

CABINET**Tuesday, 20th May, 2014**

Present:-

Councillor Burrows (Chair)

Councillors	Blank	McManus
	Gilby	Russell
	King	Serjeant
	Ludlow	

Non Voting	Brown	Huckle
Members	Hill	Martin Stone
	Hollingworth	

*Matters dealt with under Executive Powers

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

Councillor Russell declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in Minute No. 6, as his partner was a volunteer for the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Councillor Blank declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 6 as a member of the Chesterfield Law Centre Management Committee.

Councillor Hollingworth declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 6 as a member of the Citizens Advice Bureau Management Committee.

Councillor Serjeant declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 6 as a member of the Derbyshire Unemployed Workers' Centre Management Committee.

Councillor Brown declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 6 as a member of the LINKS Board.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

3 **MINUTES****RESOLVED –**

That the Minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 6 May, 2014, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4 **FORWARD PLAN**

The Forward Plan for the four month period 1 June, 2014 to 30 September, 2014 was reported for information.

*** RESOLVED -**

That the Forward Plan be noted.

5 **DELEGATION REPORT**

Decisions taken by Executive Members during March and April were reported.

*** RESOLVED -**

That the Delegation Report be noted.

6 **FUNDING TO VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS
2014/15 - SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS (S000)**

The Head of Regeneration submitted a report on the Service Level Agreements (SLAs) that had been negotiated with voluntary and community organisations for 2014/15.

Those voluntary and community organisations which, in previous years, had applied for funding through the small grants programme had been notified that this funding would not be available from 2014/15 onwards. But all had been advised of the availability of alternative funding sources and opportunities.

Organisations holding SLAs with the Council for 2013/14 (Citizens' Advice Bureau, Chesterfield Law Centre, Chesterfield Shopmobility, Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centre, LINKS) had attended annual review meetings in early 2014 to check progress against their SLA. Each

organisation had completed an annual review report, attached at Appendix 1 to the report. In addition, six monthly monitoring had been undertaken.

Each organisation had identified the outcomes, measures and targets from the Council's Corporate Plan for 2013/14 to which they could contribute, and these were included in revised Schedule 1 tables to each of the SLAs for the coming financial year. The revised Schedule 1 tables were attached at Appendix 2 to the report.

At the next six-monthly monitoring review, due in late autumn 2014, the organisations would be required to ensure their activities were in line with the Council's recently revised Corporate Plan for 2014/15.

It was proposed that the overall level of funding for SLAs and the level of funding for each organisation for 2014/15 be maintained at the same level as for 2013/14. A review of all funding allocated to organisations via SLAs would be undertaken during 2014/15 to inform future year's budgets.

*** RESOLVED -**

- (1) That the level of funding for Service Level Agreements (SLAs) be maintained at the 2013/14 level to all five currently funded organisations - a total fund of £266,160 for 2014/15.
- (2) That the SLA Schedule 1 table for each organisation, attached at Appendix 2 to the report, be approved for inclusion within the SLAs for 2014/15.
- (3) That a review be undertaken on funding awarded to the organisations via SLAs, and that the outcomes be reported back to Cabinet by the end of 2014.

REASON FOR DECISION

To ensure that the future delivery of funding to Voluntary and Community Organisations meets the priorities of the Council and the needs of the residents of Chesterfield within a realistic and sustainable budget.

7 SURVEILLANCE POLICY (B000)

The Head of Governance submitted a report seeking approval of revisions to the Council's Surveillance Policy, necessitated by amendments made to the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 by the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012.

The purpose of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) was to protect human rights by providing a statutory basis for surveillance exercises, with surveillance activity only to be carried out where it was considered necessary and proportionate.

The Council's existing Surveillance Policy explained the human rights principles underpinning investigatory work and provided guidance for officers on making an application for authorisation to carry out Directed Surveillance (that which is carried out so that the person subject to it is not aware that it is taking place), and the requirements for carrying out the investigation and ultimately terminating the authorisation. The Policy also specified the senior officers with responsibility to assess applications and grant authorisations.

The importance of having an up to date Policy and procedures was highlighted by the programme of inspections of local authorities carried out at approximately three yearly intervals by an officer of the Office of Surveillance Commissioners.

RIPA had been substantially amended by the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012, which had come into force in November 2012. This had reduced the powers available to local authorities.

It provided that RIPA authorisations could only be used for preventing or detecting more serious crimes which were punishable by at least six months' imprisonment or concerned sales of alcohol or tobacco to children, thus preventing authorisations for 'low level' offences such as littering, dog fouling or fly-posting. The Council had not used Directed Surveillance for these 'low level' offences, but had dealt with them by overt non-secret surveillance.

The 2012 Act also required authorisations given by Council appointed officers to be approved by a Magistrate.

The Council had not made any authorisations since the 2012 Act had come into force, and there was only a low probability of the Council needing to make authorisations in the future. However, it was necessary for the procedural changes to be set out in the Council's Policy, and the amended Surveillance Policy was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

*** RESOLVED -**

(1) That the amended Surveillance Policy, attached at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

(2) That the Policy's dissemination to relevant officers to ensure compliance with the legislation be agreed.

REASON FOR DECISION

To provide clear guidance and assistance to staff who are considering the use of surveillance procedures in the investigation of crime.

8 STRATEGIC HOUSING MARKET ASSESSMENT (H000)

The Housing Service Manager – Business Planning and Strategy submitted a report providing the results of the recent Strategic Housing Market Assessment and identifying the implications for the Council's Planning and Affordable Housing Policies.

In December 2012 Cabinet had approved a jointly commissioned Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) with Bolsover and Bassetlaw District Councils (Minute No. 0169 (2012/13)). The consultancy firm of GL Hearn had been commissioned to undertake the SHMA in March 2013 and had completed the work earlier this year, significantly under the total allocated budget.

The North Derbyshire and Bassetlaw Housing Market Area SHMA was attached at Appendix 1 to the report, and the Chesterfield Borough Council SHMA was attached at Appendix 2 to the report.

The report outlined the implications of the SHMA in respect of Planning Policy. The SHMA identified an objective assessment of need for housing of between 240 - 300 homes per annum, with a potentially higher level of housing need of around 345 homes per annum to support employment growth (of around 8%) over the plan period to 2031. This evidence

provided an opportunity to review the current annual housing target (380 homes), through the Local Plan: Sites and Boundaries.

The report also outlined the implications of the SHMA in respect of affordable housing. The SHMA identified a significant net need for 382 affordable homes per annum (359 excluding those in the development pipeline) between 2013 and 2018, with a need for up to 212 homes per annum in the longer term. This provided a clear evidence base to support planning policies seeking new affordable housing. In addition the SHMA identified the use of existing social housing stock and the role of the Private Rented Sector as issues for the Council to consider.

The meeting recognised the difficulties involved in addressing some of the issues identified, such as households wishing to downsize, empty properties in the private rented sector and the mix of the existing social housing stock. The analysis within the SHMA would assist the Council in its consideration of these issues and its planning for the longer term.

*** RESOLVED -**

- (1) That the Strategic Housing Market Assessment and its findings be noted.
- (2) That the outcomes of the Assessment be taken into account in the development of future planning and affordable housing policy.

REASON FOR DECISION

To contribute to delivering the Council's Corporate Priorities:

- To make Chesterfield a thriving Borough;
- To improve the quality of life for local people.