

CABINET

6 OCTOBER 2020

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LICHFIELD CITY CENTRE MASTERPLAN

1. Decision:

1.1 The Cabinet:

- Noted the progress made in moving the masterplan-related work forward
- Approved the proposed approach to implementation of the Masterplan proposals in regards to the production of a Delivery Plan and its associated proposed outputs
- Approved the proposed Governance Structure and terms of reference for the Project Board and Member Task & Finish Group as set out a para 3.11 and Appendix 1 to the Cabinet report
- Delegated authority to the Cabinet Member for Major Projects and Economic Growth, in consultation with the Head of Economic Growth and Development to implement actions and activity agreed by the Project Board save for those matters which require Cabinet or Council consideration and approval.

2.2 The Cabinet recommended Council to:

- Approve the proposed revenue budget of £330,000 (£160,000 in 2020/21 and £170,000 in 2021/22) to take forward Phase 1 of the project.
- Approved the proposed revenue budget being funded by £100,000 from the BRS earmarked reserve and the balance of £230,000 being funded from the Multi Storey Car Park Sinking Fund.

2. Statement of Reasons:

As Members will recall consultants David Lock Associates were commissioned in 2019 to produce a Masterplan for Lichfield City Centre. Following preparation of a draft plan and public consultation, this was duly submitted to the District Council and considered by the Economic Growth, Environment and Development (O&S) Committee in June of this year and subsequently by Cabinet at its July meeting.

Work has now commenced to consider how the Masterplan and its component parts can be delivered. A Project Initiation Document (PID) has been prepared setting out the basis for how this will be achieved over a period of time and also a programme of projects/work and associated timescales that will be implemented in the short term. The PID also sets out details of governance arrangements and resource requirements.

A Delivery Plan, informed by the aims and objectives of the Masterplan, will be produced. This will define the approach to be taken to fulfilling the aims and objectives of the master plan and delivering the goals set out in that document.

Arrangements for managing delivery of the masterplan and ensuring proper accountability are proposed. Subject to approval, these will include a Member-led Project Board, reporting directly to Cabinet; an officer Project Team, reporting to Project Board and a

Member Task & Finish Group, comprising Members from the EGED (O&S) Committee who will scrutinise the decision making and progress of the Project Board.

Proposed budgets for Phase 1 of the work are set out and it is requested that these budgets are included in the MTFs. Part of these budgets can be funded via the Birmingham Road earmarked reserve.

Given the need to move the masterplan delivery forward at a pace it is requested that delegated authority be given to the Cabinet Member for Major Projects and Economic Development, in conjunction with the Head of Economic Growth and Development to implement decisions made by the Project Board. There will be many decisions that will be required within the first 12 months of the project including; strategic direction via confirmation of the PID, priority setting, confirmation and scrutiny of project control documents, procurement of advisors and consultants, resource requirement, external funding bids and financial aspects of the project. Agreeing delegated authority will help the process without removing the requirement to report to Cabinet or Council (in relation to the budget) on matters which can only be considered via these routes.

3. Any Alternative Options:

1. Members could request alternative proposals to the Delivery Plan and associated documents as set out above in order to bring forward the implementation of the City Centre Masterplan
2. Members could request an alternative governance structure to that proposed

NEW LICHFIELD LEISURE CENTRE PREFERRED SITE

1. Decision:

The Cabinet

- 1.1 Approved the selection of Stychbrook Park as the preferred site for the new Lichfield Leisure Centre.
- 1.2 Delegated authority to the Cabinet Member for Major Projects and Economic Growth, in conjunction with the Head of Operational Services to commence site investigations and subject to a satisfactory outcome, prepare and submit an outline planning application for the development of the new Lichfield Leisure Centre.

2. Statement of Reasons:

A review of suitably sized undeveloped sites in and around Lichfield City identified eight potential sites for the proposed new Lichfield Leisure Centre.

Of the eight sites, Stychbrook Park has been identified as the preferred site for the new leisure centre. Stychbrook Park has several merits as a site for a leisure centre, whereas the other seven each present issues that would make the development of a leisure centre problematic.

3. Any Alternative Options:

The other seven sites could be chosen in preference, however all have significant planning policy or feasibility problems.

Further sites away from Lichfield City could be sought. Sites away from the City Centre would have operational disadvantages in terms of accessibility and commercial viability.

(Councillor Eadie declared an interest in this item as a Director of Lichfield Rugby Union Club)

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY (REVENUE AND CAPITAL) 2020- 2025

1. Decision:

2.1 The Cabinet recommended to Council:

- The removal of all budgets related to Investment in Property
- The removal of all budgets related to the ICT Cloud project.

2.2 The Cabinet noted the projected additional cost of funding the 2020/21 pay award.

2.3 The Cabinet delegated to the Cabinet Member for Finance, Procurement, Customer Services and Revenues & Benefits responsibility to agree the form and timetable for the Budget Consultation covering the 2021/22 financial year.

