

CABINET**Tuesday, 18th January, 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

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

No declarations of interest were received.

72 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies for absence were received.

73 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED –

That the minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 14 December, 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

74 **FORWARD PLAN**

The Forward Plan for the four month period February to May, 2022 was reported for information.

***RESOLVED –**

That the Forward Plan be noted.

75 **COLLECTION FUND REVISED ESTIMATES**

The Service Director – Finance presented the Collection Fund revised estimates for 2021/22 which predicted a surplus of £600,100 on the Council Tax elements. It was proposed to allocate the surplus to the major precepting authorities in proportion to their precepts. The major preceptors, including Chesterfield Borough Council, could then take it into account when setting their Council Taxes for 2022/23.

***RESOLVED –**

That the estimated surplus on the Council Tax Collection Fund of £600,100 be approved and allocated to the major precepting authorities as detailed in Appendix A of the officer's report.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To fulfil a statutory requirement and to feed into the budget setting process for 2022/23.

76 **SHOPMOBILITY FUTURE FUNDING**

The Service Director – Corporate presented a report seeking approval to cease the section 137 grant to Chesterfield and District Shopmobility from the start of the financial year 2023/24.

In 2018, the council began discussions with Shopmobility over the need for the charity to develop a self-funding / alternative funding strategy.

The council had allocated an officer to work with Shopmobility and Links CVS to identify potential external funding streams. A range of opportunities had been identified with Links CVS offering to assist Shopmobility with their applications.

The council would continue to work in support of Shopmobility, but on the basis of the charity not having taken advantage of the opportunities identified to help move them to a sustainable self-funding position, the make-up of current service users and the value gained for the council's investment, it was proposed to taper the withdrawal of funding during the financial year 2022/23 ahead of ceasing the grant funding in full from 1 April 2023.

***RESOLVED –**

1. That the section 137 grant to Chesterfield and District Shopmobility be ceased from the financial year 2023/24.
2. That a section 137 grant of £9,531 be allocated to Chesterfield and District Shopmobility for the financial year 2022/23, subject to evidence of Shopmobility progressing the development of a self-funding/alternative funding plan and engaging with Links CVS and the Council in applying for alternative funding sources.
3. That a taper to the section 137 grant for the financial year 2022/23 be applied. The grant funding will be:
 - Quarter 1 (April 2022 – June 2022) 100% of the 2021/22 grant level for the quarter = £5,447
 - Quarter 2 (July 2022 – September 2022) 50% of the 2021/22 grant level for the quarter = £2,723
 - Quarter 3 (October 2022 – December 2022) 25% of the 2021/22 grant level for the quarter = £1,361
 - Quarter 4 (January 2023 – March 2023) 0% of the 2021/22 grant level for the quarter = £0

REASON FOR DECISIONS

1. To respond to the challenging financial position of the Council and providing value for money services.
2. To facilitate a managed and steady withdrawal of funding, which will enable Shopmobility to continue to work with Links CVS and Chesterfield Borough Council officers to develop an alternative funding plan and begin its implementation.

77

HRA RENT AND SERVICE CHARGE SETTING

The Housing Strategy and Enabling Manager presented a report recommending for approval the rent and service charge levels for the council's housing stock for the coming financial year 2022/23.

It was proposed to increase council house rents in accordance with the Government's National Social Rent Policy, which came into effect on 1

April, 2020. This would mean rents would increase by CPI plus 1% which equated to a 4.1% increase in 2022/23. The cost of an average social rent in 2022/23 would rise to £82.78 per week and an average affordable rent to £102.27 per week.

A detailed summary of the proposed service charge levels for 2022/23 was attached at Appendix A of the officer's report. It was noted that these charges were set at a level to ensure that they covered the costs of providing the services.

***RESOLVED –**

1. That, for 2022/23, individual social rents be set based on the current National Social Rent Policy, giving a rent increase of 4.1% with effect from 4 April 2022.
2. That, for 2022/23 and onwards, where a social rent property is re-let to a new or transferring tenant the rent level be increased to the target rent for that property.
3. That, for 2022/23, individual affordable rents be set based on the current National Social Rent Policy giving a rent increase of 4.1% with effect from 4 April 2022.
4. That, for 2022/23 and onwards, where an affordable rent property is re-let to a new or transferring tenant the rent level be set by reference to 80% of the market rent (including service charges where applicable) for a similar property at the time of letting or the formula rent for the property, whichever is the greater.
5. That the Housing Revenue Account service charges for 2022/23 be increased as set out in Appendix A of the officer's report.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

1. To enable the council to set the level of council house rents in accordance with Government guidelines and the Rent Standard.
2. To enable the council to set service charges for 2022/23 and ensure the cost of delivering services continues to break even.

3. To contribute to the council's corporate priority 'to improve the quality of life for local people'.

78 **CAR PARKS FEES AND CHARGES 2022/23**

The Town Centre Operations Manager submitted a report setting out the proposed fees and charges for the council's car parks for 2022/23.

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

***RESOLVED –**

1. That the fees and charges for car parks be increased from 4 April 2022, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the officer's report.
2. That a further review of tariffs take place in 2024/25, in line with the current Parking Strategy which details the requirement for a 2-yearly review.
3. That all residents of the Borough continue to benefit from free parking in 2022/23 before 10am and after 3pm Monday to Saturday, all-day Sunday and Bank Holidays, at selected surface car parks, using the Resident Parking Scheme.
4. That the Service Director - Leisure, Culture and Community Wellbeing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Town Centre and Visitor Economy, be granted delegated authority to apply appropriate fees and charges for new activities and opportunities that are introduced during the period covered by the report.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

1. The 2020/21 Car Park Fees and Charges report noted that if the income target for 2020/21 was achieved then there would be no increase in tariffs for 2021/22 and a review would be made for 2022/23.
2. The impact of COVID-19 significantly reduced car park income in 2021/22 however parking numbers have started to return to more normal levels of occupancy. It is anticipated that by 2022/23 levels will be back to pre-pandemic numbers.

3. It is imperative that the Council receives an appropriate return on what are valuable town centre assets. The Council's budget strategy is to deliver a balanced and sustainable budget. Given the forecast budget challenges it is important that all income streams are reviewed to support the delivery of a sustainable budget. As such a review of Car Park fees and charges is to assist the Council in achieving a balanced budget for 2022/23.