

CABINET**Tuesday, 22nd February, 2022**

Present:-

Councillor Serjeant (Chair)

Councillors Blank
D Collins
Holmes
J Innes

Councillors Ludlow
Mannion-Brunt
Sarvent

Non Voting P Innes
Members

*Matters dealt with under the Delegation Scheme

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

No declarations of interest were received.

89 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Gilby.

90 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED –

That the minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 8 February, 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

91 **FORWARD PLAN**

The Forward Plan for the four month period 1 April to 31 July, 2022 was reported for information.

***RESOLVED –**

That the Forward Plan be noted.

92 **APPROVAL OF STAVELEY TOWN DEAL PROJECTS**

The Service Director – Economic Growth and Interim Director (Projects) submitted a report seeking approval for the role the council was taking as the lead for three of the Staveley Town Deal projects.

Cabinet had previously received a report setting out the background to the Staveley Town Deal and noting Chesterfield Borough Council's role as the Accountable Body for any future Towns Fund allocation. Cabinet had also endorsed the Staveley Town Investment Plan for submission to the Government as part of the Town Deal process.

The Town Investment Plan included 11 projects and a full business case would be required for each of the projects. The council was the sponsor organisation for three of the projects and was playing a dual role of sponsor and Accountable Body in each case. The three projects sponsored by the Council were outlined in section 4.5 of the officer's report.

***RESOLVED –**

1. That the role the council is taking as the lead for three of the Staveley Town Deal projects be approved.
2. That the Construction Skills Hub project, accepting the Towns Fund grant and giving authority to move to delivery, be approved.
3. That the Service Director for Economic Growth, in consultation with the Deputy Leader, be granted delegated authority to finalise lease arrangements with the landowner for the site upon which the Construction Skills Hub is to be situated.
4. That commencing procurement for a delivery partner for the Construction Skills Hub be approved.
5. That the Derbyshire Rail Industry Innovation Vehicle and Staveley 21 projects, subject to the full business cases for each being approved through the Staveley Town Deal governance, be approved.

6. That further reports be submitted to Cabinet on the Derbyshire Rail Industry Innovation Vehicle and Staveley 21 projects prior to delivery commencing.
7. That all three projects be included within the Capital Programme to be approved by Full Council.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To ensure that Cabinet has clarity regarding the project sponsorship role that the council will undertake and is able to approve three projects within the Staveley Town Deal and enable delivery of each to commence.

93 COUNCIL PLAN DELIVERY PLAN 2022/23

The Service Director – Corporate presented the Council Plan Delivery Plan for 2022/23. 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 the final year of the four year plan.

***RESOLVED –**

That it be recommended to Full Council that:

1. The Council Plan Delivery Plan for 2022/23 be approved.
2. The Deputy Leader be granted delegated authority to make amendments to the Delivery Plan for 2022/23 should risk assessments and changes to 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.

94 GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Service Director - Finance submitted a report recommending for approval the General Fund Capital Programme for the financial year 2022/23.

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:

1. The updated General Fund Capital Programme expenditure and financing, as detailed in Appendix A of the officer's report, be approved.
2. That the Town Centre Transformation project (part of the Levelling Up Fund programme) be included in the Capital Programme.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

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

95 2022-23 BUDGET AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

The Service Director - Finance 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 2022/23.

The original budget for 2021/22 was approved in February, 2021 and predicted a deficit of £188k. Throughout 2021/22 there had been active management of budget variances and regular budget monitoring reports to identify further variances. Due to this strict budgetary control, the updated revised budget for 2021/22 showed an estimated surplus of £128k.

The budget for 2022/23 had been prepared assuming a council tax increase of £5 for a Band 'D' property.

Members were also informed of the expenditure estimates for the coming financial year as well as the medium term forecasts for 2022/23 and future years.

***RESOLVED –**

That it be recommended to Full Council that:

1. The updated forecast outturn for 2021/22 which presents a small surplus, as detailed in section 4.9 of the officer's report, be approved.
2. Any under spend in respect of 2021/22 be used to supplement the Budget Risk reserve, as detailed in section 4.10 of the officer's report.
3. The overall revenue budget summary for 2022/23, as detailed in Appendix A of the officer's report, be approved.
4. The 2022/23 Council Tax Requirement and financing, as detailed in Appendix D of the officer's report, be approved.
5. 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 2022/23, as detailed in section 4.46 of the officer's report.
6. All Band A to D Council Taxpayers will receive a payment of £150.00 towards the cost of their Council Tax bills and that a discretionary amount of funding will also be available to support some Council Taxpayers living in Band E to H properties, for which the details of the scheme are yet to be finalised.
7. The Local Council Tax Support scheme which remains unchanged for 2022/23, as detailed in section 4.50 of the officer's report, be approved.
8. The use of the capital receipts flexibility to fund the costs of the Organisational Development Programme, as detailed in section 4.58 of the officer's report, be approved.
9. The Collection Fund and the Tax Base forecasts as detailed in section 4.48 and 4.49 of the officer's report, be noted.

10. The financial projections in the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for 2023/24 to 2025/26, as detailed in section 4.53 of the officer's report, be noted.
11. The estimates of reserves including maintaining the General Working Balance at £1.5m, as detailed in sections 4.63-4.65 and Appendix B of the officer's report, be approved.
12. The extension to the scope of the Service Redesign Reserve to support future service improvements promoted through the Organisational Development programme, as detailed in section 4.60 of the officer's report, be approved.
13. The budget risks and sensitivity analysis (Appendix C) and the Chief Finance Officer's assurances (sections 4.66 – 4.78), as detailed in Appendix C and sections 4.66-4.78 of the officer's report, be noted.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

In order to meet the statutory requirements relating to setting the General Fund revenue budget and the level of Council Tax for 2022/23.