2. Statement of Reasons:

The ability to deliver the outcomes set out in the Lichfield District Council Strategic Plan, and beyond, is dependent on the resources available in the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)

This year, in addition to the inherent uncertainty related to the Local Government Financing Regime, there is the added uncertainty related to COVID-19 and changes to the Planning system.

The MTFS for the period 2019-24 was approved by Council on 18 February 2020 and this is refreshed to:

- Remove the previous financial year and in this MTFS this is 2019/20
- Formally add the new financial year and in this MTFS this is 2024/25 and;
- Refresh and update assumptions to reflect the latest information available.

The MTFS is the overall budget framework and consists of the Revenue Budget, Capital Strategy and Capital Programme and General Reserves.

There have been a series of reports to Cabinet and Council that have updated the MTFS 2019-2024 since its initial approval by Council.

The Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy are also important components of the MTFS. These components under the Constitution are the responsibility of the Audit and Member Standards Committee and therefore will be considered by that Committee as part of the development of the Draft MTFS for 2020-2025.

The timetable for consideration of the various elements of the MTFS is detailed in the table below:

Date	Meeting	Topics	
Budget Consultation Takes Place	01/09/2020	Strategic (OS) Committee	Budget timetable, Budget Principles, MTFS Update, Budget Consultation and Budget Assumptions for 2021/22
06/10/2020	Cabinet	Budget timetable, Budget Principles, MTFS Update, Budget Consultation and Budget Assumptions for 2021/22	
19/11/2020	Strategic (OS) Committee	To review the MTFS and any decisions of Cabinet on 6 October 2020	
01/12/2020	Council Taxbase	To set the Council Taxbase for 2021/22	
27/01/2021	Strategic (OS) Committee	To review the Draft Medium Term Financial Strategy	
03/02/2021	Audit and Member Standards Committee	To review the Treasury Management Strategy Statement	
09/02/2021	Cabinet	To recommend the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Council Tax increase to Council	
16/02/2021	Council	Approve the Medium Term Financial Strategy and set the Council Tax	

3. Any Alternative Options:

Where alternative options exist, they are identified within the background section of the Cabinet report.

EVENTS AND FESTIVALS POLICY

1. Decision:

The Cabinet:

- 1.1 Approved for the purposes of consultation the draft Events and Festivals Policy attached at Appendix 1 to the Cabinet report.
- 1.2 Delegated authority to the Cabinet Member for Visitor Economy and the Local Plan in consultation with the Head of Economic Growth and Development to approve and adopt the policy following consultation unless there are material changes which need further consideration by Cabinet.
- 1.3 Subject to the policy being endorsed following consultation, recommended to Full Council that the Council's constitution be amended to formally acknowledge the formation of a cross-service officer panel for determining an annual events programme in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Visitor Economy and the Local Plan.
- 1.4 Recommended to Council an update the Medium Term Financial Strategy to include a supplementary budget of £20,000 per annum to help meet the costs of new events intended to support local communities across the district.
- 1.5 Delegated authority to the Cabinet Member for Visitor Economy and the Local Plan in consultation with the Head of Economic Growth and Development to determine requests where these are submitted.

2. Statement of Reasons:

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to consult on a draft Events and Festivals Policy. The policy follows reports to EGED and work commissioned to recognise the value of events to Lichfield District.

The aim of this policy is to facilitate the continued delivery of high quality, well run events and festivals in Lichfield District, to ensure that they are well managed, consider the impacts on existing businesses and residents and add to the economic growth of the district.

3. Any Alternative Options:

The Council could decide not to have a policy or to agree an amended policy to that emerging. The view of the EGED Committee which has considered the matter is that the Council and the district would benefit from having a suitable policy to facilitate an appropriate events programme that benefits the district.

(Councillor A Yeates declared an interest in this item as subject to Covid restrictions he worked in the events and entertainment industry)

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE - PLANNING WHITE PAPER

1. Decision:

The Cabinet:

- 1.1 Noted the contents of the report including the key themes and issues which had been identified and set out at Appendix A of the report and that these, along with input from the Councils officers form the basis of a formal response to the white paper consultation.
- 1.2 Delegated authority to allow the final response to the white paper consultation to be agreed for submission by the Head of Economic Growth & Development in consultation with the Cabinet member for Visitor Economy & Local Plan and Cabinet Member for Regulatory, Housing and Health Services.

2. Statement of Reasons:

The government published a 'Planning for the future' white paper in August 2020 for consultation. The document sets out the government's proposals to reform the planning system in England. The government states that the range of proposals are designed to 'streamline and modernise the planning process, improve outcomes on design and sustainability, reform developer contributions and ensure more land is available for development where it is needed'.

The proposals relate to plan-making, the determination of planning applications (decision-making), the design of development and developer contributions. Consultation on the White Paper will last for 12 weeks and closes on 29 October 2020. The District Council have considered the white paper in detail and are seeking provide a comprehensive response to the consultation. This response follows consideration by members and officers during the consultation period.

It is proposed that a formal response to the consultation is submitted before the closing date of 29 October 2020 and is based upon the consideration as described above and based upon the key themes and issues identified as a result of this at Appendix A of the Cabinet report.

3. Any Alternative Options:

None – the report is for informational purposes.