

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

CABINET DECISIONS – 6 September 2022

1 Money Matters: 2022/23 Review of Financial Performance against the Financial Strategy

The Cabinet:

- 1.1 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.
- 1.2 Recommended to Council to approve the creation of a Capital Programme project for Changing Places funded by external grant of £94,285, which is to deliver Changing Places public conveniences at Swan Island and the National Memorial Arboretum.
- 1.3 Recommended to Council to update the Medium Term Financial Strategy to reflect the budgets shown at para 3.34 that will be funded by the three year UKSPF allocation of £3,285,310.
- 1.4 Delegated to the Leader the ability to make any necessary amendments to the Investment Plan within the three year UKSPF allocation.

2 Money Matters Review of Reserves

The Cabinet Recommended that Council:

- 2.1 Repurpose earmarked reserves and agree changes to the Capital Programme detailed at para 3.29 to release reserves that will result in the strategic priorities reserve balance of (£5,169,000).
- 2.2 Dispose of Venture House and include a budgeted capital receipt of (£650,000) in the Medium Term Financial Strategy to fund strategic priorities (a receipt greater than this level will increase the level of the strategic priorities reserve).
- 2.3 Approve the inclusion of a project with a budget of £2,000,000 in the Capital Programme (initially equally spread between 2022/23 and 2023/24) for BRS enabling works funded from this capital receipt and the strategic priorities reserve.

The Cabinet:

- 2.4 Noted that following these changes, there will be (£3,819,000) available in the strategic priorities earmarked reserve to fund other strategic priorities.

3 Lichfield District Youth Council – Policy Proposal

The Cabinet:

- 3.1 Approved the creation of a District Youth Council for Lichfield District, providing young people with representation and encouraging active citizenship.
- 3.2 Recommended to Council to approve a £60,000 increase in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy over the next three financial years to provide a budget for the District Youth Council, as set out in the financial implications section of this Cabinet report.
- 3.3 Recommended to Youth Council that some of their budget is used to fund transport for those children that want to be involved but may not otherwise be able to access the opportunity due to personal/home circumstances.

CABINET DECISIONS – 11 October 2022

4 Medium Term Financial Strategy (Revenue and Capital) 2023-27

The Cabinet:

- 4.1 Noted the current position on the development of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy and the next steps.
- 4.2 Noted the feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 4 October 2022.

5 Delivery of Disabled Facilities Grant

The Cabinet:

- 5.1 Approved that Lichfield District Council award a contract to LWMTS to deliver DFGs and associated works/services from 1st April 2023 without undertaking a competitive tender process in reliance of the 'Teckal' exemption.
- 5.2 Delegated authority to the Cabinet Member for Housing, Ecology and Climate Change in consultation with the Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer to agree the final arrangements/service structure and governance with LWMTS.
- 5.3 Agreed to carry out a formal review of the service once launched after 6 months, 12 months and then annually thereafter with a performance report being considered by Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet.

6 Staffordshire Leaders Board – Update to the Terms of Reference

The Cabinet:

- 6.1 Endorsed the revised Terms of Reference for the Staffordshire Leaders' Board (as attached at Appendix A of the Cabinet report).

7 Joint Venture – A New Cinema for Lichfield

The Cabinet agreed and recommended to Council that:

- 7.1 Lichfield District Council enter a joint venture Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) with Evolve Estates (subject to any issues identified in relation to financial standing and independent valuation of the Debenham's building being satisfactorily addressed) for the purposes of developing a new cinema and associated food and beverage units in the former Debenhams store on the Three Spires retail site.
- 7.2 Delegated authority be granted to the Leader and Chief Executive Officer to finalise the details of the LLP in consultation with the Monitoring Officer and S151 Officer subject to financial implications remaining within the budget framework recommended for approval below.
- 7.3 The Leader and Chief Executive be approved as the Council's representatives on the LLP board.
- 7.4 The Medium-Term Financial Strategy is updated to include:
 - A budget in the Capital Programme for the Joint Venture loan advance totalling **£5,349,000** (including £400,000 being funded by the UKSPF).
 - To fund the capital investment through UKSPF funding of **(£400,000)**, the capital receipt from the sale of Venture House of **(£850,000)** (an increase from the Review of Reserves Report recommendation of (£650,000) and the strategic priorities earmarked reserve of **(£4,099,000)**).
 - A BRS enabling works budget of **£1,070,000** (a reduction from the Review of Reserves Report recommendation of £2,000,000) funded by the strategic priorities earmarked reserve of **(£1,070,000)**.
 - At this stage, the Revenue Budget will be based on a budget neutral (no surplus or deficit is included) position until the projections included in this report have been reviewed. Any future changes following independent review will be reported in line with the Council's budget monitoring and any budget approvals will be in line with the budget framework.

CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS

8 Temporary Agency Staffing

The Cabinet Member for Waste and Recycling approved to award the contract to The Best Connection Group Ltd for 24 months with 2 optional extensions of 12 months. This will see us change from using two agencies to provide our temporary staff to one. Benefits of this can include ease of Contract Management, better visibility of spend and reducing overall temp spend.

9 **Appointment of LATCo Board Member**

The Cabinet Member for Leisure and Parks approved the appointment of Lizzie Barton as Director of LWM Traded Services Ltd which took effect from Monday 26 September 2022.

Clr Doug Pullen
Leader of the Council