sports Centre and Staveley Healthy Living Centre for 2021/22.

The proposed fees and charges were detailed in Appendix 2 of the officer's report.

***RESOLVED –**

1. That the proposed fees and charges, as detailed in Appendix 2 of the officer's report, be approved and implemented from 1 April, 2021 until 31 March, 2022.

2. That the Service Director – Leisure, Culture and Community Wellbeing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, be granted delegated authority to apply appropriate fees and charges to new activities that are introduced during the period covered by this report.
3. That the Service Director – Leisure, Culture and Community Wellbeing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, be granted delegated authority to adjust the approved fees and charges to maximise promotional opportunities to stimulate usage, support the retention of customers and/or to respond to external market forces.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

In accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations, it is necessary for all fees and charges to be reviewed annually.

23 OUTDOOR LEISURE FEES AND CHARGES 2021/22

The Environmental Services Manager submitted a report setting out the proposed fees and charges for outdoor leisure facilities for 2021/22.

The proposed fees and charges were detailed in Appendix 1 of the officer's report.

***RESOLVED –**

1. That an increase of 3% be introduced from 1 April 2021 for:
 - the hire of pitches for football;
 - the hire of recreation grounds and community rooms in parks; and
 - to the ground rent charge for circus, funfairs and one off events.
2. That the arrangements for the hire of bowling greens, tennis courts and cricket pitches be reviewed in line with current lease arrangements.
3. That there be no increase in ticket prices for the miniature railway (currently £2 for an individual or £5 for a family ticket).

4. That the Environmental Services Manager, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, be granted delegated authority to adjust the approved fees and charges to maximise promotional opportunities to stimulate usage, support the retention of customers and/or to respond to external market forces.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To comply with the Council's Budget Strategy.

24 WASTE MANAGEMENT FEES AND CHARGES 2021/22

The Environmental Services Manager submitted a report setting out the proposed charges for the collection and disposal of waste for 2021/22.

The proposed fees and charges were detailed in Appendix 1 of the officer's report.

***RESOLVED –**

1. That the proposed fees and charges, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the officer's report, be approved and implemented from 1 April, 2021.
2. That the Environmental Services Manager, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, be granted delegated authority to adjust the approved fees and charges to maximise promotional opportunities to stimulate usage, support the retention of customers and/or to respond to external market forces.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To comply with the Council's Budget Strategy.

25 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH FEES AND CHARGES 2021/22

The Senior Environmental Health Officer submitted a report setting out the proposed fees and charges for various environmental health functions for 2021/22.

The proposed fees and charges were detailed in Appendix 1 of the officer's report.

***RESOLVED –**

1. That the proposed fees and charges, including concessionary rates (where applicable), as detailed in Appendix 1 of the officer's report, be approved and implemented from 1 April, 2021.
2. That the Senior Environmental Health Officer be granted delegated authority to have discretion to offer reduced charges for micro-chipping of dogs at promotional events and campaigns associated with the mandatory chipping that came into effect in April 2016.
3. That the Senior Environmental Health Officer be granted delegated authority to offer an alternative enforcement option, which could include a caution or prosecution, for fly-tipping offences instead of issuing a fixed penalty notice.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

In accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations, it is necessary for all fees and charges to be reviewed annually.

26 CEMETERY FEES AND CHARGES 2021/22

The Bereavement Services Manager submitted a report setting out the proposed fees and charges for the Council's cemeteries for 2021/22.

The proposed fees and charges were detailed in Appendix A of the officer's report.

***RESOLVED –**

1. That the proposed fees and charges for the council's cemeteries, as detailed in Appendix A of the officer's report, be approved and implemented from 1 April, 2021.
2. That the Bereavement Services Manager be granted delegated authority to reduce the fees and charges where appropriate.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To generate income to contribute to the costs of providing and

maintaining a burial service.

27 **VENUES FEES AND CHARGES 2021/2022**

The Arts and Venues Manager submitted a report setting out the proposed fees and charges for venue and equipment hire at the Pomegranate Theatre, The Winding Wheel Theatre, the Assembly Rooms in the Market Hall and Hasland Village Hall for 2021/22.

The proposed fees and charges were detailed in Appendices A to E of the officer's report.

***RESOLVED –**

1. That the proposed theatre hire charges for the Pomegranate Theatre, as detailed in Appendix A of the officer's report, be approved and implemented from 1 April, 2021.
2. That the proposed room hire charges for The Winding Wheel Theatre, as detailed in Appendix B of the officer's report, be approved and implemented from 1 April, 2021.
3. That the proposed equipment hire charges at The Winding Wheel Theatre, as detailed in Appendix B of the officer's report, be approved and implemented from 1 April, 2021.
4. That the proposed theatre hire charges for The Winding Wheel Theatre for professional companies and commercial use, as detailed in Appendix C of the officer's report, be approved and implemented from 1 April, 2021.
5. That the proposed room hire charges at the Assembly Rooms in the Market Hall, as detailed in Appendix D of the officer's report, be approved and implemented from 1 April, 2021.
6. That the proposed room hire charges at Hasland Village Hall, as detailed in Appendix E of the officer's report, be approved and implemented from 1 April, 2021.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To make further progress towards a sustainable financial position for the venues.

