

**CABINET****Tuesday, 10th February, 2015**

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

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

Councillor Russell declared an interest, as a user of Queen's Park Sports Centre, in respect of Minute No. 182, and did not participate or vote during the discussion of this item.

**175 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies for absence were received.

**176 MINUTES****RESOLVED –**

That the minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 27 January 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**177 FORWARD PLAN**

The Forward Plan for the four month period 1 March to 30 June 2015 was reported for information.

**\* RESOLVED –**

- (1) That the Forward Plan be noted.
- (2) That the changes to the format of the Forward Plan be noted.

**178 DELEGATION REPORT**

Decisions taken by Executive Members during January 2015 were reported.

**\* RESOLVED –**

That the Delegation Report be noted.

**179 DERBY AND DERBYSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY (R000)**

The Chief Executive, Executive Director and the Development and Growth Manager submitted a report on the proposed creation of a Combined Authority for Derby and Derbyshire in accordance with the provisions of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

It was recommended that Chesterfield Borough Council become a full constituent member of the proposed Derby and Derbyshire Combined Authority, subject to the outcomes of the statutory consultation and contingent on Chesterfield Borough Council being able to participate fully in both the Derby and Derbyshire (D2) and Sheffield City Region (SCR) Combined Authorities.

It was anticipated that the proposed Combined Authority would enable the Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire (D2N2) LEP to attract further devolved funding from central government with more local determination of priorities and alignment of resources.

Due to Chesterfield Borough's functioning economic geography, looking both to Sheffield and the Midlands, it was considered that the needs and the aspirations of Chesterfield's residents and businesses were best served by the Council's full participation in both Combined Authorities.

Chesterfield Borough Council had been a non-constituent voting member of the SCR Combined Authority since February 2013. Partnership working

through the SCR had secured significant benefits for Chesterfield, including investment in schemes such as Markham Vale, Chesterfield Waterside and the Northern Gateway.

The D2 Joint Economic Prosperity Committee (Joint Committee), for the Derby and Derbyshire area, had agreed in September 2014 to explore the options for better and stronger collaborative working around regeneration, transport and economic development. This involved undertaking a governance review, carried out under Section 108 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, and the Transport Act 2008. The governance review was set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

The review concluded that a Combined Authority for Derby and Derbyshire presented the best option for “positively impacting on the economic conditions of the D2 area and also in providing the best opportunities for improved efficiency and effectiveness of delivery in transport and economic development”. This was supported in principle by all ten local authorities in Derby and Derbyshire.

The proposed Combined Authority would be a new legal body with formal terms of reference, and responsible for developing, agreeing, implementing and monitoring D2 wide strategies, clear programmes of activity and funding and specific delivery projects.

No local authority powers would be ceded to the Combined Authority. Its functions would be exercised concurrently with those of the local authorities.

A Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee would also be established to exercise scrutiny over the D2 Combined Authority.

It was proposed that the work programme of the D2 Combined Authority would focus initially on jobs and employment, skills, transport and housing. A fifth area of work would explore creative and innovative use of the general power of competence to support economic development, regeneration and transport programmes.

It was considered crucial that Chesterfield Borough Council’s relationship with the SCR Combined Authority would continue, supported by a strong protocol of joint working with the D2 Combined Authority. Protocols for

collaborative working were also proposed with Greater Manchester and the proposed N2 Combined Authority.

Non-constituent membership of the D2 Combined Authority was proposed to be offered to the Chair of the D2N2 LEP to ensure strengthened governance and management, and observer status to the Peak District National Park.

The detailed proposals for the Combined Authority were provided in the Scheme Document (attached at Appendix 2 to the report), setting out its constitution and powers. The Secretary of State, after a period of statutory consultation, would decide whether or not to lay an Order before Parliament bringing the Combined Authority into effect.

The report described the consultation carried out during the review and provided an analysis of the responses.

Alternative options to the establishment of a Combined Authority were considered as part of the D2 Governance Review option appraisal, Appendix 1 to the report. These options included remaining as a Joint Committee for Economic Prosperity, extending the role and functions covered by the existing Joint Committee or developing an Economic Prosperity Board. It was concluded that the Combined Authority was the optimal solution to achieve the greatest economic opportunities for Derby and Derbyshire and meet the statutory tests to satisfy the Secretary of State and the legislation.

