

CABINET**Tuesday, 23rd February, 2021**

Present:-

Councillor P Gilby (Chair)

Councillors Serjeant
Blank
Ludlow
Holmes

Councillors

J Innes
Mannion-Brunt
Sarvent
D CollinsNon-voting P Innes
Members

*Matters dealt with under the Delegation Scheme

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

No declarations of interest were received.

53 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

54 MINUTES**RESOLVED –**

That the minutes of the meetings of Cabinet held on 2 February and 9 February, 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

55 FORWARD PLAN

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

***RESOLVED –**

That the Forward Plan be noted.

56 **DELEGATION REPORT**

Decisions taken by Cabinet Members during January, 2021 were reported.

***RESOLVED –**

That the Delegation Report be noted.

57 **2021/22 BUDGET AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN**

The Chief Financial Officer submitted a report on the General Fund budget. The report also included recommendations that would be made to Full Council on budget allocations and the Council Tax level for 2021/22.

The original budget for 2020/21 was approved in February, 2020 when a £16k surplus was reported. During 2020/21 there had been quarterly budget monitoring reports presented to Cabinet and Full Council which evidenced the impact of the coronavirus pandemic and the significant adverse effect on the council's financial position. The revised portfolio budgets for 2020/21 were reported to Cabinet on 15 December, 2020 as part of the first draft General Fund budget report. Since then further work had been undertaken through budget challenge and budget monitoring to identify other possible variances for inclusion in the final budget report. The latest revised budget forecast for 2020/21 reported an £8k deficit.

The budget for 2021/22 had been prepared assuming a council tax increase of £5 for a Band 'D' property, which equates to a rise of 9.6 pence a week for householders occupying Band 'D' properties, towards the future costs of services provided by Chesterfield Borough Council.

Members were also informed of the expenditure estimates for the coming financial year as well as the medium term forecasts for 2022/23 through to 2025/26.

***RESOLVED –**

That it be recommended to Full Council that:

1. The revised budget for 2020/21, as detailed in section 4.3 of the officer's report, be approved.

2. The overall revenue budget summary for 2021/22, as detailed in section 4.5 and Appendix A of the officer's report, be approved.
3. The Collection Fund and the Tax Base forecasts, as detailed in section 4.6 of the officer's report, be noted.
4. The use of the capital receipts flexibility to fund the revenue costs of the ICT improvement programme which will lead to budget savings, as detailed in section 4.7 of the officer's report, be approved.
5. The budget forecasts for 2022/23 and the medium term and the need to address the projected deficits, as detailed in section 4.8 of the officer's report, be noted.
6. The intention to develop a detailed programme and funding strategy for Organisational Development, as detailed in section 4.9 of the officer's report, be noted.
7. The estimates of reserves including maintaining the General Working Balance at £1.5m, as detailed in section 4.10 and Appendix D of the officer's report, be approved.
8. The budget risks and sensitivity analysis, as detailed in Appendix E of the officer's report, be noted.
9. The Council's share of Council Tax for properties in each band be increased on the basis of a £5 increase for a Band 'D' property in 2021/22.
10. The 2021/22 Council Tax Requirement and financing, as detailed in Appendix F of the officer's report, be approved.
11. The Chief Financial Officer's assurances, as detailed in section 4.14 of the officer's report, be noted.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

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

The Service Director – Corporate presented the Council Plan Delivery Plan for 2021/22. The Delivery Plan set out the key milestones and performance measures that would be applied to keep the Council Plan on target for delivery during year three of the four year plan.

The report explained that the Delivery Plan had been revised to take into consideration the current and potential future impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the council's priorities. The revisions were detailed in Appendix 2 of the officer's report.

***RESOLVED –**

That it be recommended to Full Council that:

1. The Council Plan Delivery Plan for 2021/22 be approved.
2. The revised Council Plan commitments for the period 2019 through 2023 be approved.
3. The Deputy Leader be granted delegated authority to make amendments to the revised Council Plan commitments and Delivery Plan for 2021/22 should risk assessments and changes to Covid-19 guidance require further amendments to be made.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To provide a clear statement of the delivery milestones and measures required to maintain progress on our strategic priorities for 2019 – 2023 and respond to Covid-19 response and recovery challenges.

59 LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION – COUNCIL SIZE SUBMISSION

The Service Director – Corporate presented a report seeking approval for the draft Chesterfield Borough Council submission on Council size as part of the Local Government Boundary Commission's full review of electoral boundaries within the borough.

The Commission has a statutory duty to review every English local authority and it had been over 20 years since the last electoral review for Chesterfield borough. The review seeks to adjust electoral ward

boundaries to correct inequalities in the average elected member ratio whilst also considering forecasts of future elector numbers.

Stage 1 of the review concentrates solely on Council size; the numbers of elected members per ward and warding boundaries would be considered and consulted upon during stage 2 of the review.

