

CABINET**Tuesday, 7th February, 2023**

Present:-

Councillor P Gilby (Chair)

Councillors Blank
D Collins
J Innes
Ludlow

Councillors Holmes
Sarvent
Serjeant
Mannion-Brunt

Non-voting Members
P Innes

*Matters dealt with under the Delegation Scheme

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

No declarations of interest were received.

84 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

85 MINUTES**RESOLVED –**

That the minutes of the meetings of Cabinet held on 17 January and 24 January 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

86 FORWARD PLAN

The Forward Plan for the four month period March, 2023 to June, 2023 was reported for information.

***RESOLVED –**

That the Forward Plan be noted.

87 GROWTH STRATEGY

The Senior Economic Development Officer presented a report seeking Cabinet approval to recommend the Chesterfield Growth Strategy, for the period 2023 through 2027, to Full Council for adoption and publication.

The overall aim of the Growth Strategy, (as detailed in Appendix 1 of the officer's report), was to provide a framework for action in support of the Council Plan priorities of making Chesterfield a thriving borough and improving the quality of life for local people.

A detailed assessment of the current standing of Chesterfield's economy had been completed to underpin the development of the new Growth Strategy, and this assessment was attached as Appendix 2 of the officer's report.

The Growth Strategy identified both the challenges that needed to be addressed and the opportunities that were available to secure the town's and the borough's economic growth.

The challenges included a sector bias towards lower-value, lower-skill and lower-wage employment, changing patterns of consumer and retailer behaviour impacting on the viability of town centres, and the legacy impact of industrial restructuring with high levels of deprivation in some of Chesterfield's communities.

There were however, a range of opportunities on the immediate horizon including, significant place making investment in Chesterfield and Staveley town centres aimed at attracting more visitors and repeat footfall, delivery of the wider Chesterfield Railway Station masterplan to create a new residential and vibrant gateway to the town, comprehensive regeneration plans for the Staveley Growth Corridor, and promotion of Chesterfield's affordable quality of life offer to attract more entrepreneurs to the town and borough.

Three over-arching principles would guide the delivery of the new Growth Strategy;

- Higher-value Growth
- Inclusive Growth
- Environmentally Sustainable Growth

There were also five interlinked objectives;

- To help businesses to grow and secure new business investment in the borough
- To build a competitive place infrastructure that accelerated employment and housing growth
- To strengthen the distinctive character and vibrancy of the town centres
- To develop Chesterfield's role as a visitor destination and a base for exploring the surrounding area
- To ensure local people have the right skills to support progression in the labour market and benefit from future employment opportunities

The Growth Strategy also included a number of headline targets to be achieved by 2030;

- Increasing the number of jobs by 4% (2,000 additional jobs)
- Increasing the number of businesses by 12% (400 additional businesses)
- Increasing the number of higher-value businesses by 15% (100 additional businesses)
- Reducing the town centre vacancy rate to below 10% (the rate currently stands at 13.2%)
- Maintaining the 16-64 claimant count unemployment rate below the national average (the Chesterfield rate currently stands at 3.2% compared to 3.6% nationally)

***RESOLVED**

1. That Cabinet recommend to Full Council approval of the Chesterfield Growth Strategy for the period 2023 through 2027.

2. That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Council Leader and Cabinet Member for Economic Growth, to make any changes to the Chesterfield Growth Strategy for the period 2023 through 2027.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To secure the adoption of the Chesterfield Growth Strategy 2023-27.

88 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 items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 – as they contained information relating to financial and business affairs.

89 STEPHENSON MEMORIAL HALL PROJECT

The Arts and Venues Manager presented a report seeking Cabinet approval for the appointment of the principal contractor for the Stephenson Memorial Hall project.

The aim was to develop the Stephenson Memorial Hall as an integrated cultural venue, and extend the life of one of Chesterfield's most important heritage assets.

It had also been agreed that the principal contractor would be responsible for the proposed public realm improvements on Corporation Street, which were to be separately funded through the Levelling Up Fund. The agreed budget for these works was £1,501,763.

The pre-tender estimate had indicated a revised capital cost for the Stephenson Memorial Hall project of £18,746,177. The cost was £1,593,217 higher than that reported to and agreed by Cabinet and

Council in December 2021. A summary of the pre-tender estimate was provided in Appendix 1 of the officer's report.

The council's project team had since been working on ways to reduce the cost of the project to bring it back within the original budget of £17,152,960 whilst also maintaining sufficient contingency to deal with unforeseen issues.

The principal contractor was to be procured via the Pagabo Refit and Refurbishment framework. Following an expression of interest stage in September 2022, the first formal stage of the procurement process had commenced in November 2022.

The council had only received one tender (part of which was included at Appendix 2 of the officer's report). The tender had been evaluated by a panel consisting of council officers, a representative of Pagabo, the project architect and principal designer, and the project's managers.

The financial submission had been separately reviewed by the project's quantity surveyors. A summary of their comments was attached in Appendix 3 of the officer's report.

The afore-mentioned panel had recommended the appointment of G F Tomlinson Building Limited as the preferred principal contractor for the Stephenson Memorial Hall project, and the Pagabo tender report was detailed in Appendix 4 of the officer's report.

G F Tomlinson Building Limited Ltd had indicated that, subject to completion of the contract and agreement of the final tender price, the company would be able to mobilise in four weeks. The plan was for the principal contractor to start on site in June 2023, and complete the project by June 2025.

***RESOLVED**

1. That G F Tomlinson Building Limited be appointed as the preferred principal contractor for the Stephenson Memorial Hall project and delivery of the public realm work in Corporation Street.
2. That approval of the final financial business case be delegated to the Service Director for Finance, in consultation with the Deputy

Leader and Chief Executive, to ensure the project demonstrates a positive return on investment, when compared with the do-nothing option, and provides value for money.

3. That G F Tomlinson Building Limited be appointed as the principal contractor to deliver the construction works, subject to the sign-off of the final financial business case, the satisfactory completion of the pre-construction services agreement, and the final cost estimates falling within the agreed budget.
4. That the Theatre Lane Car Park be closed to the public, to enable it to be used as a compound for the principal contractor for the duration of the construction works.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To ensure the principal contractor is appointed as soon as possible so that the Stephenson Memorial Hall project proceeds to time, and the building is restored and refurbished so that it can be enjoyed by the residents of and visitors to Chesterfield for many years to come.