

BOROUGH OF CHESTERFIELD

You are summoned to attend a Meeting of the **Council** of the **Borough of Chesterfield** to be held in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Rose Hill, Chesterfield S40 1LP** on **Wednesday, 19 October 2022** at **5.00 pm** for the purpose of transacting the following business:-

1. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 20 July, 2022 (Pages 5 - 20)
2. Mayor's Communications
3. Apologies for Absence
4. Declarations of Members' and Officers' Interests relating to items on the Agenda.
5. Public Questions to the Council

To receive questions from members of the public in accordance with Standing Order No. 12.

Question submitted by Paul Christopher 'Kris' Stone;

How many 'Community Protection Notices' have been issued in Chesterfield for each year since their introduction and what safeguards are in place to ensure that officers, are not using 'Community Protection Notices', as an unwitting instrument for vexatious neighbours?

6. Petitions to Council

To receive Petitions submitted under Standing Order No.13

(i) To receive petitions without discussion.

(ii) To debate the following petition received from the Friends of Tapton House on 20 July, 2022: -

The Friends of Tapton House petition Chesterfield Borough Council that Tapton House belongs to the people of Chesterfield and must not be sold.

The petition contains in excess of 1,000 signatures; therefore it is referred to Council to be debated in accordance with the Council's petition scheme and Standing Order No. 13

A representative, of the Friends of Tapton House will attend Council to present the petition and answer questions.

7. Questions to the Leader

To receive questions submitted to the Leader under Standing Order No.14

8. Treasury Management Annual Report 2021/22 and Monitoring Report 2022/23 (Pages 21 - 36)

9. Standards and Audit Committee Annual Report 21/22 (Pages 37 - 46)

10. Changes to Committee Appointments 2022/23 (Pages 47 - 48)

11. Minutes of Committee Meetings (Pages 49 - 50)

To receive for information the Minutes of the following meetings:-

- Appeals and Regulatory Committee – 13 July, 27 July, 27 July (Full) and 7 September, 2022
- Employment and General Committee – 28 July, 2022
- Planning Committee – 18 July, 22 July, 30 August and 26 September 2022
- Standards and Audit Committee – 27 July, 2022

12. To receive the Minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet of 19 July and 13 September, 2022 (Pages 51 - 66)

13. To receive and adopt the Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum of 30 June and 8 September, 2022 (Pages 67 - 82)

14. To receive and adopt the Minutes of the meeting of the Community, Customer and Organisational Scrutiny Committee of 21 July and 15 September, 2022 (Pages 83 - 88)

15. To receive and adopt the Minutes of the meeting of the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee of 14 July, 2022 (Pages 89 - 94)

16. Questions under Standing Order No. 19

To receive questions from Councillors in accordance with Standing Order No.19.

17. Notice of Motion Under Standing Order No. 21

To consider the motion submitted by Councillor Serjeant in accordance with Standing Order No. 21:

Discretionary Housing Fund and Cost of Living Crisis

This winter, a perfect storm of price rises and support cuts will hit our residents in Chesterfield Borough hard. A report co-ordinated by Gordon Brown and supported by 55 charities, faith groups and politicians, has called on the Government to take urgent action to bridge the gap in support.

That is why we urgently call on the Government and the Secretary of State for Local Government to bridge the gap that many are experiencing in being able to pay their rent and to increase the amount available to Councils through the Discretionary Housing Fund.

By order of the Council,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Huw Jones', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chief Executive

Chief Executive's Unit,
Town Hall,
Chesterfield

11 October 2022

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COUNCIL

Wednesday, 20th July, 2022

Present:-

Councillor Rogers (Chair)

Councillors	Barr	Councillors	J Innes
	Bingham		P Innes
	Blakemore		Kelly
	Blank		Ludlow
	Borrell		Mannion-Brunt
	Brady		Mann
	Brittain		Miles
	Callan		A Murphy
	Caulfield		T Murphy
	D Collins		P Niblock
	L Collins		S Niblock
	Davenport		Perkins
	Dyke		Rayner
	G Falconer		Redihough
	K Falconer		Sarvent
	Flood		Serjeant
	Fordham		Snowdon
	P Gilby		Thornton
	Hollingworth		Wheeldon
	Holmes		

*Matters dealt with under the Delegation Scheme

6 **TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 27 APRIL AND 11 MAY, 2022**

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meetings of Council held on 27 April, 2022 and 11 May, 2022 be approved as a correct record and be signed by the Chair.

7 **MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Mayor referred with sadness to the recent death of Mrs June Brown, former Liberal Democrat Councillor and Mayoress, and also the death of the council's Executive Director Ade McCormick.

June had served as a Councillor for Walton Ward from 1999 to 2011 and as the Mayoress for the civic year 2006/2007.

Ade was a valued member of the Senior Leadership Team and would be greatly missed. He was well-respected by councillors and officers alike, and had delivered so much for the people of Chesterfield.

Members observed a minute's silence in their honour.

The Mayor referred to recent events which he and the Mayoress had attended including:

- A Platinum Jubilee Service at the Parish Church to commemorate the reign of Queen Elizabeth II
- A Jubilee tea dance in the ballroom at The Winding Wheel Theatre where the Mayor and Mayoress were asked to perform the first dance
- A Service of Remembrance at Staveley Memorial Gardens to mark the 40th anniversary of the Falklands War and remember those who sacrificed their lives in the conflict
- The annual Crich Pilgrimage, which returned after a two-year break, to honour soldiers killed in action since World War One
- The annual Chesterfield Festival of Cricket in Queen's Park to see Derbyshire County Cricket Club take on Middlesex County Cricket Club

The Mayor and Mayoress were also able to welcome their first guests to the Parlour; 40 students from the Leonardo Da Vinci Campus in Germany. The young people were fascinated to hear about Chesterfield's rich history.

The Mayor thanked members for their support for the first two Mayor's Appeal events and encouraged them to attend the Medieval Market where the Mayor and Mayoress would be hosting a bottle stall.

8 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bellamy, Catt, Coy, T Gilby, Kellman, Marriott and Perry.

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

No declarations of interest were received.

10 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL**

Under Standing Order No. 12, the following question was asked by Martin Bruno:

There are limited historical buildings in Chesterfield and the decision to sell Tapton House truly disturbs me. The Council obviously have a passion and a desire to renovate the Stephenson Memorial Hall in the town centre and therefore had the appetite to source funding to carry out such renovations. Did the Council consider pursuing the same source of funding to renovate Tapton House or was there no such appetite to do this and have the Council considered any other viable uses for the above property?

Councillor Dean Collins provided a verbal response assuring Mr Bruno that the Council takes very seriously its responsibilities to safeguard listed buildings. Several options to sustain the future of Tapton House had been actively considered over the past three years and the Council remained open to the submission of viable propositions from the community.

Councillor Collins explained that whilst Chesterfield Borough Council has a proven track record of attracting Heritage Lottery Fund and other capital funding, such funds would only be made available to support the costs of restoring and refurbishing Tapton House where the Council could demonstrate that it had an end use where enough income could be achieved to cover the building's ongoing running costs.

The Council had fulfilled this and other tests in attracting Levelling Up Fund funding for the Stephenson Memorial Hall. Such funds also had to be defrayed quickly to tight Government timescales.

The following supplementary question was asked by Martin Bruno;

We have a petition signed by 1900 people objecting to the sale of Tapton House, would the Council consider keeping Tapton House for the people of Chesterfield?

Councillor Dean Collins provided a verbal response confirming that no decision had yet been made and that the Council had not ruled out any options at this stage.

Under Standing Order No. 12, the following question was asked by the Chief Executive on behalf of Di Treece, Friends of Tapton House:

What was the reaction of the councillor in charge of Chesterfield's heritage when the decision to sell Tapton House was made?

Councillor Dean Collins provided a verbal response explaining that he was the cabinet portfolio holder with direct responsibility for management of the Council's operational and non-operational assets and re-affirming the position stated in his earlier response that the Council had not as yet made any decision to sell Tapton House.

11 **PETITIONS TO COUNCIL**

In accordance with Standing Order No.13 Council debated the following petition from the Chesterfield Skatepark Users received on 27 April, 2022:

The Chesterfield Skatepark Users petitioned Chesterfield Borough Council to carry out minor maintenance on Chesterfield Skatepark.

The petition contained in excess of 1,000 signatures; therefore it was referred to Council to be debated in accordance with the Council's petition scheme and Standing Order No.13.

Jorge Sheppard, representing Chesterfield Skatepark Users presented the petition and with the support of other petitioners answered Member's questions.

RESOLVED –

1. That Jorge and his fellow petitioners be thanked for submitting the petition to Chesterfield Borough Council and raising their concerns about the current condition of Chesterfield skatepark.

2. That the immediate transfer of the urban park including Chesterfield skatepark from Henry Boot Developments to Chesterfield Borough Council be completed.
3. That the commuted sum be used to enable:
 - Repairs to be carried out to the surface of the skatepark
 - Replacement of the damaged metal coping
 - Repairs to be made to the lighting in the area
 - A new waste container to be installed
 - An exercise to be undertaken to assess the feasibility of improving seating provision at the skatepark.

12 QUESTIONS TO THE LEADER

Under Standing Order No. 14 Members asked the following questions:

- Councillor Holmes asked on behalf of a local resident, Elaine Cormac, how the Council intended to preserve Tapton House?

The Leader thanked Ms Cormac for her question and for an opportunity to clarify several misconceptions about the Council's intentions with regards to Tapton House. The Leader specifically referenced the misconception that the grounds of Tapton House would be included as part of the sale terms. The sales brochure had included an indicative red line in recognition of the fact that interested parties would more than likely wish to negotiate the purchase of small areas of land around Tapton House to improve privacy and security. The Council had no intention of including the surrounding parkland as part of the disposal.

- Councillor Dyke asked what plans the Council had for tennis facilities in the Borough as the tennis courts in King George V park had been removed under a previous administration.

The Leader was pleased to advise that the Council had made the decision to reinstate the tennis courts at King George V Park. It was important for all the borough's residents to have access to quality tennis courts, not just those residing in more affluent areas. The Leader also referenced that the tennis courts at Parkside School had recently been

refurbished and the Council's commitment to renovate the tennis courts in Tapton Park. These were purposeful steps to ensure equality of tennis court provision across the Borough.

- Councillor Shirley Niblock read a question from a resident, Mr Brian Heathcote asking Chesterfield Borough Council to support better standards of tax conduct by signing up to the Councils for Fair Tax Declaration. This would help tackle profit shifting, a tax avoidance strategy employed by some multinational firms and also encourage fair tax practices amongst supplier companies when buying goods and services.

The Leader sympathised with Mr Heathcote's frustration with the present Government and made reference to the fact that the Labour Party had pledged to abolish the use of the non-domicile tax status. The Leader advised that a written response to Mr Heathcote's question would be provided.

- Councillor Mann asked how much consultation had taken place with the Friends of King George V park regarding the tennis courts as he was under the impression the facilities were not wanted.

The Leader re-affirmed the Council's decision to reinstate the tennis courts and commented that such decisions were always taken in the best interests of local residents.

- Councillor Wheeldon asked how the Staveley Town Deal would benefit the young people of Inkersall, Hollingwood and Duckmanton.

The Leader thanked Councillor Wheeldon for her question and welcomed her election to the Council. The Leader explained that the needs and opinions of young people in Inkersall, Hollingwood and Duckmanton had been a key consideration in the development of the Staveley Town Deal and its component projects. The Town Deal Board's vision was for Staveley to be a place to Start, to Stay and to Grow, and paramount to this was encouraging the young people of Staveley to remain living and working within the area.

Whilst the Town Deal Board formulated its investment plan for Staveley, accelerator funds had been awarded. These funds had been used at Chantrey Road Playing Fields where the lighting and parking provisions had been improved to make it safer for parents to bring their children to

the facilities all year round. New play equipment had been installed at King George V Park and an outdoor performance canopy at Springwell School. All of these projects would benefit the young people of Staveley.