The draft submission was attached at Appendix 1 of the officer's report and recommended reducing the number of elected members elected to Chesterfield Borough Council from 48 to 40.

***RESOLVED –**

That it be recommended to Full Council that the draft submission on Council size be submitted to the Local Government Boundary Commission as part of the full review of electoral boundaries within Chesterfield borough.

REASON FOR DECISION

To actively engage in the Local Government Boundary Commission review by submitting a proposal for Council size that ensures our governance arrangements support the Council's needs and ambitions but also reflect our communities with the principle of locking in electoral fairness for the future.

60 SENIOR PAY POLICY

The Human Resources and Support Services Manager submitted a report seeking approval for the Senior Pay Policy Statement for 2021/22, in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and the Local Government (Transparency Requirements) (England) Regulations 2014.

The Senior Pay Policy Statement for 2021/22, which was attached at Appendix 1 of the officer's report, included details of how senior pay was set within the Council.

***RESOLVED –**

That it be recommended to Full Council that the Senior Pay Policy Statement for 2021/22, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the officer's report, be approved.

REASON FOR DECISION

This report provides transparency on the Council's policy with regards Senior Pay and meets the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 to publish this policy by 31 March, 2021.

61 CIVIC ARRANGEMENTS 2021/22

The Senior Democratic and Scrutiny Officer submitted a report outlining proposals for the civic year 2021/22 in respect of the election of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, the Annual Council meeting and associated civic events.

The appointment of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor as Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council is a statutory appointment under Part 1 of the Local Government Act 1972.

***RESOLVED –**

1. That it be recommended to Full Council that Councillor Glenys Falconer be invited to become Mayor of the Borough for 2021/22.
2. That it be recommended to Full Council that Councillor Tony Rogers be invited to become Deputy Mayor of the Borough for 2021/22.
3. That it be noted that the Annual Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 12 May, 2021.
4. That it be noted that plans for the Annual Civic Service, Parade and Mayoral Dinner are to be confirmed and that arrangements will be made in line with the latest Covid19 guidance.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To enable the Council to confirm the civic arrangements for 2021/22.

62 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET 2021/22

The Group Financial Accountant submitted a report on the probable Housing Revenue Account (HRA) outturn for 2020/21, and the budget estimates for 2021/22 through to 2025/26.

The Council was required to produce a 30 year HRA Business Plan that was financially viable, which reflected the views and requirements of tenants, and maintained the Council's housing stock at the Decent Homes Standard in line with the Council's Vision and Council Plan.

The probable HRA outturn for 2020/21 was reported in section 4.3 of the officer's report.

The initial budget forecast for 2021/22 was detailed in section 4.5 of the officer's report.

***RESOLVED –**

That it be recommended to Full Council that:

1. The probable outturn for the current financial year be noted.
2. The draft estimates for 2021/22 and future years be approved.
3. The intention to develop a detailed programme and funding strategy for Organisational Development be noted.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To keep Members informed about the current financial standing of the Council's Housing Revenue Account and the budget estimates for 2021/22.

63 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2021/22

The Service Director – Housing presented a report seeking approval for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programme for 2021/22, and provisionally for 2022/23 through to 2025/26.

The overall financing strategy continued to focus on maintaining the Council's housing stock at the Decent Homes Standard, improving the non-traditional housing stock, delivering improvements to estate environments and building or acquiring new council housing.

Many of the programmes for 2021/22 had already been procured in 2020/21 to ensure timely delivery including the central heating

programme to remove the risk of large-scale heating failures, the roof replacement programme, the replacement of aging UPVC windows and external wall insulation, and external work to blocks of flats.

The new build housing programme would continue at Brockwell Court and additional new sites had been identified at Markham Court, Middlecroft and Westwood Avenue.

***RESOLVED –**

That it be recommended to Full Council that:

1. The Housing (Public Sector) revised Capital Programme for 2020/21 be approved.
2. The Housing (Public Sector) Capital Programme for 2021/22 be approved and its procurement, as necessary, be authorised.
3. The Housing (Public Sector) Capital Programmes for 2022/23 to 2025/26 be provisionally approved.
4. The in-house Operational Services Division share of the Capital Programme for 2021/22 be approved.
5. Delegated authority be granted to the Service Director – Housing and/or Acting Chief Finance Officer to transfer funds between programmes and budgets to manage the Capital Programme for 2021/22.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS

1. To enable the Council to maintain all council homes at the 'Decent Homes Standard' in line with the Council's Vision and Council Plan.
2. To maintain and improve the condition of the council's public sector housing stock and estate environments.
3. To deliver against the aims of the Borough Housing Strategy and the HRA Business Plan.

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 items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

65

GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Group Financial Accountant submitted a report recommending for approval the General Fund Capital Programme for 2021/22.

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

***RESOLVED –**

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

REASON FOR DECISION

To keep Members informed about the council's current General Fund Capital Programme and financing.