

## REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

### CABINET DECISIONS – 8 February 2022

#### Medium Term Financial Strategy (Revenue and Capital)

The Cabinet recommended that Council approve:

- 1.1 The 2022/23 Revenue Budget, including the Amount to be met from Government Grants and Local Taxpayers of £12,551,000, the District Council Tax Requirement of £7,456,000 and a proposed level of Council Tax (the District Council element) for 2022/23 of £187.85 (an increase of £2.78 or 1.50%) for a Band D equivalent property.
- 1.2 The MTFS 2021-26 Revenue Budgets and 25 year Revenue Budget model set out in APPENDIX A of the Cabinet report.
- 1.3 The Corporate Fees and Charges Policy at APPENDIX B of the Cabinet report.
- 1.4 The MTFS 2021-26 Capital Strategy including the 25 year capital investment model and the Capital Programme shown in APPENDICES C & D of the Cabinet report.
- 1.5 The Minimum Revenue Provision Statement for 2022/23, at APPENDIX E of the Cabinet report, which sets out the Council's policy of using the asset life method for making prudent provision for debt redemption.
- 1.6 Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2022/23 including proposed limits shown at APPENDIX F of the Cabinet report. The only change being proposed is to increase the limits and indicators to enable an increase in Strategic Pooled Fund investments from £10m to £15m.
- 1.7 The Investment Strategy Report (APPENDIX G of the Cabinet report) including the proposed limits for 2022/23.
- 1.8 The Capital and Treasury Prudential Indicators for 2021-26 in the financial implications section.
- 1.9 The Authorised Limit Prudential Indicator shown within the financial implications section.
- 1.10 The CFO's report on the robustness of the Budget and adequacy of Reserves shown in APPENDIX H of the Cabinet report in compliance with the requirements and duties of the Local Government Act 2003.

That Cabinet:

- 1.11 Delegate responsibility to the Cabinet Member for Finance, Procurement and Revenues & Benefits and the Head of Finance and Procurement to repay any external loans where there is an economic benefit to the Council and this can be achieved through the use of existing approved budgets.

## **2. Money Matters: 2021/22 Review of Financial Performance against the Financial Strategy**

The Cabinet:

- 2.1 Noted the report and issues raised within and that Leadership Team with Cabinet Members, will continue to closely monitor and manage the Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- 2.2 Approved an update to the draft Medium Term Financial Strategy to repurpose the earmarked reserve identified in the Cabinet report at paragraphs 3.8 and 3.9 of £505,291 for the purposes identified at paragraph 3.10 of the report.
- 2.3 Accepted the Disabled Facilities grant allocation for 2021/22 of £1,109,194 and to increase the Approved Budget by £203,000 (from £1,100,000 to £1,303,000 with an element profiled for spend in later years).

## **3 Community Infrastructure Levy – Strategic Allocation Funds Assessment**

The Cabinet agreed to:

- 3.1 Tighten the current guidance (Appendix 1 of the Cabinet report) to assess bids for the allocation of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding to preclude bids where there are regulatory / financial / legal concerns by the Council.
- 3.2 Amend the guidance / scoring criteria to:
  - not accept retrospective bids
  - remove the scoring criteria re neighbourhood plan or settlement policy
  - Give greater weight to those bids which demonstrate deliverability within a reasonable time scale of 3 years and or are shovel ready.
- 3.3 Allocate the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds for Strategic Infrastructure to the following projects:
  - Fradley & Streethay PC - New Community Centre - £600,000 subject to land transfer arrangements being completed and planning permission being granted for the community centre within a reasonable timescale to demonstrate deliverability.
  - Lichfield & Hatherton Canal to receive £260,000, subject to the land transfer in relation to land at Falkland Road between Staffordshire County Council and the trust being confirmed and the regularising of existing project works on the canal route having regard to planning regulations being confirmed within a reasonable timescale to demonstrate deliverability.
- 3.4 To retain the remaining CIL monies for a future bidding round.