The Staveley Town Deal comprises eleven projects across the Staveley area which had been designed to ensure that everyone benefits. The Leader made specific reference to the Derbyshire Rail Industry Innovation Vehicle (DRIVE), which in time would create training opportunities and jobs for young people within the rail sector; and to the Constructions Skills Hub, which would initially be based at Mastin Moor and provide young people with practical training in construction based careers incorporating green technologies and modern methods of construction.

A Wheels to Work initiative was also in development to help people of all ages access an e-bike or motorised scooter to enable them to travel to their places of employment.

- Councillor Snowdon asked when the Council would set a good example and turn off the lights on the market at night, in these times of climate change challenges and high energy costs?

The Leader commented that as part of the Council's plans to transform the town centre a new Lighting Strategy would be prepared which would seek to strike the right balance between supporting measures to address climate change and others needed to ensure public safety. It was for shop owners to decide if they wanted to keep their lights on overnight however council officers were available to offer advice on how advances in lighting technologies could help to save energy and combat climate change.

- Councillor Davenport asked if any plans were in place to provide warming rooms during the winter for residents that were not able to pay their heating bills.

The Leader confirmed that the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing had been looking at this very issue, holding workshops and gaining a better understanding of residents' needs. The Council would be bringing its proposals forward in the Autumn whilst also continuing to apply pressure on the Government to do more to help the borough's residents with the Cost-of-Living Crisis.

- Councillor Sarvent noted that instances of social isolation and loneliness were increasing and asked what the Council could do to help?

The Leader advised that the Council had installed more benches to encourage people to stop and chat with one another and made specific reference to the Elder Friends project which had been running in Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire. The project linked lonely people with volunteers willing to offer company to others. Unfortunately, the project had struggled for funding and despite the pandemic highlighting the issues of loneliness it was disappointing that the Government and Derbyshire County Council had not been sympathetic to continuing to resource the project. The Leader concluded by mentioning the support that the Council's Leisure Services teams had been giving with regards fundraising efforts, one of these being a sponsored swim for The Volunteer Centre. The Leader confirmed that she would be taking part in the sponsored swim herself and would welcome any sponsorship contributions from those attending Council.

13 ELECTION TO THE BOROUGH COUNCIL - 7 JULY, 2022

The Chief Executive and Returning Officer reported that Councillor Debbie Wheeldon had been elected as Councillor for the Hollingwood & Inkersall Ward at the by-election held on 7 July, 2022.

RESOLVED –

That it be noted that Councillor Debbie Wheeldon had been elected as Councillor for the Hollingwood & Inkersall Ward.

14 CHANGES TO COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS 2022/23

The Senior Democratic and Scrutiny Officer reported that a review of the political balance of Committees had been undertaken in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, following the election of Councillor Wheeldon (the Labour Party candidate) as Councillor for the Hollingwood & Inkersall Ward on 7 July, 2022.

RESOLVED –

That the recent change to the political composition of the Council be noted and that the following changes to the membership of committees as proposed by the political groups be agreed to take effect on Monday 25 July, 2022:

Licensing Committee

- addition of Councillor Perry as a Community Independent group member

Community, Customer & Organisational Scrutiny Committee

- addition of Councillor Wheeldon as a Labour group member

Enterprise & Wellbeing Committee

- removal of Councillor Paul Mann as a Community Independent group member
- addition of Councillor Wheeldon as a Labour group member

15 **GENERAL FUND BUDGET OUTTURN 2021/22**

Pursuant to Cabinet Minute No. 14 (2022/2023) the Service Director – Finance submitted a report on the General Fund Revenue and Capital Outturns for 2021/22. The report provided details of variations from the revised estimates and also sought approval for carry forward requests.

RESOLVED –

That the report on the General Fund Revenue and Capital Outturns for 2021/22 be noted.

16 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22**

Pursuant to Cabinet Minute No. 26 (2022/23), the Policy Officer submitted the Equality and Diversity Annual Report for 2021/22 to update members on improvements made and achievements in delivering equality and diversity across all the Council's services.

RESOLVED –

1. The Equality and Diversity Annual Report be approved.
2. The Equality and Diversity Annual Report be published on the Council's website and circulated to partners.

17 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

Pursuant to Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum Minute No. 18 (2022/23) the Senior Democratic and Scrutiny Officer submitted the Scrutiny Annual Report, attached as Appendix A to the officer's report, detailing the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees during 2021/22 and providing an outline of the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for 2022/23.

RESOLVED –

That the Scrutiny Annual Report for 2021/22 be approved.

18 MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS**RESOLVED –**

That the Minutes of the following Committees be noted:

- Appeals and Regulatory Committee of 20 April, 27 April, 4 May, 18 May, 15 June, 29 June, 29 June, 2022.
- Licensing Committee of 27 April, 2022.
- Planning Committee of 25 April, 16 May, 6 June and 27 June 2022.
- Standards and Audit Committee of 20 April, 2022.

19 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE CABINET OF 5 APRIL, 26 APRIL, 17 MAY AND 21 JUNE, 2022**RESOLVED –**

That the Minutes of the meetings of Cabinet of 5 April, 26 April, 17 May and 21 June, 2022 be noted.

20 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE JOINT CABINET AND EMPLOYMENT AND GENERAL COMMITTEE OF 21 JUNE, 2022**RESOLVED –**

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Cabinet and Employment and General Committee of 21 June, 2022 be noted.

21 **TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE OVERVIEW AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY FORUM OF 24 MARCH AND 12 MAY, 2022**

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meetings of the Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum of 24 March and 12 May, 2022 be approved.

22 **TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE COMMUNITY, CUSTOMER AND ORGANISATIONAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE OF 31 MARCH AND 19 MAY, 2022**

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meetings of the Community, Customer and Organisational Scrutiny Committee of 31 March and 19 May, 2022 be approved.

23 **TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE ENTERPRISE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE OF 7 APRIL AND 24 MAY, 2022**

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meetings of the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee of 7 April and 24 May, 2022 be approved.

24 **QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 19**

Under Standing Order No. 19 Councillor Fordham asked the following questions:

- “Given that suicide in the UK still runs above 10 people for every 100,000 - and that male suicide runs at 15.3 compared to female suicide at 4.8 - can I ask what progress has been made to limit the risk of suicide at the bridges of Chesterfield and what measures we have introduced with DCC, Network Rail, the Samaritans and others to limit such opportunities for suicide within the Borough?”

Councillor Mannion-Brunt provided a verbal response explaining that the Council was committed to working with partners such as the Chesterfield Health and Wellbeing Partnership and the Chesterfield Community Safety Partnership to address such concerns. It was important that colleagues from a range of disciplines and sectors came together to shape a coordinated response to suicide prevention.

The Council received regular data from Derbyshire Police and British Transport Police on deaths by suspected suicide, which enabled any high frequency locations to be identified and targeted for preventative interventions.

Derby City Council were in the process of developing a policy which would support the safe upkeep of structures and sites, such as bridges and car parks. It was proposed that once developed the policy would be shared across other partners, including District and Borough Councils, with a view to adoption. This would support the prioritisation and resourcing of preventative and mitigating measures for suicide.

Councillor Mannion-Brunt referenced the importance of adopting a community approach to prevention as 75% of people who take their lives were not known to mental health services.

Councillor Mannion-Brunt concluded by talking about the Thinkfest event which had recently been delivered in New Square. There was free training available for staff and volunteers in the public and voluntary sectors to become Mental Health First Aiders or to be trained in suicide awareness. Training uptake from attendees at the Chesterfield event had been the highest in the County.

- Can the council be updated on the roll out of segregated waste collection in the public rubbish bins in and around the Town Centre and by local shops in and around the Borough?

Councillor Mannion-Brunt provided a verbal response confirming that segregated recycling bins had been introduced into the town centre as part of a pilot scheme to understand whether this was an appropriate and effective way for the Council to encourage 'recycling on the go'.

The Council had recently responded to three specific DEFRA recycling related consultations, the results of which would likely result in major

changes in the collection and processing of waste. It was therefore essential for the authority to reflect on these consultations as they would inform local, regional, and national policy and approaches to recycling. The Council's future approach needed to be in line with these policy changes. It had therefore been decided not to widen the current pilot scheme.

Councillor Mannion-Brunt concluded by referencing Recycle Week 2022 which was in September. The Council would be developing a communications plan to further educate residents and address common recycling misconceptions.

25 NOTICE OF MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 21

It was moved by Councillor Holmes and seconded by Councillor Hollingworth that:

Tapton House

Chesterfield Borough Council notes that Tapton House is one of the most attractive examples of architecture in Chesterfield and certainly the finest owned by CBC. Apart from the visual aspect of the House and the much valued community use of the grounds, it is also important in the heritage of Chesterfield.

The story of Stephenson is well known. The role of the Markham family was however even greater in terms of the economic development of Chesterfield and Staveley. Further still the Markham family played an important role in the political and social life of the Town being involved in slum clearance to improve living conditions and in school expansion for all. Violet Markham was also a pioneer as the first female Mayor of Chesterfield.

If Chesterfield really wishes to celebrate its own heritage and develop as a Tourist Town, then it needs to make the most of major assets such as Tapton House.

Chesterfield Borough Council resolves that:

1. Tapton House should remain in the ownership of CBC.

2. Tapton House will immediately be withdrawn from sale.
3. Interested Community Groups will be invited to contribute ideas about future use and possible community involvement.
4. Detailed options and costings will be drawn up for the various uses that Tapton House can be put to.
5. All Cllrs will be involved in a public discussion as to which option the Council will adopt.

It was moved by Councillor Dean Collins and seconded by Councillor Serjeant that the motion be amended to read as follows:

Tapton House

Tapton House is a grade II* listed building on account of its fine interiors and association with George Stephenson, the railway engineer. As such, it is an important part of the heritage of Chesterfield.

The story of Stephenson is well known. The story of the Markham family is equally well known in terms of their role in the economic development of Chesterfield and Staveley and in the political and social life of the Town being involved in slum clearance to improve living conditions and in school expansion for all. Violet Markham was also a pioneer as the first female Mayor of Chesterfield.

Chesterfield Borough Council owns multiple listed buildings – Chesterfield Town Hall, Stephenson Memorial Hall, Barrow Hill Roundhouse, The Winding Wheel Theatre, Revolution House – and as such takes its cultural and heritage responsibilities very seriously. Enhancing the town's cultural and heritage offer is also one of seven priority actions within the council's newly adopted Visitor Economy Strategy. We therefore fully recognise our responsibilities when dealing with important assets such as Tapton House.

Chesterfield Borough Council resolves that:

1. Tapton House should remain in the freehold ownership of Chesterfield Borough Council.
2. Tapton House will remain on the market until early September to enable as many interested parties as possible to come forward with ideas for the future use of the building.

3. Interested Community Groups are welcome to contribute viable ideas about the future use of the building and possible community involvement.
4. Alternative options will be presented for consideration, as is routinely the case, when a final decision is to be taken on the future use of Tapton House.
5. The final decision will be made by the decision-making body that is prescribed within the council's constitution as having responsibility for such matters.

A recorded vote was taken on the amendment and votes cast as follows:

FOR –

Councillors:

Blakemore
Blank
Brady
Brittain
Callan
Caulfield
D Collins
L Collins
Dyke
Flood
P Gilby
J Innes

Councillors:

P Innes
Kelly
Ludlow
Mannion-Brunt
Miles
A Murphy
T Murphy
Perkins
Rayner
Sarvent
Serjeant
Wheeldon

AGAINST –

Councillors:

P Barr
Bingham
Borrell
Davenport
G Falconer
K Falconer
Fordham
Hollingworth

Councillors:

Holmes
Mann
P Niblock
S Niblock
Redihough
Rogers
Snowdon
Thornton

ABSTENTIONS –

None

The amendment to the motion was declared carried.

On being put to the vote the motion (as amended) was declared carried.

