

## REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

### CABINET DECISIONS – 9 November 2021

#### **1 Lichfield City Centre Parking Strategy**

The Cabinet:

1.1 Approved the Car Parking Strategy and Project Delivery Action Plan.

1.2 Recommended that Council:

a) Allocate an additional £650,000 to the Medium Term Financial Strategy (£630,000 in the Capital Programme and £20,000 in the revenue budget detailed in the financial implications section) for the delivery of interventions contained in the Project Delivery Action Plan.

b) Fund these projects through either external funding or in the event this is not available, from the car park earmarked reserve.

#### **2 Lichfield City Centre Public Realm Strategy**

The Cabinet:

2.1 Agreed the principles for the public realm set out in the Public Realm Strategy at Appendix A of the Cabinet Report and the Executive Summary attached at Appendix B of the Cabinet report;

2.2 Agreed the initial list and prioritisation of projects included in the high-level work programme as set out at pages 92-97 of the Strategy;

2.3 Agreed to delegate authority to the Cabinet Member responsible for Major Projects, in consultation with the Head of Economic Growth and Development, to engage with partners, landowners and funders to implement actions and activity agreed by the Project Board in the Public Realm Strategy, except for projects and programmes that need further Cabinet or Council consideration and approval.

#### **3 A Better Council**

The Cabinet:

3.1 Approved the organisational change programme, Being a Better Council 2021 – 2024.

3.2 Approved a capital budget of £750,000 over the period of the programme (2021/22 – 2023/24) with funding provided by reallocating existing capital projects already identified within the MTFs, to implement the programme.

#### **4 Dual Stream Recycling – Procurement of Receptacles & Associated Financial Matters**

The Cabinet:

- 4.1 Recommended that Council increase the Capital Programme in the Medium Term Financial Strategy for the purchase of bags/bins in 2021/22 to £329k. This will be funded by a contribution of £41,000 from Tamworth and the Council's share of £59,000, both from the Joint Waste Service's Property Growth Reserve.
- 4.2 Delegated the awarding of the contract for the provision of kerbside recycling bags to the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Recycling and the Head of Service for Operational Services.

### **CABINET DECISIONS – 7 December 2021**

#### **5 Money Matters 2021/22: Review of the Financial Performance Against the Financial Strategy**

The Cabinet:

- 5.1 Noted the Cabinet report and issues raised within and that Leadership Team with Cabinet Members will continue to closely monitor and manage the Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- 5.2 Accepted the funding from the Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme of £165,898 (capital £140,000 and revenue £25,898) and approved an update to the Medium Term Financial Strategy to reflect the grant funding income and matching expenditure.
- 5.3 Approved the further allocations of funding from the Risk and Recovery Budget detailed at paragraph 3.9 and 3.10 of the Cabinet report totalling £52,600.

#### **6 Calculation of Business Rates 2022/23, Council Tax Base for 2022/23 and the Projected Collection Funded Surplus/Deficit for 2021/22**

The Cabinet:

- 6.1 Approved in accordance with the relevant legislation and regulations, the Council Taxbase (Band D residential properties) for Lichfield District for the financial year 2022/23 of 39,695.1.
- 6.2 Noted the estimated Council Tax Collection fund Deficit of £345,080 and the estimated Business Rates Collection Fund Deficit of £7,210,000 for 2021/22.
- 6.3 Delegated authority to the Cabinet Member for Finance, Procurement and Revenues & Benefits and the Chief Financial Officer (Section 151) to:
  - Complete and certify the NNDR1 for 2022/23 on behalf of the Council.

- Update the Council Taxbase for 2022/23 and Collection Fund projections for 2021/22 in the event of changes to guidance or the need for significant changes to underlying assumptions.

## **7 Update on Development Management Service Review & Improvement Plan**

The Cabinet:

- 7.1 Noted the performance of, and the progress being made by the Development Management Service in terms of implementing the revised structure and with regard to its improvement programme.

## **8 Review of Shared Legal Service**

The Cabinet:

- 8.1 Approved an increase in the annual contribution from £115,200 to £145,300 to the South Staffordshire Shared Legal Service for 2022/23 and for the remainder of the agreement up to 31 December 2024 as shown in the financial implications section of the Cabinet report.
- 8.2 Approved that budgetary growth totalling £84,300 for the remaining agreement period (3 years), together with an increase in the base budget at this higher level beyond the agreement, is included in the Draft Medium Term Financial Strategy for approval by Council on 22 February 2022.

## **CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS**

### **9 Increased Expenditure for Planning Consultants within Development Management**

The Cabinet Member for Regulatory, Housing & Health approved that spend be agreed by a further £75,000 per recruitment agency, in addition to the previously agreed amount of £150,000 (as agreed by Cabinet in March 2019), resulting in a total allowed spend of up to £225,000 per agency. This is to cover a 5 year (as opposed to 4 year) period from 2018/2019 to 2022/2023 for the procurement of interim planning officer and planning enforcement consultants within the Development Management (planning) team.

### **10 Suspension of Street Trading Fees**

The Leader of the Council gave approval for street trading fees to be waived until March 2022.

### **11 Contract Award for Commissioned Partner**

The Leader of the Council

- approved that the contract for the Commissioned Partner is awarded to Lambert Smith Hampton (“LSH”), for a period of 12 months with an option to extend for a further 12 months based on performance and the need for on-going support of this type.
- approved that the option to utilise the 12 month extension is reviewed and determined by the Cabinet Member responsible for Major Projects based on performance, requirements and recommendation from the Interim Director Regeneration or if no longer in post the Chief Executive.

## **12 Community Governance Review**

The Cabinet Member for Regulatory, Housing and Health approved the outline timetable and notice for the Community Governance Review and recommended it to full Council to begin the consultation process.

## **13 Additional Restrictions Grant – Revised Allocation**

The Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Leisure & Local Plan approved a revised additional restrictions grant allocation and approved the High Street Business Growth Grant policy.

## **14 Lichfield Housing Limited – Appointment of Director**

The Cabinet Member for Innovation & Corporate Services approved the appointment of Ben Percival as a Director of Lichfield Housing Limited.

## **15 Lichfield District Start Up Grant Scheme**

The Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Leisure and Local Plan approved the allocation of funding to the applicants from the Lichfield District Start Up Grant Scheme’s third round to the Projects detailed in the Cabinet Member report.

**Doug Pullen**  
**Leader of the Council**