96 SENIOR PAY POLICY

The Human Resources and Support Services Manager submitted a report seeking approval for the Senior Pay Policy Statement for 2022/23, in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and the Local Government (Transparency Requirements) (England) Regulations 2014.

The Senior Pay Policy Statement for 2022/23, as 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 2022/23, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the officer's report, be approved.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

This report provides transparency of the Council's senior pay policy and enables it to meet the requirements of the Localism Act 2011.

97 **CIVIC ARRANGEMENTS 2022/23**

The Senior Democratic and Scrutiny Officer submitted a report outlining proposals for the civic year 2022/23 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 –**

That it be recommended to Full Council that:

1. Councillor Tony Rogers be invited to become Mayor of the Borough for 2022/23.
2. Councillor Mick Brady be invited to become Deputy Mayor of the Borough for 2022/23.
3. The Annual Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 11 May, 2022, followed by a civic reception at the Winding Wheel.
4. The Annual Civic Service and Parade will be held on Saturday 14 May, 2022.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To enable the Council to confirm civic arrangements for 2022/23.

98 **PARKS AND OPEN SPACES STRATEGY**

The Service Director – Leisure, Culture and Community Wellbeing presented seeking approval for the draft Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2021 – 2030.

A consultation programme for the draft Parks and Open Spaces Strategy took place between August and October 2021.

The previous Parks and Open Spaces Strategy was adopted in 2014. The updated strategy would become the key document guiding the Council's protection and investment in parks and open spaces for the next ten years. A copy of the draft Parks and Open Spaces Strategy was attached at Appendix A, parts 1 and 2, of the officer's report.

***RESOLVED –**

That it be recommended to Full Council that:

1. A new Parks and Open Spaces Strategy, for the period 2022 through 2030, be approved and adopted.
2. The Service Director for Leisure, Culture and Community Wellbeing be invited to develop a five-year costed delivery plan, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, to give effect to the Strategy's aims and objectives and for this delivery plan to be presented for approval at future meetings of the Cabinet and Full Council.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS

1. The Council requires a robust needs assessment and evidence base relating to green space to meet statutory planning requirements within the Local Plan Framework, and the parks and open spaces strategy supports this.
2. Having a modern and relevant Parks and Open Spaces Strategy will enable the Council to strategically plan and prioritise resources across the Borough, and to work appropriately with developers and other stakeholders.
3. The effective management of our parks and open spaces will continue to support the Borough in being a great destination; and a healthy and active place to live and work.

99 PLAY STRATEGY

The Service Director – Leisure, Culture and Community Wellbeing presented seeking approval for the draft Play Strategy 2021 – 2030.

A consultation programme for the draft Play Strategy took place between August and October 2021.

The first Chesterfield Play Strategy was adopted by the Council in 2007. The draft Play Strategy 2021 - 2026 had taken into account the Open Space Assessment commissioned by the Council and would provide direction as to how best to utilise resources. A copy of the draft Play Strategy was attached at Appendix A, parts 1 and 2, of the officer's report.

***RESOLVED –**

That it be recommended to Full Council that:

1. A new Play Strategy, for the period 2022 through 2030, be approved and adopted.
2. The Service Director for Leisure, Culture and Community Wellbeing be invited to develop a five-year costed delivery plan, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, to give effect to the Strategy's aims and objectives and for this delivery plan to be presented for approval at future meetings of the Cabinet and full Council.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS

1. It is a priority for the Council to have a modern and relevant Play Strategy which reflects recent assessments and national, regional and local initiatives. This will enable the Council to strategically plan and prioritise resources across the Borough, and to work appropriately with developers and other stakeholders.
2. The effective management of our play spaces will continue to support the Borough in being a great destination; and a healthy and active place to live and work.

100 HRA HOUSING 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 revised Housing Capital Programme for 2021/22 be approved.
2. The Housing Capital Programme for 2022/23 and procurement, as necessary, be approved.
3. The provisional Housing Capital Programmes for 2023/24 to 2026/27 be approved.
4. The in-house delivery share of the Housing Capital Programme be approved.
5. The Service Directors – Housing and Finance be authorised to vire between programmes and budgets to manage the Capital Programme, as set out in the officer's report.
6. The purchase and implementation of a new asset management system be approved.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS

1. The Council, as a social landlord, has a legal duty to ensure that all its properties are fully compliant and maintained to Decent Homes standards.

2. Following the publication of the Social Housing White Paper it will be a requirement that the Regulator of Social Housing undertakes audits on landlord compliance which will require the Council to have a suitable asset management system in place that can satisfy the requirements of the regulator.

101 **HRA BUDGET 2021/22**

The Service Director - Finance submitted a report on the probable Housing Revenue Account (HRA) outturn for 2021/22, and the budget estimates for 2022/23 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 2021/22 was reported in section 4.3 of the officer's report.

The initial budget forecast for 2022/23 was detailed in section 4.5 of the officer's report.

***RESOLVED –**

1. That the probable outturn for the current financial year be noted.
2. That it be recommended to Full Council that the draft estimates for 2022/23 and future years be approved.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To keep Members informed about the Council's current financial standing for the Housing Revenue Account and the budget estimates for 2022/23.