For publication

Treasury Management Annual Report 2021/22 and Monitoring Report 2022/23

Meeting:	Council
Date:	19 th October 2022
Cabinet portfolio:	Deputy Leader
Directorate:	Finance

1.0 Purpose of report

- 1.1 To consider the Annual Treasury Management Report for 2021/22.
- 1.2 To consider the Treasury Management activities for the first five months of 2022/23

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The outturn Prudential Indicators for 2021/22 be approved.
- 2.2 The treasury management stewardship report for 2021/22 be approved.
- 2.3 The treasury management position for the first five months of 2022/23 be noted.

3.0 Reasons for recommendations

- 3.1 To keep Members informed about the council's treasury management activities and to comply with the CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services.

4.0 Report Details

4.1 Background

- 4.1.1 The Council's Treasury Management Strategy requires the full Council to receive three treasury reports each financial year; the Strategy report before the start of each financial year, an annual report for the previous financial year and a mid-year review for the current year.

4.1.2 The Annual Report for 2021/22 is attached at Appendix A. The report meets the requirements of both the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities. The Council is required to comply with both Codes through Regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003.

4.1.3 Following the Icelandic banks collapse in 2008 the regulatory framework places a much greater emphasis on the review and scrutiny by Members of treasury management activities. The attached report provides details of the treasury management activities in 2021/22 and confirms compliance with the Council's approved policies.

4.1.4 This report was considered by the Standards and Audit Committee at its meeting on 28 September, 2022 where it was resolved that the report and its recommendations be supported and referred to Council for approval.

4.2 Summary of the Annual Report

4.2.1 During 2021/22, the Council complied with its legislative and regulatory requirements. The key actual prudential and treasury indicators detailing the impact of capital expenditure activities during the year, with comparators, are as follows:

Actual prudential and treasury indicators	2020/21 Actual £'000	2021/22 Revised £'000	2021/22 Actual £'000
Actual capital expenditure	31,423	75,921	58,185
Capital Financing Requirement:			
- General Fund	24,665	59,624	56,560
- HRA	126,477	124,580	124,579
Total	151,142	184,204	181,139
External debt	125,429	139,089	143,489
Investments	32,420	10,000	27,167
Net borrowing	93,009	129,089	116,322

4.2.2 Other prudential and treasury indicators are to be found in Appendix A. The Service Director - Finance also confirms that borrowing over the medium term is only undertaken for a capital purpose and the statutory borrowing limit (the authorised limit) was not breached in 2021/22.

4.2.3 The financial year 2021/22 continued the challenging environment of low investment return, with bank base rates remaining at a record low of 0.10% for a significant part of the year. However, as a result of rising, persistent inflation the Bank of England raised bank base rate to 0.25% in December 2021, 0.5% in February 2022 and 0.75% in March 2022. There was a large differential between borrowing and investments rates during the year.

4.2.4 **Investments** – Interest income received for the year £21,000 against a budgeted amount of £7,000. The increase was as a direct result of the

increased interest rates towards the latter part of the financial year. During the 2021/22 financial year the Council continued with its policy of prioritising its investments with other local authorities and the Debt Management Office in order to achieve greater security. Further information can be found in Appendix A.

4.2.5 The in-house team managed average balances of £25m earning an average rate of return of 0.06%.

4.2.6 **Borrowing** – As a result of the Council’s increasing CFR due to the capital programme new external borrowing was required during the year. In order to strike an appropriately low risk balance between securing low interest costs and achieving cost certainty over the period for which funds are required a mixture of long and short-term borrowing was undertaken. This comprised of £15m short-term borrowing and £5m of long term PWLB borrowing. In addition, long term loan repayments of £1m were made.

4.2.7 **Treasury Management Advisors** – Arlingclose continued to provide treasury management advice to the Council throughout 2021/22. Treasury recommendations were incorporated into the 2021/22 Treasury Management Strategy Statement that was approved by Council in February 2021.

4.3 Mid-year Review 2022/23

4.3.1 **Annual Investment Strategy** - Both the CIPFA Code and government guidance require the Authority to invest its funds prudently, and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its treasury investments before seeking the optimum rate of return, or yield. The Authority’s objective when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return, minimising the risk of incurring losses from defaults and the risk of receiving unsuitably low investment income.

The increases in Bank Rate at the MPC’s meetings in May, June and August and with the prospect of more increases to come, short-dated cash rates, which had ranged between 0.7% - 1.5% at the end of March, rose on average by 1.15% over the period.

Given the risk of short-term unsecured bank investments, the Council continues to invest with the Debt Management Office to achieve greater security.

Officers can confirm that the approved limits within the Annual Investment Strategy were not breached during the five months ended 31st August 2022.

4.3.2 **Internally Managed Cash Balance** - In the first quarter of the year the interest rates achieved were significantly higher than those assumed when setting the budget (1.13% against 0.2%), which has resulted in internal investment returns being £29,000 better than forecast for the first quarter of the year.

4.3.4 **Borrowing activities in the period** – Short-term borrowing of £10m has been repaid during the first 5 months of 2021/22, of which £5m was re-financed.

4.3.4 **Compliance with Treasury & Prudential Limits** - All treasury limits and Prudential Indicators set out in the Council's Treasury Management Strategy Statement and in compliance with the Council's Treasury Management Practices have been maintained.

The main Prudential Indicators relating to borrowing are:

- Authorised Borrowing Limit – the limit for the year was set at £180.7m, the limit has not been breached.
- Operational Boundary – this was set at £164.3m for the year, again the limit has not been breached.

5 Alternative options

5.1 There are no alternative options to consider.

6 Implications for consideration – Council Plan

6.1 These arrangements enable the priorities set out in the Council Plan to be achieved.

7 Implications for consideration – Financial and value for money

7.1 The report in its entirety deals with financial and value for money implications.

8 Implications for consideration – Legal

8.1 The report meets the requirements of both the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities. The Council is required to comply with both Codes through Regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003. There are no other legal implications.

9 Implications for consideration – Human resources

9.1 There are no human resource considerations arising from this report.

10 Implications for consideration – Risk management

10.1 There are a number of risks inherent within any treasury management strategy, the most significant risks at the moment include:

- Reporting is not compliant with statutory guidelines.

- Investment and borrowing activity is outside the approved TM framework.
- Long term borrowing is taken at rates that are not advantageous.
- Investment of principal sums with insecure counterparties.
- Investment returns are volatile and may not meet budgeted amounts.
- Borrowing is not affordable.

11 Implications for consideration – community wellbeing

11.1 Although there are no direct community wellbeing implications to consider in this report, the ability for the Council to appropriately manage its day to day finances and to be able to achieve a balanced budget position is critical to the continued delivery of the full range of council services that are targeted at supporting community wellbeing across the borough.

12 Implications for consideration – Economy and skills

12.1 Although there are no direct economy and skills implications to consider in this report, the ability for the Council to appropriately manage its day to day finances and to be able to achieve a balanced budget position is critical to the continued delivery of the full range of council services that are targeted at supporting the economy and skills agenda across the borough.

13 Implications for consideration – Climate Change

13.1 Individual climate change and environmental impact assessments are not required for the budget process. These are included as part of the decision-making processes for specific spending options.

14 Implications for consideration – Equality and diversity

14.1 There are no and diversity impact implications arising from this report.

Decision information

Key decision number	1134
Wards affected	All

Document information

Report author	Contact number/email
Karen Ludditt	01246 936276 Karen.ludditt@chesterfield.gov.uk
Background documents	
These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when the report was prepared.	
<i>This must be made available to the public for up to 4 years.</i>	

Appendices to the report	
Appendix A	Annual Treasury Management Report 2021/22

Treasury Management Outturn Report 2021/22

Introduction

The Council has adopted the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's *Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice* (the CIPFA Code) which requires the Council to approve a treasury management annual report after the end of each financial year.

The Council's treasury management strategy for 2021/22 was approved on 24th February 2021. The Authority has invested and borrowed substantial sums of money and is therefore exposed to financial risks including the loss of invested funds and the revenue effect of changing interest rates. The successful identification, monitoring and control of risk remains central to the Authority's treasury management strategy.

Treasury risk management at the Authority is conducted within the framework of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's *Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice* (the CIPFA Code) which requires the Authority to approve a treasury management strategy before the start of each financial year and, as a minimum, a semi-annual and annual treasury outturn report.

The Prudential Code includes a requirement for local authorities to provide a Capital Strategy, a summary document approved by full Council covering capital expenditure and financing, treasury management and non-treasury investments. The Authority's Capital Strategy, complying with CIPFA's requirement, was approved by full Council on 24th February 2021.

External Context

Economic background: The continuing economic recovery from coronavirus pandemic, together with the war in Ukraine, higher inflation, and higher interest rates were major issues over the period.

Bank Rate was 0.1% at the beginning of the reporting period. April and May saw the economy gathering momentum as the shackles of the pandemic restrictions were eased. Despite the improving outlook, market expectations were that the Bank of England would delay rate rises until 2022. Rising, persistent inflation changed that.

UK CPI was 0.7% in March 2021 but thereafter began to steadily increase. Initially driven by energy price effects and by inflation in sectors such as retail

and hospitality which were re-opening after the pandemic lockdowns, inflation then was believed to be temporary. Thereafter price rises slowly became more widespread, as a combination of rising global costs and strong demand was exacerbated by supply shortages and transport dislocations. The surge in wholesale gas and electricity prices led to elevated inflation expectations. CPI for February 2022 registered 6.2% year on year, up from 5.5% in the previous month and the highest reading in the National Statistic series.

Having increased Bank Rate from 0.10% to 0.25% in December, the Bank of England hiked it further to 0.50% in February and 0.75% in March. In its March interest rate announcement, the MPC noted that the invasion of Ukraine had caused further large increases in energy and other commodity prices, with the expectation that the conflict will worsen supply chain disruptions around the world and push CPI inflation to around 8% later in 2022, even higher than forecast only a month before in the February Monetary Policy Report.

Credit review: Having completed its full review of its credit advice on unsecured deposits, in September Arlingclose extended the maximum duration limit for UK bank entities on its recommended lending list from 35 days to 100 days; a similar extension was advised in December for the non-UK banks on this list. As ever, the institutions and durations on the Authority's counterparty list recommended by Arlingclose remains under constant review.

Revised CIPFA Codes, Updated PWLB Lending Facility Guidance: In August 2021 HM Treasury significantly revised guidance for the PWLB lending facility with more detail and 12 examples of permitted and prohibited use of PWLB loans. Authorities that are purchasing or intending to purchase investment assets primarily for yield will not be able to access the PWLB except to refinance existing loans or externalise internal borrowing. Acceptable use of PWLB borrowing includes service delivery, housing, regeneration, preventative action, refinancing and treasury management.

CIPFA published its revised Prudential Code for Capital Finance and Treasury Management Code on 20th December 2021. The key changes in the two codes are around permitted reasons to borrow, knowledge and skills, and the management of non-treasury investments.

The principles of the Prudential Code took immediate effect although local authorities could defer introducing the revised reporting requirements until the 2023/24 financial year if they wish.

Local Context

On 31st March 2022, the Authority had net borrowing of £116.3m arising from its revenue and capital income and expenditure, an increase on 2021 of £23.3m.

The underlying need to borrow for capital purposes is measured by the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), while usable reserves and working capital are the underlying resources available for investment. These factors and the year-on-year change are summarised in table 1 below.

Table 1: Balance Sheet Summary

	31.3.21 Actual £000	2021/22 Movement £000	31.3.22 Actual £000
General Fund CFR	23,775	32,785	56,560
HRA CFR	126,477	(1,898)	124,579
Total	150,252	30,887	181,139
Less: Usable reserves	(56,110)	7,575	(48,535)
Less: Working capital	(1,133)	(15,149)	(16,282)
Net borrowing	93,009	23,313	116,322

Net borrowing has increased due to a rise in the CFR as new capital expenditure was lower than the financing applied.

The Authority's current strategy is to maintain borrowing and investments below their underlying levels, sometimes known as internal borrowing, in order to reduce risk and keep interest costs low. The treasury management position as at 31st March 20212 and the year-on-year change is shown in table 2 below.

