

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

CABINET DECISIONS – 6 December 2022

1 Money Matters 2022/23 : Review of the 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.

2 Calculation of Business Rates 2023/24, Council Tax Base for 2023/24 and the projected Collection Funded Surplus / Deficit for 2022/23

The Cabinet:

- 2.1 Approved in accordance with the relevant legislation and regulations, the Council Taxbase (Band D residential properties) for Lichfield District for the financial year 2023/24 of 40,534.4.
- 2.2 Noted the estimated Council Tax Collection fund Surplus of (£516,000) and the estimated Business Rates Collection Fund Surplus of (£606,000) for 2022/23.
- 2.3 Delegated authority to the Cabinet Member for Finance & Commissioning and the Chief Financial Officer (Section 151) to:
 - Complete and certify the NNDR1 for 2023/24 on behalf of the Council.
 - Update the Council Taxbase for 2023/24 and Collection Fund projections for 2022/23 in the event of changes to guidance or the need for significant changes to underlying assumptions.

3 Additional Resource to Deliver Preventing Homelessness & Asylum Seeker Support Activity

The Cabinet:

- 3.1 Approved the appointment of three new two-year fixed-term housing roles: Assistant Housing Allocations and Systems Officer, Housing Options Officer and a Tenancy Sustainment Officer with funding being provided by the Homelessness Prevention Grant Reserve.
- 3.2 Noted the council's involvement in the Beam trial.

4 Revised Cost Per Biodiversity Unit (BU)

The Cabinet:

- 4.1 Approved the new cost of £35,000 per Biodiversity Unit (BU).
- 4.2 Delegated the annual review of the cost per Biodiversity Unit (BU) to the Cabinet Member for Housing, Ecology and Climate Change in consultation with the Chief Operating Officer and Assistant Director of Finance and Commissioning (Section 151).

CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS

5 S106 Redistribution – Armitage with Handsacre

The Cabinet Member for Economic Growth and Development agreed to the redistribution of unspent S106 monies as requested by Armitage with Handsacre Parish Council.

6 Redistribution of Historic s106 Monies

The Cabinet Member for Economic Growth and Development approved the decision to use unspent s106 monies for pedestrianisation project work in the city centre.

7 Award of Contract - Incubator Space Phase 1a

The Leader of the Council awarded a contract to Roshal Space Consultants (as the highest scoring bidder) to repurpose vacant space within District Council House to lease to local businesses to generate income.

8 Award of Contract – Repurposing of Vacant Space

The Leader of the Council agreed to award a contract to Lawlors (as the highest scoring bidder) to repurpose vacant space within District Council House to facilitate the relocation of NHS MPFT from Venture House.

9 The Implementation of an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order for the Pedestrianisation of Lichfield City Centre

The Leader of the Council approved:

- 9.1 That the pedestrianisation of additional parts of the city centre is introduced through the implementation of an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order, which prevents traffic from entering the city centre from 12.00 until 21.00 every day. New restrictions would apply to Market Street, Tamworth Street, Conduit Street, Breadmarket Street and Bore Street and incorporate existing restrictions at Dam Street and Bird Street.

- 9.2 That the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order runs for 18 months, from 1 January 2023, including a 6 month formal consultation process, and that the results of this are reported to Member Task Group and Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 9.3 That Bird Street car park and Lombard Street car park continue to provide for alternative Disabled Persons Parking Bays whilst the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order is in place and that these are clearly and permanently marked out to reflect their use.
- 9.4 That at the end of the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order process (18 months) the project Steering Group will need to make a recommendation on whether to make the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order permanent or to have it disregarded.

10 Council Tax Energy Rebate Amendment to Implementing the Discretionary Fund

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Commissioning approved an amendment to the Discretionary Fund Policy in order to distribute all the discretionary funding.

11 Contract Award for the Development of a Design Code SPD

The Cabinet Member for Housing, Ecology and Climate Change approved the award of a contract to Building Design Partnership Limited for the development of a Design Code Supplementary Planning Document.

12 IT Strategy - scaffolding and interim support

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Commissioning:

- 12.1. Awarded a contract to Razorblue Ltd to provide 12 months (with an option to extend to 15 months) support to the council to both scaffold and provide additional resilience into the existing IT team, as well as deliver a range of baseline transformation projects. The contact award will be subject to a positive reference check.
- 12.2. Allowed repurposing of the existing ICT (vacant roles) salary budget to fund the support scaffolding contract across the 12 – 15 month period.
- 12.3. Utilised the £175k ICT transformation reserve to fund the baseline transformation project work and other works within the scope of the contract to achieve the ICT vision for Being A Better Council.

**Cllr Doug Pullen
Leader of the Council**