

CABINET

9 JULY 2019

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NEW STRATEGIC PLAN PROCESS AND TIMELINE

1. Decision:

The Cabinet:

- 1.1 Endorsed the creation of a cross-party Overview and Scrutiny Member Task Group to assist in the creation of the new plan.
- 1.2 Supported the principle of a public consultation exercise on the new plan in November - December 2019.
- 1.3 Supported the proposed timeline and process for the creation of the new strategic plan 2020 – 2024.

2. Statement of Reasons:

The council's current strategic plan period ends in April 2020.

A new strategic plan for 2020 – 2024, that sets out what the council wants to achieve over the next four year period and why, needs to be created in advance of the end of the current plan period, and considered in line with the medium term financial strategy (MTFS) to ensure its viability and deliverability.

The Cabinet report outlines the suggested timeframe and process for the compilation of the council's new strategic plan. Once approved, the strategic plan will then be translated into a series of key actions by council officers through a revised delivery plan from April 2020.

The report does not set out any recommendations for content that should be included in the new plan.

3. Any Alternative Options:

Adopt an alternative process and timeline.

LOCAL PLAN ALLOCATIONS ADOPTION

1. Decision:

The Cabinet:

- 1.1 Noted the content of the Lichfield Local Plan Allocations Inspector's Report and Schedule of Main Modifications.
- 1.2 Recommended to Council the adoption of the Local Plan Allocations as submitted and subsequently amended by the main and minor modifications.
- 1.3 Recommended to Council the adoption Local Plan policy map which was submitted alongside the submission version of the Local Plan Allocations and subsequently amended by the main and minor modifications.
- 1.4 Noted the final versions of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) / Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Habitat Regulations Assessments (HRA) which accompany the final version of the Local Plan Allocations.
- 1.5 Noted the accompanying Local Plan adoption statement and Sustainability Appraisal adoption statement.
- 1.6 Noted the list of polices being deleted from the 1998 Local Plan.
- 1.7 Delegated to the Cabinet Member for Investment, Economic Growth & Tourism in consultation with the Head of Economic Growth authority to make any minor changes to the presentation of the final Local Plan Allocation documents.

2. Statement of Reasons:

The Council is now in receipt of the Local Plan Allocations final Inspector's Report. The Council now has to determine whether they wish to progress to adoption of the Local Plan Allocations. This will require the Council to accept the Inspectors Main Modifications. This will mean the Council have a complete Local Plan in place consisting of the Local Plan Strategy (2015) and the Local Plan Allocations (2019).

Subject to adoption of the Local Plan Allocations the Council's saved policies from the 1998 Local Plan will be deleted.

The Council is subject to a six week period of legal challenge following the Local Plan Allocations adoption.

3. Any Alternative Options:

Cabinet decide not to approve the Lichfield District Allocations Development Plan Document for adoption. As set out in paragraph 3.14 of the Cabinet report this is not recommended.

Adoption of the Plan provides the District with a comprehensive Local Plan framework. The Allocations and Strategy will then be given full weight in appeal decisions.

If the Plan is not adopted there is uncertainty over the planning framework for the District. In turn this will assist in facilitating unplanned development across the District and would represent poor strategic planning increasing the risk of inappropriate development.

HS2 DRAFT PLANNING MEMORANDUM - DECISION ON QUALIFYING AUTHORITY STATUS

1. Decision:

The Cabinet:

- 1.1 Approved the signing of the Planning Memorandum to become a 'Qualifying Authority' for the purpose of the High Speed Rail (West Midlands - Crewe) Bill (the Bill).
- 1.2 Requested that Council amend the Constitution to include the determination of all planning matters submitted under Schedule 17 (the Planning Conditions Schedule) of the Bill, in line with the current provisions that already exist for Phase 1 of HS2 matters under Schedule 17 of the High Speed Rail (London – West Midlands) Act 2017 as set out in the Appendix of the Cabinet report.