Table 2: Treasury Management Summary

	31.3.21 Balance £000	2021/22 Movement £000	31.3.22 Balance £000	31.3.22 Rate %
Long-term borrowing	125,429	3,060	128,489	3.74%
Short-term borrowing	0	15,000	15,000	0.16%
Total borrowing	125,429	18,060	143,489	
Long-term investments	0	0	0	
Short-term investments	0	(12,400)	12,400	0.05%
Cash and cash equivalents	32,420	17,653	14,767	0.06%
Total investments	32,420	5,253	27,167	
Net borrowing	93,009	23,313	116,322	

Borrowing Activity

At 31st March 2022, the Authority held £143 of loans, an increase of £18m on the previous year, as part of its strategy for funding previous years' capital programmes. The year-end borrowing position and the year-on-year change in show in table 3 below.

Table 3: Borrowing Position

	31.3.21 Balance £000	2021/22 Movement £000	31.3.22 Balance £000	31.3.22 Rate %	31.3.22 Average maturity years
Public Works Loan Board	125,429	3,060	128,489	3.74	27 years
Short-term borrowing	0	15,000	15,000	0.16	<1 year
Total borrowing	125,429	18,060	143,489		

The Authority's chief objective when borrowing has been to strike an appropriately low risk balance between securing low interest costs and achieving cost certainty over the period for which funds are required, with flexibility to renegotiate loans should the Authority's long-term plans change being a secondary objective.

The Authority has an increasing CFR due to the capital programme and an estimated borrowing requirement as determined by the Liability Benchmark which also takes into account usable reserves and working capital. Having considered the appropriate duration and structure of the borrowing need based on realistic projections, it was decided to take a combination of short-term borrowing and long-term repayment loans. The Authority borrowed £5m long-term fixed rate loans. These loans provide some longer-term certainty and stability to the debt portfolio.

Investment Activity

CIPFA published a revised Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice and Cross-Sectoral Guidance Notes on 20th December 2021. These define treasury management investments as investments that arise from the

organisation's cash flows or treasury risk management activity that ultimately represents balances that need to be invested until the cash is required for use in the course of business.

The Authority holds significant invested funds, representing income received in advance of expenditure plus balances and reserves held. During 2021/22, the Authority's investment balance ranged between £12m and £42m million due to timing differences between income and expenditure. The year-end investment position and the year-on-year change in show in table 4 below.

Table 4: Investment Position

	31.3.21 Balance £000	2021/22 Movement £000	31.3.22 Balance £000	31.3.22 Rate %	31.3.21 Average maturity years
Government (incl. local authorities)	12,820	(420)	12,400	0.05	<1 year
Money Market Funds	19,600	(4,833)	14,767	0.06	<1 year
Total investments	32,420	(5,253)	27,167		

Both the CIPFA Code and government guidance require the Authority to invest its funds prudently, and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its investments before seeking the highest rate of return, or yield. The Authority's objective when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return, minimising the risk of incurring losses from defaults and the risk of receiving unsuitably low investment income.

In furtherance of these objectives, the Authority continued to increase deposits into more secure asset classes during 2021/22. As a result, investment risk was lowered.

Ultra low short-dated cash rates, which were a feature since March 2020 when Bank Rate was cut to 0.1%, prevailed for much of the 12-month reporting period which resulted in the return on Money Market Funds being close to zero even after some managers have temporarily waived or lowered their fees. However,

higher returns on cash instruments followed the increases in Bank Rate in December, February and March.

Similarly, deposit rates with the Debt Management Account Deposit Facility (DMADF) remained very low for much of the year with rates ranging from 0% to 0.1%, but following the hikes to policy rates increased to between 0.55% and 0.85% depending on the deposit maturity.

Other Non-Treasury Holdings and Activity

The definition of investments in CIPFA's revised 2021 Treasury Management Code covers all the financial assets of the Authority as well as other non-financial assets which the Authority holds primarily for financial return. Investments that do not meet the definition of treasury management investments (i.e. management of surplus cash) are categorised as either for service purposes (made explicitly to further service objectives) and or for commercial purposes (made primarily for financial return).

Investment Guidance issued by the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) also broadens the definition of investments to include all such assets held partially or wholly for financial return.

The Authority holds £46m of directly owned investment property and land. The Authority also holds a £50,000 loan to the Derbyshire Building Control Partnership that commenced in March 2018, a £52,500 loan to Staveley Town Council that commenced in March 2020 and a £500,000 loan to Chesterfield Football Club Community Trust that commenced in August 2020.

Performance Report

The Authority measures the financial performance of its treasury management activities in terms of its impact on the revenue budget, as shown in table 5 below.

Table 5: Performance

	Actual £000	Budget £000	Over/ under
Total investment income	(21)	(7)	(14)
Total debt expense	4,685	4,689	(4)

GRAND TOTAL	4,664	4,682	(18)
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Compliance Report

The Service Director - Finance is pleased to report that all treasury management activities undertaken during 2021/22 complied fully with the CIPFA Code of Practice and the Authority's approved Treasury Management Strategy. Compliance with specific investment limits is demonstrated in table 6 below.

Table 6: Investment Limits

	2021/22 Maximum	31.3.22 Actual	2021/22 Limit	Complied
Any single organisation (excluding Central Government)	£0m	£0	£5m	✓
Any group of funds under the same management	£0m	£0	£7.5m	✓
Enhanced Money Market Funds	£12m	£8.8m	£12m	✓

Compliance with the authorised limit and operational boundary for external debt is demonstrated in table 7 below.

Table 7: Debt Limits

	2021/22 Maximum £000	31.3.22 Actual £000	2021/22 Operational Boundary £000	2021/22 Authorised Limit £000	Complied
Borrowing	£143,489	£143,489	£175,600	£188,800	✓

Since the operational boundary is a management tool for in-year monitoring it is not significant if the operational boundary is breached on occasions due to variations in cash flow, and this is not counted as a compliance failure. Total debt was below the operational boundary for the whole of 2021/22.

Treasury Management Indicators

The Authority measures and manages its exposures to treasury management risks using the following indicators.

Interest Rate Exposures: This indicator is set to control the Authority's exposure to interest rate risk. The upper limits on the one-year revenue impact of a 1% rise or fall in interest rates were:

Interest rate risk indicator	31.3.22 Actual	2021/22 Limit	Complied
Upper limit on one-year revenue impact of a 1% <u>rise</u> in interest rates	£111,000	£300,000	✓
Upper limit on one-year revenue impact of a 1% <u>fall</u> in interest rates	£111,000	£300,000	✓

Maturity Structure of Borrowing: This indicator is set to control the Authority's exposure to refinancing risk. The upper and lower limits on the maturity structure of fixed rate borrowing were:

	31.3.22 Actual	Upper Limit	Lower Limit	Complied
Under 12 months	12%	25%	0%	✓
12 months and within 24 months	3%	25%	0%	✓
24 months and within 5 years	6%	30%	0%	✓
5 years and within 10 years	10%	40%	0%	✓
10 years and within 25 years	47%	70%	20%	✓
25 years and above	22%	75%	15%	✓

Time periods start on the first day of each financial year. The maturity date of borrowing is the earliest date on which the lender can demand repayment.

Principal Sums Invested for Periods Longer than 364 days: These limits are set with regard to the Council's liquidity requirements and to reduce the need for early sale of an investment, and are based on the availability of funds after each year-end.

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Actual principal invested > 364 days	£0	£0	£0
Limit on principal invested > 364 days	£10m	£10m	£10m
Complied	✓	✓	✓

Other

IFRS 16: The implementation of the new IFRS 16 Leases accounting standard was due to come into force for local authorities from 1st April 2022. Following a consultation CIFPA/LASAAC announced an optional two year delay to the implementation of this standard a decision which was confirmed by the Financial Reporting Advisory Board in early April 2022. Authorities can now choose to adopt the new standard on 1st April 2022, 1st April 2023 or 1st April 2024. The Authority intends to adopt the new standard on 1st April 2024.

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For publication

Annual Report of the Standards and Audit Committee

Meeting:	Council
Date:	19 th October 2022
Cabinet portfolio:	Governance
Directorate:	Finance
For publication	

1.0 Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To set out the work of the Standards and Audit Committee for 2021/22 in an annual report in line with best practice.
- 1.2 This report was considered by the Standards and Audit Committee at its meeting on 28 September, 2022 where it was resolved that the report and its recommendations be supported and referred to Council for approval.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That Council approve the Annual Report of the Standards and Audit Committee.

3.0 Reason for recommendations

- 3.1 To ensure that the Standards and Audit Committee are following good practice guidelines in line with CIPFA's guidance note "Audit Committees – Practical Guidance for Local Authorities" in terms of performance and effectiveness.

4.0 Report details

- 4.1 The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) in their guidance note "Audit Committees – Practical Guidance for Local Authorities", recommend that an Audit Committee should produce an annual report on their activity. The production of an Annual Report helps to assess how the Committee is performing and raises the profile of the Committee.
- 4.2 The Annual Report in Appendix 1 summarises the work of the Standards and Audit Committee for the financial year 2021/22.

5.0 Alternative options

5.1 The report is for information.

6.0 Implications for consideration – Financial and Value for Money

6.1 The work of the Standards and Audit Committee helps to ensure that processes and controls are operating effectively thereby contributing to ensuring that value for money is obtained.

7.0 Implications for consideration – Legal

7.1 None

8.0 Implications for consideration – Human Resources

8.1 None

9.0 Implications for consideration – Council Plan

9.1 The Standards and Audit Committee play a critical role in ensuring that the Council's governance, control and risk management arrangements are appropriate. Appropriate governance, control and risk management arrangements help to ensure that the council's resources and priorities are focused on achieving the objectives within the council plan.

10.0 Implications for consideration – Climate Change

10.1 Whilst there are not considered to be any direct climate change impacts in relation to this report, sound internal control, governance and risk management arrangements will support the achievement of the Council's objectives.

11.0 Implications for consideration – Equality and Diversity

11.1 None

12.0 Implications for consideration – Risk Management

12.1 The production of this report provides assurance to Council that the Standards and Audit Committee are fulfilling their terms of reference which reduces the risk of a failure of governance, control and risk management arrangements.

Decision information

Key decision number	<i>All key decisions must be in the Forward Plan at least 28 days in advance. There are constitutional consequences if an item is not in the Forward Plan when it should have been. Contact Democratic Services if in doubt.</i>
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Wards affected	None
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Document information

Report author	
Jenny Williams Head of the Internal Audit Consortium Finance	
Background documents	
These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when the report was prepared.	
None	
Appendices to the report	
Appendix 1	Annual Report of the Standards and Audit Committee 2021/2022

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CHESTERFIELD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

STANDARDS AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

ANNUAL

REPORT

2021/22

Standards and Audit Committee

Chesterfield Borough Council

Annual Report 2021/22

1. Background

- 1.1 The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) in their guidance note "Audit Committees – Practical Guidance for Local Authorities", recommend that an Audit Committee should produce an annual report on their activity.
- 1.2 The Standards and Audit Committee produce an annual report as a means of assessing how the Committee is performing and raising the profile of the work of the Committee across the Council.
- 1.3 Audit Committees are widely recognised as a core component of effective governance, their key role is to independently oversee and assess the internal control environment, comprising governance, risk management and control and advise the Council on the adequacy and effectiveness of these arrangements. At Chesterfield Borough Council the statutory duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members is also overseen by the Committee.
- 1.4 The Committee is responsible for: –
 - Promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct
 - Good governance
 - Internal Audit
 - External Audit
 - Risk Management
 - Treasury Management
 - The control environment
 - Anti-fraud and anti- corruption arrangements
 - Carrying out hearings into alleged misconduct by councillors

Details of the responsibilities of the Committee are set out in the Council's Constitution (Part 2, Article 9).

- 1.5 The Committee meets on a regular basis. Chaired by Councillor Mark Rayner for most of 2021/22 with Councillor Kate Caulfield taking over as Chair in February 2022. The Committee is advised by the Service Director - Finance, Theresa Channell, the Head of

the Internal Audit Consortium, Jenny Williams, and the Monitoring Officer, Gerard Rogers.