(Councillor Strachan declared a personal interest in this item as he had been lobbied by one of the applicants however he had given no indication of his views on the application)

#### **4 Birmingham Road Site - Delivery Strategy**

The Cabinet:

- 4.1 Agreed to commit to a multi-phased, multi-zoned development approach for the Birmingham Road Site;
- 4.2 Delegated authority to the Cabinet Member responsible for Major Projects in conjunction with the Interim Director of Regeneration and S151 Officer, to undertake and commission the required surveys, studies and initial development activities to support delivery of this scheme within existing budgets, except for projects and programmes that need further Cabinet or Council consideration and approval.

#### **5 Staffordshire Leaders Board**

The Cabinet:

- 5.1 Agreed to the Council's participation in the Staffordshire Leaders Board on the basis of the Terms of Reference set out in Appendix 1 of the Cabinet report.
- 5.2 Appointed the Leader of the Council as the Council's representative on the Leaders Board.
- 5.3 Appointed the Deputy Leader of the Council as the substitute for the Leader on the Leaders Board.

#### **6 Procurement for the Provision of Road Sweeping Services**

The Cabinet:

- 6.1 Approved the award of a 2-year contract for road sweeping services with provision for two 2-year contract extensions (2+2+2) with completion subject to the additional cost of the contract being identified from existing Approved Budgets.
- 6.2 Delegated the approval to utilise the option to extend the contract to the Head of Operational Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Leisure & Local Plan.
- 6.3 Determined whether the additional cost of the adopted highway sweeping be kept within approved budgets by either:
  - meeting the cost from within the road cleansing budget by reducing the coverage of trunk road cleansing, or
  - instructing officers to identify alternative savings from within the wider Operational Services approved budget.

## **7 Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation (SAC) – Revised Memorandum of Understanding and Financial Agreement**

The Cabinet:

- 7.1 Approved the revised Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation (SAC) 'Memorandum of Understanding' and associated 'Finance Agreement' (Appendix 1 of the Cabinet report) between the members of the Cannock Chase SAC Partnership.
- 7.2 Approved the Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Leisure & Local Plan on behalf of Lichfield District Council to formally sign a sealed version of the MoU and Financial Agreement appended to this report.
- 7.3 Delegated authority to the Cabinet member for Economic Development, Leisure & Local Plan in conjunction with the Head of Economic Growth to continue to agree ongoing mitigation measures relating to the Detailed Implementation Plans (DIPs) schemes.

## **8 Procurement of Joint Waste Partnership Fuel**

The Cabinet:

- 8.1 Approved the procurement of a 4 year framework contract to one or more suppliers.
- 8.2 Delegated the approval to award the resultant contract, subject to being within approved budgets, following on from the procurement process to the Head of Operational Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Recycling.

## **CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS**

### **9 Food Safety Delivery Plan 2021-2024**

The Cabinet Member for Regulatory, Housing & Health approved the Food Safety Service Delivery Plan for 2021-24.

### **10 Hammerwich Neighbourhood Plan Final Decision Statement**

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Local Plan, Parks & Leisure agreed to the making of the Hammerwich Neighbourhood Plan.

### **11 Additional Restrictions Grant - Third Top Up**

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Local Plan, Parks & Leisure approved:

- The recommended allocation of the third top up payment.
- The Travel and Tourism Grant Scheme policy.
- The revised allocation of £50,000 from the Job Incentive Scheme to the High Street Business Growth Grant Scheme to meet the increased demand for this scheme.
- The broadening of the scheme if required to include non-ratepayers within the travel and tourism industry.

### **12 Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant**

The Cabinet Member for Finance, Procurement and Revenues & Benefits approved the recommended allocation of the grant allocation in line with the guidance provided by Government.

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

The Cabinet Member for Innovation & Corporate Services appointed Councillor Eadie as a Director of Lichfield Housing Limited.

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