2. Statement of Reasons:

The purpose of the Cabinet report is to seek authority to sign the HS2 Planning Memorandum, the effect of which is that Lichfield District Council will become a 'Qualifying Authority' for the purposes of the High Speed Rail (West Midlands - Crewe) Bill (the Bill). Those authorities choosing qualifying status are given greater control over the detailed design and external appearance of buildings and structures along the route. In agreeing to these controls, qualifying authorities are required to handle requests for approval in an expeditious manner, and to ensure appropriate delegated authority and Committee procedures are in place.

3. Any Alternative Options:

The Council could decide not to take the opportunity to become a Qualifying Authority, but would relinquish those planning powers provided by Schedule 17 of the Bill, and in turn, reduce the influence it could have on managing and mitigating the physical impact of buildings, structures and features on the District's built and natural environment.

Should the Council not amend the Constitution it would have no delegated authority to determine Schedule 17 approvals – impacting on its ability to determine applications expeditiously within the required timeframes. Failure to meet those timeframes could result in the Council losing the additional powers of a Qualifying Authority.

JIGSAW FUNDING AGREEMENT

1. Decision:

The Cabinet:

- 1.1 Agreed that the Council would not seek to enter into a further funding agreement for Jigsaw.
- 1.2 Acknowledged the commitment by Fusion Credit Union to maintain a signposting service and continue to make the room at Dimbles Lane, Lichfield available for hire.

2. Statement of Reasons:

The Jigsaw Centre based on Dimbles Lane, has been managed by Fusion Credit Union since January 2014. The current funding agreement ends in June 2019 and a review has been carried out to consider the effectiveness of and need for the funding provided to this project.

3. Any Alternative Options:

1. To invite expressions of interest for the running of Jigsaw. However this may not be possible at the current premises due to the fact that Fusion Credit Union have entered into a rental agreement with Midland Heart.
2. To continue to fund Fusion Credit Union to run the Jigsaw Centre, however, this does not represent best value for money as Fusion have indicated they do not need the funding to continue and the Jigsaw Centre is currently operating largely as a base for the Fusion Credit Union.

CONTRACT FOR THE PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION OF GARDEN WASTE PERMITS

1. Decision:

The Cabinet:

- 1.1 Awarded the contract for the printing and distribution of garden waste permits to the preferred tenderer.
- 1.2 In the event that a preferred tenderer has not yet been identified, delegated authority to the Cabinet Member for Recycling and Leisure in consultation with the Director of Place and Community to appoint the contractor that provides the most economically advantageous tender, provided the value of the contract is within approved budgets.

2. Statement of Reasons:

The Joint Waste Service introduced charging for garden waste in 2018. The Service identifies which properties have subscribed by issuing an addressed sticker that is attached to the garden bin. This sticker enables crews to identify quickly and easily which bins are to be emptied.

The authority has a contract for the printing and distribution of the sticker plus the provision of a customer cloud management portal that allows the authority to monitor the process and make any required changes. The current contract will expire on 15th December 2019. In consequence a procurement exercise is nearing completion that will identify a preferred contractor for the next few years.

The procurement exercise is being jointly undertaken by Lichfield district and Newcastle-under-Lyme borough councils and the contract is due to be awarded by mid-July.

The initial contract will be for a period of two years with the option to extend for a further year subject to satisfactory performance.

The value to this council over the life of the contract is likely to exceed £75,000 so letting the contract represents a Key Decision.

Evaluation of the tenders will be completed shortly but a decision to let the contract needs to be made as soon as possible in order to allow systems to be configured and tested before go-live in October for 2020 subscriptions. In consequence, Cabinet is being asked to delegate authority to the Cabinet Member and Director to agree a contract.

3. Any Alternative Options:

1. There are no viable alternative options that would allow the crews to quickly identify which properties have paid for the service.
2. The trucks do have the benefit of in cab units that contain the data base of subscribing properties. However the bin collectors often have to fetch bins some distance from the truck and it would be inefficient if they had to keep returning to the truck to check the status of subscriptions.