2. Membership and Meetings

- 2.1 The Standards and Audit Committee is composed of eight members, 6 councillors and 2 parish representative members (appointed by Brimington Parish Council and Staveley Town Council respectively). During 2021/22 these members were: -
Councillor Caulfield (Chair)
Councillor Kellman (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Rayner
Councillor Brady
Councillor Murphy
Councillor Snowdon
Councillor Brittain / Cawthorne (Brimington Parish Council)
Councillor Wilson (Staveley Town Council)
- 2.2 The meetings are also attended by the Council's external auditor Mazars.
- 2.3 During the 2020/21 financial year the Standards and Audit Committee met on 6 occasions.

3. Standards and Audit Committee Business

- 3.1 During the year the Committee conducted the following business:
-

Internal Audit

- Received the annual internal audit report for 2020/21
- Approved the internal audit plan for 2021/22
- Received internal audit updates of progress against the audit plan for 2021/22
- Monitored the implementation of internal audit recommendations
- Received and approved the Internal Audit Charter
- Considered the report in respect of the external review of Internal Audit

- Monitored the progress internal audit are making on the implementation of recommendations arising from their external review.

External Audit

- Received the external auditors Audit Strategy Memorandum 2020/21
- Received external audit progress reports
- Considered a report in relation to the future procurement of the external auditors

Statement of Accounts

- Approved the 2020/21 statement of accounts

Treasury Management

- Considered the treasury management 2020/21 annual report and monitoring report 2021/22
- Approved the 2022/23 Treasury Management Strategy

Risk Management

- Considered the Risk Management Strategy for 2021/22 and reviewed the strategic risk register.

Good Governance

- Reviewed and approved the Code of Corporate Governance and Annual Governance Statement for 2020/21
- Produced the 2021/22 Annual Report of the Standards and Audit Committee for Council
- Undertook a self -assessment of the Standards and Audit Committee against the CIPFA model.
- Considered the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Annual Review Letter 2020/21
- Discussed the results of the CIPFA Fraud and Corruption Survey 2020
- Approved Constitution updates
- Discussed the end of remote meetings that had been in place as a result of COVID-19
- Received an update in respect of progress made by the newly formed procurement team

- Reviewed and approved an updated anti-fraud, Bribery and Corruption Strategy

Standards of Conduct

- Considered an annual report on the Standards of Conduct

4. The Committee's Main Achievements / Outcomes

The Standards and Audit Committee aims to add value through its activity and this year its most significant achievements have been to: -

- Ensure that the momentum to improve controls and processes in relation to procurement continues.
- Ensure that for the Limited Assurance internal audit reports issued in the year that Officers are taking action to remedy the issues identified.
- Ensure that the 2020/21 Annual Governance Statement is a true and transparent reflection of the Council's governance, risk and control arrangements.
- Reviewed and commented on the Council's strategic risk register to ensure that it is still current and accurately reflects the key risks faced by the Council.

5 Conclusion

- 5.1 The Committee has continued to make a positive contribution to the Council's overall governance risk, and control arrangements.
- 5.2 The Committee will continue to support the Council in the year ahead by supporting the work of internal and external audit, the Service Director -Finance and the Monitoring Officer.

Councillor Kate Caulfield (Chair)
Chesterfield Borough Council Standards and Audit Committee

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For publication

Changes to Committee Appointments 2022/23

Meeting:	Council
Date:	19 October, 2022
Directorate:	Corporate
For publication	

1.0 Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To enable the Council to consider a proposed change to the appointments to committees for the remainder the 2022/23 municipal year.
- 1.2 To enable the Council to consider a proposed change to the vice-chair of the Planning Committee for the remainder the 2022/23 municipal year.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the changes to appointments to committees for the remainder of the 2022/23 municipal year as proposed by the Leader of the majority group and described at paragraph 3.2 be approved.
- 2.2 That the change to the appointment of chair of Planning as proposed by the Leader of the majority group and described at paragraph 3.4 be approved.

3.0 Report details

- 3.1 That the following changes to the membership of committees as proposed by the Leader of the majority group be agreed:

3.2 Licensing Committee

- removal of Councillor Brittain as a Labour group member
- addition of Councillor Simmons as a Labour group member

Planning Committee

- removal of Councillor Simmons as a Labour group member
- addition of Councillor Brittain as a Labour group member

Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum

- removal of Councillor Brittain as a Labour group member
- addition of Councillor Simmons as a Labour group member

- 3.3 The following change to the appointment of chair is proposed by the Leader of the majority group:

3.4 Planning Committee

Councillor Brittain to replace Councillor Simmons as vice-chair of the Planning Committee.

Document information

Report author
<i>Rachel Appleyard, Senior Democratic and Scrutiny Officer</i> rachel.appleyard@chesterfield.gov.uk

COUNCIL MEETING – 19 OCTOBER, 2022 **MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

These Minutes are of Committee meetings taken under delegated powers since the last meeting of Council. The Minutes are for information only.

Please click on the links below to view the Minutes you want to read.

Appeals and Regulatory Committee	13 July 27 July Full 27 July 7 September
Employment and General Committee	28 July
Planning Committee	18 July 22 July 30 August 26 September
Standards and Audit Committee	27 July

If you require paper copies of the Minutes please contact:

Amanda Clayton

Democratic Services, Town Hall, Chesterfield, S40 1LP

Tel: 01246 345273 email: democratic.services@chesterfield.gov.uk

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CABINET

Tuesday, 19th July, 2022

Present:-

Councillor P Gilby (Chair)

Councillors Blank
D Collins
Holmes
J Innes

Councillors Ludlow
Mannion-Brunt
Sarvent
Serjeant

Non Voting P Innes
Members

*Matters dealt with under the Delegation Scheme

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

No declarations of interest were received.

21 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies for absence were received.

22 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED –

That the minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 21 June, 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

23 **FORWARD PLAN**

The Forward Plan for the four month period 1 August to 30 November, 2022 was reported for information.

***RESOLVED –**

That the Forward Plan be noted.

24 **PERIOD 2 BUDGET MONITORING**

The Service Director – Finance presented a report outlining the Council's General Fund revenue budget position at the end of the second period of 2022/23 (through 31 May, 2022).

Assuming no further changes to those reported at the end of the second period, the Council would be facing a deficit of £694k at year end. A table containing the key variances was included in paragraph 4.8 of the officer's report.

The report also outlined a number of emerging spending pressures that were now being considered alongside already known financial challenges as part of the Council's ongoing medium term financial planning activities.

The report noted the anticipated movement in the Council's reserves. The Budget Risk Reserve had been increased to £2.066m.

The original General Fund Capital Programme budget for 2022/23 had been revised to include slippage of £6.2m from the 2021/22 Capital Programme. There had been no new additions to the 2022/23 Capital Programme.

***RESOLVED –**

1. That the position of the General Fund Revenue Account at the close of month two of the financial year 2022/23, be noted.
2. That the proposal to ringfence £200k from the Budget Risk Reserve to support any interim or recruitment agency costs which may be required to mitigate recruitment pressures, as set out in paragraph 4.5 of the officer's report, be approved.
3. That the use of new burdens funding of £140k to strengthen council tax and rent recovery and provide increased levels of customer support, as set out in paragraph 4.10 of the officer's report, be approved.
4. That the updated General Fund Capital Programme and financing, as set out in paragraphs 4.15 to 4.17 of the officer's report, be approved.

5. That the position of the Housing Revenue Account Revenue and Capital budgets at the close of month two of the financial year 2022/23, as set out in paragraphs 4.18 to 4.24 of the officer's report, be noted.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS

1. This periodic report summarises the current assessment of the Council's forecast outturn and enables formal monitoring and active management against the 2022/23 budget.
2. This is the first monitoring report for the 2022/23 financial year and comes at a time when the Council is experiencing financial pressures due to the current economic situation, the high levels of cost inflation and the ongoing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

25 BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN RECEPTOR SITES

The Housing Delivery Manager submitted a report seeking approval for a pilot scheme to create units for biodiversity enhancement to support off-site provision of habitat as part of applications for planning permission where applicants were unable to provide a measurable net gain in biodiversity on-site.

The Environment Act introduced a mandatory requirement for new developments to provide a net gain in biodiversity and measurably improve habitats.

Developers who were unable to accommodate a measurable net gain in biodiversity on-site would be required to find, fund, and deliver an appropriate scheme on an alternative site.

***RESOLVED –**

1. That the implementation of a pilot scheme to create units for biodiversity enhancement to be used to support off-site provision of habitat as part of applications for planning permission, where applicants have been unable to provide a measurable net gain in biodiversity on-site, be authorised.

2. That an assessment of the council's full land portfolio to identify potential medium and long term Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) opportunity sites which would form a 'habitat bank' to support nature recovery across the borough, dependent on subsequent Cabinet approval following an evaluation of the pilot schemes, be authorised.
3. That officers be authorised to work with partners to determine sites of strategic significance for biodiversity within the borough, with the aim to bring a strategy document for BNG informed by the results of the pilot, to a future Cabinet meeting.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS

1. To enable the council to become a provider of off-site BNG to:
 - i. Support the delivery of Local Plan policy CLP16.
 - ii. Support housing delivery and economic growth through the provision of a clear and accessible solution to achieving planning compliance where applicants have demonstrated that they are unable to provide BNG on-site.
 - iii. Support the creation and retention of appropriate habitat types within the borough, enhancing local communities and reducing the risk of developers seeking solutions outside of the borough.
 - iv. Support implementation of the Climate Change Action Plan.
2. A number of planning applications currently under consideration have demonstrated that they are unable to meet the entirety of their BNG requirement on-site. Timely assessment of sites shortlisted as suitable for rewilding through scoping work initially undertaken by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust will maximise opportunity to deliver BNG and maintain housing growth across the borough, however further investigation is recommended around the number of BNG units these sites can accommodate. The procurement of further assessment would ensure that the council is able to sustain an offer of biodiversity units throughout the pilot period.
3. When the Environment Act makes BNG mandatory (expected to be Winter 2023) the demand for off-site biodiversity opportunities is likely to increase. Establishing a habitat bank within the council's landholdings provides an opportunity to gain best value by identifying suitable land capable of accommodating a range of

habitat types, in locations which are strategically important for nature.

26 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ANNUAL REPORT**

The Policy Officer presented the Equality and Diversity Annual Report for the financial year 2021/22 updating members on Council improvements and achievements relating to equality and diversity matters.

The Annual Report had been developed in consultation with the Equality and Diversity Forum and included a summary of the equality impact assessments undertaken during 2021/22 with regards Council policies, strategies and plans, and progress updates on the Council's work in promoting equality and diversity both within the Council and with our communities.

***RESOLVED –**

That it be recommended to Full Council that:

1. The Equality and Diversity Annual Report be approved.
2. The Equality and Diversity Annual Report be published on the Council's website and circulated to partners.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

Equalities legislation and good practice require public bodies to publish annual equalities reports.

27 **PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING REPORT (INCORPORATING EPC AND HMO AMENITIES AND SPACE STANDARDS)**

The Private Sector Housing Manager submitted a report seeking approval for the Private Sector Housing Energy Performance Certificate Policy and the Private Sector Housing Amenities and Space Standards Policy.

The Energy Performance of Buildings (England and Wales) Regulations 2012 had been introduced to ensure that landlords had a valid EPC certificate in relation to all properties in their ownership and that all privately rented properties had at least an E rated EPC to ensure a minimum level of thermal efficiency. Enforcement of the relevant statutory

provisions had been delegated to District and Borough Councils in Derbyshire from Derbyshire County Council Trading Standards.

The Government had issued revised guidance which empowered Local Authorities to set their own standards for houses in multiple occupation (HMOs). Chesterfield Borough Council's existing standards had therefore been reviewed and updated.

***RESOLVED –**

1. That the update on the activities of the private sector housing team during 2021/22, be noted.
2. That the Private Sector Housing Energy Performance Certificate Policy, be approved.
3. That the Private Sector Housing Amenities and Space Standards Policy, be approved.
4. That the Service Director – Housing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing, be granted delegated authority to agree minor policy adjustments in between review periods.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

In April 2021 Cabinet approved the Private Sector Housing Action Plan. This report provides an update on the activities of the team during 2021/22 and gives further details on additional and revised policies which will enable the Private Sector Housing Team to continue to work proactively with those landlords willing to comply with housing legislation and actively regulate noncompliant landlords.