**\*RESOLVED -**

- (1) That it be recommended to Full Council that it endorses the outcome of the Review exercise undertaken pursuant to section 108 of the Local Democracy Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, that a Combined Authority be created for Derby and Derbyshire. And, that Chesterfield Borough Council becomes a full constituent member of the proposed Derby and Derbyshire Combined Authority, subject to the outcomes of the statutory consultation process and contingent on Chesterfield Borough Council continuing to be able to participate fully in both the Derby and Derbyshire and Sheffield City Region Combined Authorities.
- (2) That it be recommended to Full Council that it supports the submission of the Scheme Document attached at Appendix 2 to the

report to the Secretary of State in seeking the creation of a Combined Authority for Derby and Derbyshire.

## **REASON FOR DECISIONS**

To secure the Council's participation in the proposed Derby and Derbyshire Combined Authority and also the continued participation in the Sheffield City Region Combined Authority in order to benefit the future economic development of the borough of Chesterfield.

### **180 TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGIES (J000)**

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report recommending for approval the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and the Annual Investment Strategy Statement for 2015/16.

The report recommended the re-adoption of the modified Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management in the Public Services.

#### **\*RESOLVED -**

That it be recommended to Full Council:

- (1) That the Council affirms its adoption of CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management.
- (2) That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy, including the Prudential Code Indicators and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy be approved.

## **REASON FOR DECISIONS**

To comply with regulations and recognised best practice.

### **181 RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY (B010R)**

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report on risk management developments at the Council during 2014/15 and recommended for approval the updated Risk Management Policy, Strategy and Strategic Risk Register for 2015/16.

A review had been carried out during 2014/15 by the Council's insurers of the Council's risk management arrangements. The outcomes of the review were reflected in the updated Risk Management Strategy and the Strategic Risk Register.

The report had been presented to the Standards and Audit Committee on 6 February 2015 and would be considered by Full Council on 26 February 2015.

**\*RESOLVED -**

That it be recommended to Full Council:

- (1) That the progress made on developing the Council's approach to risk management during 2014/15 be noted.
- (2) That the Risk Management Policy, Strategy and Strategic Risk Register for 2015/16 be approved.

**REASON FOR DECISIONS**

To ensure that effective risk management monitoring and reporting arrangements are in place.

**182 FEES AND CHARGES FOR SPORT AND LEISURE (INDOOR FACILITIES) 2015/16 (T000)**

The Sport and Leisure Manager submitted a report recommending for approval proposed changes to the fees and charges structure for Sports and Leisure facilities to take effect from 1 April 2015.

The Sport and Leisure Manager advised that over the last two years there had been an increase in membership numbers from approximately 3000 to 4500.

It was also reported that an online booking and payment system had been introduced from January 2015

The fees and charges proposals had taken into account:

- the need for the Council to achieve a balanced budget,
- the fees and charges levied structures of other local public and private sector providers,
- the current condition of the facilities,
- value for money considerations,
- health inequalities,
- the Council's corporate priorities,
- customer expectations.

The report outlined proposed changes to the Change4Life criteria for concessionary Active Chesterfield Membership, which were to be updated to reflect the introduction of Universal Credit. It was also proposed that an annual increase be applied to Direct Debit payments.

As the new Queen's Park Sports Centre was due to open in January 2016, it was proposed that a further review of fees and charges be carried out in August 2015.

**\*RESOLVED -**

- (1) That the proposed charges set out in Appendix A to the report be approved for the financial year 2015/16 for Healthy Living Centre and the existing Queen's Park Sports Centre.
- (2) That the Executive Member for Leisure, Culture and Tourism be given delegated authority to both increase or decrease charges where there is a clear market opportunity to doing so.
- (3) That the proposals for Concessionary Change4Life charges, including the new option "No earned income" for eligible Universal Credit recipients, be approved as outlined in Appendix B to the report.
- (4) That an annual increase be applied to all Direct Debit membership packages from April 2015 subject to market considerations.
- (5) That a further assessment/review of fees and charges be undertaken in August 2015 in relation to the changes to provision arising from the opening of the new Queen's Park Sports Centre facility from January 2016 onwards.

## REASONS FOR DECISIONS

To set the Council's fees and charges for Sport and Leisure Indoor and Outdoor facilities with effect from 1 April 2015.