28 **CHESTERFIELD MARKET FEES AND CHARGES 2021/22**

The Town Centre Operations Manager submitted a report setting out the proposed fees and charges for Chesterfield's open markets and the Sunday Car Boot sale for 2021/22. The report proposed no increases to the fees and charges.

The proposed fees and charges were detailed in Appendix 1 of the officer's report.

***RESOLVED –**

1. That there be no increase to the fees and charges for Chesterfield's open markets and Sunday Car Boot sale for 2021/22.
2. That, as part of the market reconfiguration project being undertaken in 2021, the pricing structures be reviewed to identify the premium and secondary pitches, follow best practice adopted nationally and ensure a value for money approach is taken to realise the full income potential of the market.
3. That the Service Director for Leisure, Culture and Community Wellbeing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Town Centres and Visitor Economy, be granted delegated authority to apply appropriate fees and charges to new activities that are introduced during the period covered by this report; and to also negotiate pitch fees to support individual traders by responding to external forces that may impact directly on trading as well as initiatives to support new and start-up traders.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS

1. The impact of COVID-19 has significantly reduced market income since March 2020 and continues to do so. Visitor, shopper and worker numbers to the town centre are directly impacting market occupancy, utilisation and income generation. Footfall in the town centre is significantly reduced and, trading opportunities are therefore greatly weakened.

2. Trader numbers have steadily improved since 15 June when nonessential retailers could return to the market, however the market is fragile and trader morale and confidence is extremely low. The second national lockdown from 5 November to 2 December only further exacerbated the situation.
3. In line with delegated authority, and with both Cabinet Member and SLT approval, concessionary rates for Traders have been in place since 23 March, initially free rent until July, £5 until September and currently £10, all per stall, across all market days. This is under continuous review but is deemed necessary to support the market.
4. Whilst many of the Traders have been able to obtain financial assistance through the Discretionary Grant Scheme a significant number do not qualify for any assistance, as they do not meet the criteria required to apply. The Council continues to support the traders through targeted marketing schemes and infrastructure investment, including shop local, Christmas lights and Christmas promotional activity, all aimed at driving footfall safely into the town centre.
5. Although income will not be achieved for 2020/21, to increase any fees for markets could further exacerbate market occupancy and damage the council's reputation in relation to bringing footfall safely back to the town centre.

29 **CAR PARKS FEES AND CHARGES 2021/22**

The Town Centre Operations Manager submitted a report setting out the proposed fees and charges for car parks for 2021/22. The report proposed no increases to the fees and charges.

The proposed fees and charges were detailed in Appendix 1 of the officer's report.

***RESOLVED –**

1. That there be no increase in the fees and charges for car parks for 2021/22.
2. That tariffs be reviewed for 2022/23.

3. That all residents of the Borough will continue to benefit from free parking in 2021/22 before 10am and after 3pm Monday to Saturday and all-day Sunday, and Bank Holidays at selected surface car parks using the Resident Parking Scheme.
4. That the Service Director for Leisure, Culture and Community Wellbeing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Town Centres and Visitor Economy, be granted delegated authority to apply appropriate negotiated fees for new activities and opportunities that are introduced or arise during the period covered by this report.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS

1. The 2020/21 Car Park Fees and Charges report notes that if the income target for 2020/21 is achieved then there will be no increase in tariffs for 2021/22 and a review will be made for 2022/23. As there has been limited opportunity to achieve any meaningful income comparison it is felt that the fees and charges review for 2021/22 should take this into consideration and the next review made for 2022/23.
2. The impact of COVID-19 has significantly reduced car park income since March 2020 and continues to do so. Visitor, shopper and worker numbers to the town centre are directly impacting on car park utilisation and income generation.
3. Although the income target will not be achieved for 2020/21 to increase any fees for parking could further exacerbate parking uptake and damage the Council's reputation in relation to bringing footfall safely back to the town centre.

30 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED –

That under Regulation 21(1)(b) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

31 **SALE OF LAND TO THE EAST OF LINACRE ROAD**

The Service Director – Economic Growth presented a report seeking approval to accept the headline offer from Kier Living Limited to purchase land owned by the Council located east of Linacre Road for a new housing scheme.

The report also outlined the proposal for the Council to purchase 26 new affordable homes as part of the proposed development; the homes would be offered to applicants on the Council's housing register.

***RESOLVED –**

1. That the 'headline' offer from Kier Living Limited, KLL, to purchase land owned by the Council located east of Linacre Road, as set out in Appendices A and B of the officer's report, be accepted.
2. That delegated authority be granted to the Executive Director, in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Economic Growth and Housing, to approve the final terms and detailed contract of sale and conclude the transaction.
3. That the future purchase of 26 affordable housing units from KLL through the Housing Revenue Account capital programme be approved, and that delegated authority be granted to the Executive Director, in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Housing and Economic Growth, to agree the final details of the acquisition and conclude the transaction.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS

1. The financial offer made represents good commercial value and 'a substantial offer' for the site, based on advice provided by BNP Paribas, the council's surveyor and market advisor.
2. The outline housing scheme of 285 units achieves the outcomes of the original site development brief/masterplan, and also supports the council to meet a number of housing delivery and planning objectives as set out within the council's Housing Strategy and the adopted Local Plan, the Chesterfield Borough Local Plan 2018-2035.