28 PARK HOMES LICENSING AND FIT AND PROPER PERSON POLICY

The Private Sector Housing Manager submitted a report seeking approval for the revised Park Homes Licensing and Fit and Proper Person Policy.

The Mobile Homes (Requirement for Manager of Site to be Fit and Proper Person) (England) Regulations 2020 (“the Regulations”) introduced a Fit and Proper Person test for mobile home site owners, or the person appointed to manage the site, to protect residents.

The updated Policy and fee structure was attached at Appendix 1 of the officer's report.

***RESOLVED –**

1. That the new statutory powers granted to local authorities under the Mobile Homes (Requirement for Manager of Site to be Fit and Proper Person) (England) Regulations 2020, be noted.
2. That the revised Private Sector Housing Park Licensing and Fit and Proper Person Policy, be approved.
3. That the Service Director – Housing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing, be granted delegated authority to agree minor policy adjustments in between review periods.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To ensure compliance with the Mobile Homes (Requirement for Manager of Site to be Fit and Proper Person) (England) Regulations 2020.

29 UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND

The Service Director – Economic Growth and Senior Economic Development Officer submitted a report seeking approval for the final draft version of the Council's Investment Plan to be submitted to the Government.

The United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) would provide £2.6bn of funding to local areas over a three-year period and was intended to replace EU Structural Funds. The primary goal of the UKSPF was to build pride of place and increase life chances across the United Kingdom.

The Council had undertaken a stakeholder engagement session via an electronic questionnaire inviting feedback from Voluntary, Community, Social Enterprise, Education and Skills, and Business organisations on the draft Investment Plan, and had also established a new Partnership Board to oversee delivery of the Plan's activities. The Council's UKSPF Investment Plan was attached at Appendix 3 of the officer's report.

***RESOLVED –**

1. That the strategic direction and indicative funding proposals, as set out in the draft Chesterfield UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan, be approved.
2. That the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be granted delegated authority to make changes to the draft document to enable completion of the Chesterfield UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan for submission to Government.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

Work on the Investment Plan is ongoing and this will enable the submission of the Chesterfield UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan to Government by the 1 August, 2022 deadline.

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 PEAK GATEWAY ROUND TWO LEVELLING UP FUND BID

The Service Director – Economic Growth submitted a report seeking approval for a bid to be submitted for the second round of the Government's Levelling Up Fund (LUF) and the role Chesterfield Borough Council (CBC) would play if the bid was successful.

When the second round of the LUF was announced the rules for eligibility allowed CBC to submit a second bid. A short-list of projects that could potentially be prepared in time for the bid submission deadline were considered and it was deemed that Peak Gateway stood the best chance of securing funding.

Peak Resort, within which the Peak Gateway would be established, was a major leisure led regeneration scheme planned for the Birchall Estate

and, when completed, would be a significant national and international visitor attraction. The successful development of Peak Resort was highlighted as one of several key developments under the Council Plan 2019-23 priority “to make Chesterfield a thriving Borough”.

***RESOLVED –**

1. That the bid for Peak Gateway be submitted to round two of the Levelling Up Fund.
2. That the undertakings the section 151 officer has to make in submitting the bid, be approved.
3. That the role the council will play in light of the undertakings and the approach to managing risk, be approved.
4. That the continuation of work on the project prior to bid announcements in order to maintain momentum and refine the understanding of project risk, be endorsed.
5. That the Service Director for Economic Growth, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Growth, the Service Director for Finance and the Procurement and Contract Law Manager, be granted delegated authority to finalise the Heads of Terms and Funding Agreement to be entered into between Chesterfield Borough Council and the delivery partners for Peak Gateway.
6. That a further report on Peak Gateway, including the outcome of additional assurance work, be brought to a future Cabinet meeting prior to the council accepting any Levelling Up Funding should it be offered.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To provide approval of the bid on behalf of the council and to ensure that Cabinet is aware of the role the council would play in project delivery and the approach it would take to managing risk.

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CABINET**Tuesday, 13th September, 2022**

Present:-

Councillor P Gilby (Chair)

Councillors Blank
D Collins
Holmes
J Innes

Councillors Ludlow
Mannion-Brunt
Serjeant

Non-voting Members P Innes

*Matters dealt with under the Delegation Scheme

The meeting commenced with reflective words from the Chair and a minute's silence in memory of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

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

No declarations of interest were received.

33 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Sarvent.

34 MINUTES

RESOLVED –

That the minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 19 July, 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

35 FORWARD PLAN

The Forward Plan for the four month period October, 2022 to January, 2023 was reported for information.

***RESOLVED –**

That the Forward Plan be noted.

36 DELEGATION REPORT

Decisions taken by Cabinet Members during June to August, 2022 were reported.

***RESOLVED –**

That the Delegation Report be noted.

37 STAVELEY TOWN CENTRE VISION MASTER PLAN AND STAVELEY TOWN DEAL PROJECT: 'STAVELEY 21'

The Joint Growth Unit Manager presented a report to update members on the findings of the public engagement exercise on the draft Staveley Town Centre Vision Master Plan and to seek approval for the adoption of the final Master Plan, attached at Appendix A of the officer's report. The report also sought approval for the delivery of improvements to Staveley town centre with the Towns Fund opportunity in line with the Staveley Town Centre Vision Master Plan and the 'Staveley 21' green book compliant business case.

A public consultation exercise undertaken in December 2020 found that local people thought that Staveley town centre did not meet their aspirations and that investment was required. The officer's report noted that Staveley town centre had many valuable assets - its heritage, community spirit and location. To make the most of Staveley's opportunities and to ensure it remained a relevant and viable town centre, the Council commissioned a new Town Centre Vision Master Plan with the purpose of setting an ambitious agenda for change and developing a vision for a successful future.

The Master Plan established five objectives to provide a framework for addressing the challenges facing the town and delivering the vision:

1. Vital mix of uses
2. Strong sense of place
3. Connectivity
4. Challenging perceptions

5. Adaptability and resilience.

The Master Plan also identified 17 projects arranged around four 'key moves':

1. The Regeneration of Market Square
2. The renewal of the High Street
3. Development proposals for under-used sites
4. Enhancing Connectivity

An award of £25.2m to improve Staveley in line with the agreed Staveley Town Investment Plan had been received from the Towns Fund, £4.86m of which was identified to deliver improvements through the 'Staveley 21' project. Consideration had been given to how best to optimise the investment, having due regard to the Master Plan. The projects brought forward within the 'Staveley 21' business case were selected from the Master Plan based on the key criteria included in paragraph 4.31 of the officer's report. Each project required a 'Green Book' Compliant Business Case, approved locally through the Staveley Town Deal Board and the Council as the accountable body, and submitted to government.

A 'Staveley 21' Project Board, comprising of the Cabinet Members for Economic Growth and Town Centres and Visitor Economy and council officers, would be established to oversee progress and manage project risks.

***RESOLVED –**

1. That the Staveley Town Centre Vision Master Plan, attached at Appendix A of the officer's report, be approved, adopted, and published.
2. That the Council takes immediate steps to advance the delivery of improvements to Staveley town centre.
3. That the Service Director for Economic Growth, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Town Centres and Visitor Economy, the Cabinet Member for Economic Growth and the Service Director for Finance, be granted delegated authority to take the necessary steps to satisfy both the pre-contract and pre-award of funding conditions, detailed in Appendix G of the officer's report, that the Staveley Town

Deal Board have attached to their offer of funding from the Towns Fund Programme.

4. That it be noted, subject to the pre-contract and pre-award of funding conditions being satisfied, that the Council will receive £4,856,000 of Towns Fund Programme grant funding to advance the delivery of improvements to Staveley town centre.
5. That the Service Director for Economic Growth, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Town Centres and Visitor Economy, the Cabinet Member for Economic Growth and the Service Director for Finance, be granted delegated authority to confirm the award of enabling works and construction contracts to advance the delivery of improvements to Staveley town centre.
6. That the Service Director for Economic Growth, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Town Centres and Visitor Economy, the Cabinet Member for Economic Growth and the Service Director for Finance, be granted delegated authority to confirm the scope of, and the governance and delivery arrangements for the 'Staveley 21' shop-front grant scheme.
7. That the Service Director for Economic Growth, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Growth and the Service Director for Finance, be granted delegated authority to finalise the lease arrangements with future occupier(s) of the pavilion building and other properties developed as part of the delivery of improvements to Staveley town centre.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS

1. To respond to the findings of the draft Staveley Town Centre Vision Master Plan public engagement and consultation activities and finalise the Staveley Town Centre Vision Master Plan.
2. To deliver outputs at pace through the 'Towns Fund Programme', which will part-fund the delivery of physical improvements to Staveley town centre in line with the newly adopted and published Staveley Town Centre Vision Master Plan.
3. To contribute to the delivery of the Council's economic recovery plan (Covid19 pandemic) and growth strategy 2019-23.

4. To improve the experience of those visiting Staveley town centre and help enhance its economic future.

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OVERVIEW AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY FORUM**Thursday, 30th June, 2022**

Present:-

Councillor Flood (Chair)

Councillors Brittain
Catt
DykeCouncillors Fordham
Kellman
Snowdon

Councillor Jean Innes, Cabinet Member for Business Transformation and Customers +

Rachel Appleyard, Senior Democratic and Scrutiny Officer

Gemma Masoud, Head of HR +

Andrew Mitchell, Head of Digital and Technology +

Rachel O'Neil, Service Director – Digital, HR and Customer Services +

Attended for Minute No. 19 +

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

No declarations of interest were received.

12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Blakemore, Borrell, Caulfield, L Collins, Coy, T Gilby and Hollingworth.

13 FORWARD PLAN

The Forum considered the Forward Plan. A concern was raised that key decisions were not being published on the forward plan with enough notice to allow for pre-decision scrutiny. The Chair explained that a compromise was needed as it was not always possible to have advance notice of upcoming decisions and reiterated that scrutiny members could speak with the Joint Chairs between meetings if any items were added to the forward plan that scrutiny may wish to be involved in.

RESOLVED –

That the Forward Plan be noted.

14 SCRUTINY MONITORING

The Scrutiny Monitoring Schedule was considered. The Chair noted that HS2 was the only item for monitoring by the Forum and an update had been scheduled for later in the year.

RESOLVED –

That the Scrutiny Monitoring Schedule be noted.

15 WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE OVERVIEW AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY FORUM

The Forum considered the Work Programme for 2022/23. The Chair noted that, following a recent East Midlands Scrutiny Network (EMSN) meeting, a new approach to budget scrutiny would be trialled which would involve splitting into groups to focus on key themes.

Members also discussed the timing of the Climate Change Action Plan update and asked whether an interim update on actions 44 and 45 of the plan, the commissioning of two reports on becoming climate neutral which were due to have been completed, could be provided in September ahead of the full update in November to allow for timelier engagement with scrutiny.

RESOLVED –

1. That the Work Programme be noted.
2. That the new approach to budget scrutiny be trialled.
3. That an interim update on the Climate Change Action Plan be requested for the September meeting.

16 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY DEVELOPMENTS

The Chair and Senior and Democratic Scrutiny Officer attended the EMSN meeting on 24 June, 2022 which was held in person at Erewash Borough Council. The meeting focussed on budget scrutiny and included

a presentation from West Northamptonshire Council followed by a group activity to share best practice ideas for scrutinising budgets.

The next EMSN would be held in Oakham, Rutland on 30 September, 2022. All scrutiny members were invited to attend.

RESOLVED –

That the update be noted.

17 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum held on 12 May, 2022 were presented.

***RESOLVED –**

That the Minutes be approved as a correct record and be signed by the Chair.

18 SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT

The Senior Democratic and Scrutiny Officer presented the draft Scrutiny Annual Report which detailed the work of the council's Overview and Scrutiny function during 2021/22.