To contribute to improving the Councils overall financial position and reduce the overall cost of Sport and Leisure provision by the Council.

To support the Council's delivery of Great Place Great Service corporate priorities for visitors and residents to Chesterfield Borough.

To improve customer service, service programming and overall Sport and Physical activity participation levels in the borough.

### 183 HRA REVENUE BUDGET 2014/15 TO 2019/20 (H000)

The Housing Service Manager – Business Planning and Strategy and the Chief Finance Officer submitted a report on the probable outturn on the Housing Revenue Account for the current financial year and seeking approval for the budget estimates for 2015/16.

There was a discussion on the merits of the introduction of self-financing, which had improved the financial position of the Housing Revenue Account and allowed for additional investment in the housing stock in the longer term.

The rent and service charge levels agreed by Cabinet in January (Minute No.170 (2014/15)) had been incorporated into the 2015/16 budget forecast.

The report also proposed a schedule of priority growth requests.

#### **\*RESOLVED -**

- (1) That the probable outturn for the current financial year be noted.
- (2) That the draft estimates for 2015/16 and future years be approved.
- (3) That the "Growth Items", at Annexe 6 of Appendix A to the report, be approved.



## REASONS FOR DECISIONS

To enable the Council to set the Housing Revenue Account budget for 2015/16.

To continue with the financial strategy contained in the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan and self-financing debt settlement arrangements.

### 184 **HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2015/16 2016/17 AND 2017/18 (H000)**

The Housing Service Manager – Business Planning and Strategy submitted a report on the Housing Capital Programme outlining proposals for the New Programme for 2015/16, and seeking Cabinet approval to recommend the Programme to Full Council.

Details of the provisional Capital Programmes for 2016/17 and 2017/18 were also provided.

The report outlined the financial strategy to maintain the Decent Homes Standard, to improve the non-traditional housing stock and to deliver improvements to the estate environment in the short term.

At 1 January 2015, 95.45% of the housing stock met the Decent Homes Standard and it was anticipated that 100% would be reached by 31 March 2015.

The focus of the programme remained the modernisation of properties to maintain the Decent Homes Standard with the balance of activity over the next twelve months concentrated on building elements such as heating, roofs and rewires. In line with the recent stock condition survey, activity would also shift towards larger external and environmental improvement schemes over the next five years.

Information was provided on the commitment to use local contractors where possible, and tenant involvement in reviewing and prioritising the Capital Programme.

The allocation of work to the Housing Services' Operational Services Division was also outlined.

**\*RESOLVED -**

That it be recommended to Full Council:

- (1) That the Housing (Public Sector) Capital Programme for 2015/16 be approved and its procurement, as necessary, be authorised.
- (2) That the provisional Housing (Public Sector) Capital Programme's for 2016/17 and 2017/18 be noted.
- (3) That the Operational Services Division share of the Programme be approved.
- (4) That the Housing Services Manager – Business Planning and Strategy be authorised to vire between programme heads and budgets to manage the Capital Programme as set out in the report.

**REASONS FOR DECISIONS**

To enable the Council to maintain its 'Decent Homes Standard' targets in line with the Council's Vision and Corporate Plan.

The condition of the Public Sector housing stock and its environment will be maintained and improved.

To contribute to the aims of the Housing Strategy and deliver the HRA Business Plan.

**185 HOUSING REPAIRS BUDGET 2015/16 (H000)**

The Housing Services Manager – Operational Services Division submitted a report recommending for approval the Housing Repairs Budget for 2015/16.

There had been no major virements to the budget of 2014/15, only minor changes to reflect seasonal demands. The 2015/16 repairs budget proposed was otherwise consistent with that of 2014/15.

The Tenants Executive, the Tenant Challenge Panel and individual focus groups had been involved in reviews of the repairs policy to ensure continuous improvement.

**\*RESOLVED -**

- (1) That the Housing Repairs Budget for 2015/16 as set out at Appendix 1 to the report be approved.
- (2) That the Operational Services Manager be authorised to vire between responsive repairs budget heads in order to effectively manage and respond to fluctuations in tenant-led or weather dependent repairs.

**REASONS FOR DECISIONS**

To fund the required maintenance of the Housing Stock.

To encourage tenant involvement through the Tenant Participation Strategy.

To support the Council's Vision and Corporate Plan.