It was requested that the Forward Plan information in section 3 of the report be amended to reflect the resolution at the Community, Customer and Organisational Scrutiny Committee where concerns were expressed about the timing of items being added to the Forward Plan impacting the ability for effective pre-decision scrutiny (Minute No. 46, 2021/22).

RESOLVED –

That the Scrutiny Annual Report be approved for submission to Full Council subject to the amendment to the Forward Plan section of the report.

19 CABINET MEMBER FOR BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION AND CUSTOMERS - ICT AND DIGITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Cabinet Member for Business Transformation and Customers, Service Director – Digital, HR and Customers, Head of Digital and Technology and Head of HR attended to present a report updating members on the ICT and Digital Improvement Programme.

The Service Director explained that since the last report to the Forum in January 2020, there had been some staff changes and two new officers had been appointed to the posts of Head of Digital and Technology, which included ICT, and Head of HR, which included organisational development.

The ICT and Digital Improvement Programme began in 2018 when it was approved by Full Council to return the Arvato service back in house. The programme was ambitious and would see investment over a period of time to improve and enhance the technology that the Council used to deliver services.

The ICT programme consisted of four workstreams:

1. People – focusing on insourcing ICT, increasing ICT skills and knowledge, creating a digital change team and redesigning sections of the organisation to deliver savings achieved through channel shift, automation, and new ways of working.
2. Digital – focusing on implementing the Salesforce Platform, implementing the ‘My Chesterfield’ digital portal, implementing e-billing within Revenues and Benefits services and consolidating more services into the Customer Services function.
3. Applications – focusing on reviewing, replacing, or upgrading ICT applications and implementing a systems integrations tool.
4. Enabling technology – focusing on replacing ageing and unsupported ICT infrastructure, increasing ICT security, migrating ICT infrastructure to the cloud, implementing Microsoft Office 365 and Microsoft Teams, implementing a single-sign-on solution and replacing telephony infrastructure.

The Service Director explained that a number of emergency upgrades to systems and changes to plans in order to work in an agile way were required to respond to the challenges of the Covid19 pandemic. This enabled the Council to continue to deliver services to customers and drive transformational change whilst working from home.

Appendix 1 of the officer's report showed the status of all projects in the improvement programme at a glance. The majority of the projects were blue or green which identified them as either completed or close to completion. Six projects were labelled as amber as they had been planned and resourced but were to be delivered later in the year. One project was labelled red as it was still to be scheduled for delivery. Additional projects had been added into the programme including energy rebates and covid business grants as a result of the pandemic, and updating the staff caution list database. The Service Director explained that more consideration was needed regarding the impact of new services that generated customer contacts, such as the covid business grants and energy rebates, as these were additional activities which impacted on the delivery of the improvement programme.

The budget for the project was included in Appendix 2 of the officer's report which showed that the programme was within budget and the savings were above target for the current stage of the programme delivery. A more detailed summary of where the savings had occurred was provided in Appendix 3 of the officer's report.

The Service Director updated members on the uptake of online services and included a breakdown of the progress being made in Appendix 4 of the officer's report. Members were informed that more customers were switching to digital channels and a detailed marketing plan was successfully encouraging an increase in usage of the 'My Chesterfield' digital portal.

Since the launch of 'My Chesterfield' in November 2020, 27k residents had signed up to the digital platform and the target was to increase this to 30k residents by November 2022. From the analysis of customer contacts, the services which had the most online access received fewer customer contacts, therefore it was the services where there was little or no online access that needed to be targeted next, such as housing.

The Service Director explained that the internal ICT projects were on track and the migration to the cloud was on schedule for completion by the end of the financial year. The majority of internal systems were now up to date and those that required updating would be moved to the latest versions by the end of the year. Members were informed that, following the insourcing of the ICT service, there was a need to review the skills and experience within the service to build a high performing team. New skills and knowledge had been brought into the team through recruitment

to new roles however there was a challenge in retaining staff as local authorities were struggling to compete with pay in the private sector.

Members congratulated the Service Director for the achievements of the teams involved in delivering the improvement programme, particularly in responding to the additional projects added as a result of the Covid19 pandemic.

Members queried the savings figures in table 1 and paragraph 3.6 of the officer's report and the Service Director explained that the figures detailed the savings for each year, not the cumulative savings. At the end of 2021/22, savings of £675k had been achieved during that year, however, since 2019/20 over £1m of savings had been achieved which was ahead of target. Members asked whether the figures included savings from staff reductions and expenses from staff taking voluntary redundancy or early retirement. The Service Director advised that staff savings did not form part of this programme, instead it came under the organisational development programme, and there was a separate reserve fund for expenses related to voluntary redundancy or early retirement. The council was on track to achieve the savings required through natural wastage rather than redundancy.

Members were interested to hear about the challenges the council faced when recruiting staff. The Service Director explained that most staff who returned inhouse through TUPE were keen to remain with the council, however, the challenge was retaining new staff who were recruited externally and brought the benefit of new skills and experiences to the team. The Service Director advised that there was a challenge to recruit officers with the right skills without a market supplement which caused additional budget pressures, therefore recruitment would be looked at across the council as part of the People Plan. Members noted that local government brought advantages, such as the ability to progress within the local government family, and suggested that these advantages should be emphasized more when recruiting.

Members asked whether the statistics from 'My Chesterfield' would show the demographics of the users to identify if there were sectors of the population who were or were not accessing online services. The Cabinet Member commented that affordability was a barrier to people accessing online services. Members reported that it was often quicker to get responses through reporting issues online and there was a risk of residents in the more deprived areas not receiving the benefits of online

services. Members also noted that calls to environmental services had significantly reduced and were now received mostly through 'My Chesterfield'; they suggested reviewing how that shift had been achieved in order to support the roll out of 'My Chesterfield' for other council services.

With regard to Appendix 1 of the officer's report, Members asked whether there had been any post evaluations of the projects that had been completed to understand if they were successful. The Service Director advised that a lessons learnt activity was undertaken after each project in consultation with the teams involved in the project.

The Chair thanked the officers and Cabinet Member for attending the meeting and answering their questions, and asked for the thanks of the Forum to be passed onto the staff who had supported the delivery of the improvement programme. The Chair welcomed the opportunity for the Forum to be involved as a consultee in the development of the new ICT Strategy.

RESOLVED –

1. That the update be noted.
2. That the Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum be involved as a consultee in the development of the new ICT Strategy.

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OVERVIEW AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY FORUM

Thursday, 8th September, 2022

Present:-

Councillor L Collins (Chair)

Councillors Borrell
Catt
Caulfield
Coy

Councillors Dyke
Hollingworth
Kellman
Snowdon

Rachel Appleyard, Senior Democratic and Scrutiny Officer
Katy Marshall, Policy and Partnerships Manager +
Will Rolls, Climate Change Officer +

Attended for Minute No. 27 +

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

No declarations of interest were received.

21 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Blakemore, Brittain and Flood.

22 **FORWARD PLAN**

The Forward Plan was reported for information.

RESOLVED –

That the Forward Plan be noted.

23 **SCRUTINY MONITORING**

The Monitoring Schedule was reported for information.

RESOLVED –

That the Monitoring Schedule be noted.

24 WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE OVERVIEW AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY FORUM

The Work Programme was reported.

RESOLVED –

That the Work Programme be noted.

25 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY DEVELOPMENTS

The Chair reported that the next East Midlands Scrutiny Network meeting would be on 30 September, 2022 at Rutland County Council offices.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted.

26 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum held on 30 June, 2022 were presented.

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes be approved as a correct record and be signed by the Chair.

27 DEPUTY LEADER - CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN - INTERIM UPDATE

The Climate Change Officer and the Policy and Partnerships Manager attended the meeting to provide members with an update on actions 44 and 45 on the climate change action plan. The two actions related to the commission of reports on carbon accounting and de-carbonisation pathways which would provide an evidence base to support the development of a new climate change strategy.

To inform the strategy, consultations had taken place with all the council's service leads to understand their concerns regarding climate change. The carbon accounting report provided a detailed look at the council's finances and the costs of climate change on the budget which provided a hotspot analysis on where the most significant emissions were within the council's supply chain. The de-carbonisation pathway report assessed the climate risk and produced a series of recommendations of steps that the council could take to achieve de-carbonisation.

This evidence base had produced a set of key areas to focus on for the strategy which were: the council's electricity and gas usage, developing the vehicle fleet and offsetting emissions that could not be reduced within the timeframe.

The strategy was likely to be significantly larger than the climate change action plan and discussions were also taking place with tier 4 managers to ensure the actions would be embedded across the authority. A public consultation on the draft strategy was expected to start in November however there were a number of announcements expected from the new Prime Minister, particularly on the goal for net zero emissions, which may impact on the strategy development.

In response to a question about why a written report had not been provided ahead of the meeting, the Chair advised that, as this was an interim update in response to a specific question at the last Forum meeting, the Chairs felt it was appropriate for a verbal update. A full written update will be brought to the Forum in November to allow members to review and comment on the draft strategy.

Members commented that the Standards and Audit Committee had raised a question about why Cabinet reports only contained a brief statement on climate change implications and advised that the Committee would be asking the Climate Change Officer to attend a future meeting.

Members asked whether external consultants were being used to prepare the new strategy and the Climate Change Officer explained that an external company had carried out the research for the de-carbonisation pathways report however CBC officers were using that evidence to write the strategy. Members also enquired about which elements of financial spend were looked at when assessing the carbon footprint. The Climate Change Officer advised that a machine was used to sort through a substantial number of records and categorise those by type, a carbon

model was then used to identify a generic carbon emission for that category of work.

Members asked whether there was a Climate Change Officers network and were informed that there was a group called the Collective for Climate Action which was made up of concerned individuals who work in the public sector. Within this group was a sub-group of Climate Change Officers who met to share best practice. In addition, there was a database of all the climate change action plans in the country which was published online (<https://data.climateemergency.uk/>).

In response to Members questions about the categories used for assessing where the council's emissions came from and proportion of emissions arising from the categories, the Climate Change Officer explained that scope 1 emissions were from fuel that was burnt by the council, scope 2 emissions were from electricity and scope 3 emissions were from third parties and other supply chains. Although scope 3 contained the highest proportion of emissions, this scope relied on activities by other companies, therefore the emissions in scopes 1 and 2 were much more certain.

Members asked about whether the 2030 net zero target was achievable and what "offset" meant. The Climate Change Officer explained that offsetting is doing something that results in a negative emission: absorbing carbon from the atmosphere. Examples of this are planting trees and restoring peatland. In response to a discussion on tree planting, the Climate Change Officer explained that the best way to plant trees that stored carbon was by planting woodlands rather than orchards.

Members enquired whether the council's employees were on board with the council's climate change priorities and heard that the staff had reacted positively about the development of the new strategy.

Following the recent high temperatures, Members asked how the temperatures were affecting people and what could be done to address this. The Climate Change Officer advised that elderly and small children struggle more with regulating their temperature and often live in well insulated homes. Introducing passive cooling, such as shade sails and trees, would help to reduce temperatures.

The Chair thanked the Climate Change Officer and the Policy and Partnerships Manager for attending and answering Members' questions.

RESOLVED –

1. That the update be noted.
2. That a report be received on the development of the new Climate Change Strategy at the November meeting.

28 SCRUTINY REVIEW - COST OF LIVING

At the pre-agenda meeting, the Chairs had discussed the increasing concerns about the cost-of-living crisis and impact this was having on residents. The Senior Democratic and Scrutiny Officer presented a report summarising the current support available through government schemes, the council, partner agencies and organisations to address the cost-of-living crisis. The report was to inform a discussion about where support should be targeted, how the availability of support is communicated and to consider what questions scrutiny could ask when looking at future scrutiny topics.

Members reported that they were seeing an increase in cases of overcrowding where multiple people were living in a property as they could not afford the costs associated with moving to a new property including heating. Members also raised concerns that there could be an impact on the objectives in the council plan relating to housing conditions if residents were unable to afford repairs or heat their homes.

The Forum felt that communication with Members was key to ensuring that they could support their residents. It was discussed that a guide for members would be useful which could include details of the support that was available and information on where to go for certain needs such as for food or a meal.

Members suggested a number of ideas for making information available to residents including:

- Placing a noticeboard containing information near where people make payments and in shop windows for those who do not have internet access.
- Providing details of where people can get access to online services who do not have online access at home.

- Make use of community notice boards where these still exist to provide information of the support available.
- Providing Members with a crib sheet of links to websites.
- Asking the local press to include a regular section to signpost to advice and support agencies.
- Explore the re-establishment of community forums to help get information out to residents.

Members discussed how there were different challenges in different areas of the borough. Residents who were in need of support, but who had not previously claimed financial or other support, may be reluctant to do so. There was a need to break down barriers to make it clear that the agencies and organisations are there to help. Members suggested that creating publicity in a format such as “Did you know...” could help to inform residents about support in an approachable way.

As the cost-of-living crisis would give rise to lots of different needs, it was impossible to equip everyone with the level of knowledge needed to help somebody. Members discussed how important it was to make sure people could be signposted to expert assistance relevant to their needs.

Members highlighted an increasing issue of loan sharks in Chesterfield and asked for an information session to be considered as part of the member development programme. In addition, scams were circulating which told people to apply for certain grants and benefits that did not need an application.

Members discussed the impact of the rise in energy bills and ways to reduce energy usage. The current advice involves changing habits, such as using different methods of cooking, however certain sectors of the population, particularly older residents, will struggle more than others to adapt.

The Forum discussed whether a “one stop shop” could be created and suggested hosting a special advice market on one of the market days when more people were in the town centre. This would bring all the different organisations together who offer support and make it more accessible for those who might be reluctant to make contact with an advice agency.

RESOLVED –

That the outcome from the discussion be fed back to the relevant officers and the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing.

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**COMMUNITY, CUSTOMER AND ORGANISATIONAL SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

Thursday, 21st July, 2022

Present:-

Councillor L Collins (Chair)

Councillors Borrell
Dyke

Councillors Fordham

*Matters dealt with under the Delegation Scheme

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

No declarations of interest were received.

10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Kelly, Blakemore and Kellman.

11 BOUNDARY COMMISSION REVIEW COMMUNICATION PLAN

The Service Director for Corporate presented a report to the Committee regarding the Local Government Boundary Review Changes and associated Communication Plan.

The purpose of the update was to consult with scrutiny members for a wider view on how to share information with the public for consideration as part of the development of the communication plan.

The report considered the challenges and opportunities around communicating to the electorate the changes around electoral boundaries following the Local Government Boundary Review Commission Review.

Implications for consideration included Financial, as there is a limited budget for elections which would be utilised to support the communication plan, Climate Change, an assessment of the overall communications plan will consider individual proposals from a climate change perspective, and Equality and Diversity.

The Chair thanked the Service Director for presenting the report and opened for suggestions from committee members.

Members discussed historical instances of certain polling districts which lead to lower electorate attendance and asked about the possibility of utilising double polling stations. The Service Director confirmed that a working group was to be set up to look at polling districts and associated polling stations.

A member discussed the need to focus on the younger voters to encourage greater participation in these lower age groups and also queried how many boundary name changes were expected. The Service Director confirmed that all social media channels would be utilised to target younger voters and that although specific numbers were unconfirmed a significant number of name changes were anticipated.

A member also highlighted that with the boundary changes, many voters will still not be changing wards even though the name of their ward may change, so there was a need to ensure voters were aware of this. It was also asked if there was scope to look at this from a street by street perspective as opposed to voter by voter. The Service Director advised that all aspects would be looked at taking into account name changes, moves and no moves.

Questions were also asked around lessons learnt from other areas and the possibility of utilising a post code checker for voters to be able to check which ward they would come under. It was stated that it was hoped a post code type checker would be available online through the CBC website and lessons learnt from other areas who commenced work prior to CBC were being shared. However, this may not be possible due to the extremely pressured timetable impacted by additional Commission consultation and consideration periods.

When asked by a member if the posting of Council Tax bills could be utilised to share information, the Service Director discussed the potential cost implications of including extra content with Council Tax bills, but also confirmed that there were two planned publications of Your Chesterfield which would be highlighting the changes which would engage the same audience.

Final questions were asked around what data CBC currently held around political voter patterns and if this could be utilised in any way and could all specific local area names be included in the new ward names. The Service Director considered that political voting patterns were an issue for the parties themselves, for Chesterfield Borough Council the key issue is ensuring that the electorate know how they can exercise their vote. Information in publications and website etc. will detail the areas included in each new ward.

RESOLVED –

That the update be noted.

The Service Director for Economic Growth presented to the committee the Project Start Report (PSR) for the CBC Lighting Strategy. The Scrutiny Project Group (SPG) members were confirmed as Councillors Caulfield, Fordham and Blakemore.

The PSR detailed the project aims and objectives, proposed benefits, scope and options. Key risks were said to include time constraints and costs.

Recommendations would be made by the SPG to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) at the end of the scrutiny project. OSC would consider the work and agree any recommendations to Cabinet or other decision making bodies.

Members discussed the climate change aspect of the strategy, highlighting projected light displays as an example. The Service Director confirmed that the Lighting Strategy provided the opportunities to project different displays.

It was agreed that Democratic Services would set up a further meeting to discuss next steps for the SPG.

The Chair thanked the Service Director for presenting the PSR and commented on the quality and detail of the report.

Councillor Dyke provided a verbal update to the committee on the Outside Bodies SPG.

The initial breakdown of all listed Outside Bodies had been shared with the group with next steps to be agreed.

A member raised a point around the opportunity for the Council to make non members nominees for certain Outside Bodies. The member also suggested a time limit for appointments to Outside Bodies.

The Chair requested all members to share all ideas with Councillor Dyke for feed into the project group.

RESOLVED –

That the updates be noted.

13 SCRUTINY MONITORING

The Committee considered the scrutiny recommendations implementation monitoring schedule.

RESOLVED –

That the scrutiny monitoring schedule be noted.

14 FORWARD PLAN

The Committee considered the Forward Plan for the period 1 August 2022 to 30 November 2022.

RESOLVED –

That the Forward Plan be noted.

15 WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE COMMUNITY, CUSTOMER AND ORGANISATIONAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Committee considered the items on its work programme for 2022/23.

RESOLVED –

That the work programme be noted.

16 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Community, Customer and Organisational Scrutiny Committee held on 19 May 2022 were presented.

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes be approved as a correct record and by signed by the Chair.

**COMMUNITY, CUSTOMER AND ORGANISATIONAL SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

Thursday, 15th September, 2022

Present:-

Councillor L Collins (Chair)

Councillors Borrell
Kellman

Councillors Kelly

*Matters dealt with under the Delegation Scheme

17 ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

The Chair proposed the meeting be adjourned until 29th September 2022.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Borrell.

- RESOLVED

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ENTERPRISE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**Thursday, 14th July, 2022**

Present:-

Councillor Flood (Chair)

Councillors Dyke

Councillors

Hollingworth

Councillor Jill Mannion-Brunt, Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing +
Shirley Hallam, Head of Streetscene and Environmental Services +
Philippa Roine, Waste Services Manager +
Councillor Kate Sarvent, Cabinet Member for Town Centres and Visitor
Economy ++

+ Attended for Minute No. 12

++ Attended for Minute No. 13

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

No declarations of interest were received.

11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCEApologies for absence were received from Councillors Brittain, Caulfield,
Coy and Snowdon.**12 CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH & WELLBEING - RECYCLING
COMMUNICATIONS PLAN**

The Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing introduced a briefing from
the Communications and Marketing Officer on a recycling
communications plan to coincide with National Recycling Week in
September. It was noted that there had been a decline in recycling rates
nationally and this was a good opportunity for Chesterfield Borough
Council align its messages on recycling with its ambitious climate change
strategy.

The Communications and Marketing Officer informed the committee that the aims of the campaign were to educate and inform the residents about recycling whilst tying the messages in with the general climate change theme. The Council received many messages via its social media outlets on the topic of recycling.

Members raised the most common queries received from residents relating to recycling and the following points were discussed;

- The size of bins and the caddy insert
- The need to breakdown cardboard before placing it in the bins
- Why it isn't necessary currently to separate card & paper, plastics, food and drinks cans etc
- Trade recycling bins
- Coloured plastics and whether they can all be recycled
- Which food wastes can be placed into green bins

The Waste Services Manager highlighted the need for more accountability and suggestions were made around targeting young people; by engaging with schools, and potentially involving the College with a competition to create art from recycled materials as a visual aid.

A number of ideas were discussed for inclusion in the plan such as;

- Messages on the bins themselves
- Utilising the large screen on Vicar Lane
- The Tenancy Sustainment Team being aware of the key messages
- Involving children through creative competitions which in turn could engage parents

RESOLVED –

1. That the Communications and Marketing Officer utilise appropriate suggestions in the creation of the Communications Plan
2. That a further update be brought back to the committee once there is more information from Government on changes to recycling and waste management.

13 CABINET MEMBER FOR TOWN CENTRES AND VISITOR ECONOMY - REVITALISING THE HEART OF CHESTERFIELD - CONSULTATION

The Cabinet Member for Town Centres and Visitor Economy presented a summary to the committee of the initial results of the public consultation. 217 responses had been received, predominantly online and separate

consultation events had been held with the traders. Overall, there was a high degree of support for the plans.

Discussions took place around the four key areas of the plans and the key points were as follows;

Market Place and New Square

- The high speed wifi was noted as a key consideration to assist traders with taking electronic payments, particularly as the number of high street banks in the town centre was declining and it was therefore becoming more common for cash machines to run out of cash.
- Quality space for events was important to attract families to the town centre.
- Traders working together in one space would make the area look more full and help to reduce the impact that some street sellers had on shops, particularly small businesses, both in terms of competition and disabled access.
- The visibility of the pump was important as an historical feature and could perhaps be turned into a climate change feature to educate people about clean water,
- The appearance of the cobbles was aesthetically pleasing but a difficult surface in terms of accessibility and it would be preferable to have level paving throughout.
- There were mixed feelings on trees and members were aware that traders had opinions on the mess that they create and potential obstructions. It was agreed that the species and locations would need to be very carefully considered.

Rykneld Square

- The surfacing was highlighted as a key issue in that area, particularly from an accessibility perspective and given that it is the approach to the Parish Church, a key visitor attraction.
- When designing a public garden it would be necessary to consider the impact on the environment of watering any plants, perhaps using drought resistant planting.

Corporation Street

- A welcoming feature to improve the approach from the railway station would be a good addition. Digital artwork was suggested as an option.
- There is currently a set of steps providing a barrier to some people, an alternative route is needed.

Lighting

- Intelligent lighting that could be used to present visuals or change the colour of an area would be preferable to maximise options for its use.
- Energy costs need to be a key consideration and the use of renewable energy where possible was desirable.
- It was acknowledged that clever lighting of buildings can make them into features.

When comparing the proposals and discussing which areas were priorities the members suggested that their main focus would be on; data connectivity, heritage, event spaces, sustainability and the redesign of the market space.

It was also concluded that it was very important to address disabled access in all areas to improve accessibility for all. This could also be reflected in the signage used, which should be appropriate, not excessive and equality assessed.

RESOLVED –

1. That this feedback be given to the relevant officer.
2. That an update on the project be presented to the committee once plans had been finalised.

14 SCRUTINY MONITORING

The Committee considered the Scrutiny recommendations monitoring schedule.

RESOLVED –

That the Scrutiny monitoring schedule be noted.

15 FORWARD PLAN

The Forward Plan for the four month period 1 August, 2022 to 30 November, 2022 was presented for information.

RESOLVED –

That the Forward Plan be noted.

16 WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE ENTERPRISE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The 2022/23 Work Programme for the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee was reported for information.

RESOLVED –

That the work programme be noted and updated to include the decisions of the current meeting.

17 MINUTES

RESOLVED –

The Minutes of the meeting of the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee held on 10 February, 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

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