

## **REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

### **CABINET DECISIONS – 7 March 2023**

#### **1 Staffordshire Sustainability Board Communications Plan**

The Cabinet:

- 1.1 Noted the progress of the Staffordshire Sustainability Board in developing a unified 2023 programme of activity across the county and eight district and borough councils, to tackle climate change and work towards our net zero targets.
- 1.2 Approved the Staffordshire Sustainability Board joint communications plan, which sets out our 12-month programme of climate change awareness-raising and behaviour change activity.

#### **2 Local Council Tax Supporting Policies**

The Cabinet:

- 2.1 Approved the Council Tax Discretionary Policy.
- 2.2 Delegated authority to the Cabinet Member for Finance & Commissioning, in liaison with the Assistant Director for Customer, Resident and Business Services and the Council's S151 officer, to make minor amendments to the policy, and to create appendices to the policy that enable the council to award reliefs to individuals or classes of individuals in circumstances such as COVID or other emergencies, where the relief is fully funded by government.

#### **3 Being a Better Council – One Year Review**

The Cabinet:

- 3.1 Reviewed progress to date of the programme and in particular the indicators of success set.
- 3.2 Agreed the need to become 'entrepreneurial' in order to continue our improvement in Being A Better Council, and achieve our place shaping ambitions for the district

## **CABINET DECISIONS – 4 April 2023**

### **4 Housing Pathway Scheme Contract**

The Cabinet:

- 4.1 Awarded the contract to Spring Housing Association for an initial two-year term, with two optional extensions each of 12 months.
- 4.2 Delegated authority to the Cabinet Member for Housing, Ecology and Climate Change in consultation with the Assistant Director for Resident and Business Services to award the two optional extensions subject to the cost of the extensions being funded from existing budgets including external funding.

## **CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS**

### **5 Write-off of council tax debt relating to current Local Council Tax Support (LCTS) claimants**

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Commissioning to write-off of debts owed by those in receipt of Local Council Tax Support (LCTS) on the grounds that it is uneconomical to pursue the debt, or that pursuing the debt could cause financial hardship during the cost-of-living crisis.

### **6 Hybrid and Bulk Mail Solution**

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Commissioning awarded the contract to DSI Billing for 24 months with two optional extensions of 12 months.

### **7 Revised Housing Assistance Policy 2023**

The Cabinet Member for Housing, Ecology and Climate Change approved the amendments to the updated Housing Assistance Policy which includes:

- Increasing the value of Discretionary Disabled Facilities Grant Assistance to £30,000
- Inclusion of a second residence grant
- Amendments to the Discretionary Contributions Grant criteria to bring them in line with social care funding eligibility criteria.
- The policy also introduces a defined mechanism through which exceptional cases which exceed the policy-based funding might be considered, in line with best practice as outlined in the DFG Guidance 2022.

## **8 Reallocation of Section 106 Funds**

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economic Growth and Development:

- Reallocated £4,897.19 of remaining Section 106 funds related to development at Land to the rear of Royal Oak, Uttoxeter Road, Hill Ridware (14/00147/OUTM) to Mavesyn Ridware Parish Councils project 'Mavesyn Ridware Village Hall Play Area Improvements'.
- Reallocated £33,216.93 of remaining Section 106 funds related to Land at Easthill Farm, Fradley (07/00147/OUTM) to Fradley and Streethay Parish Councils project 'Fradley BMX Pumptrack.
- Reallocated £4,380 of remaining Section 106 funds related to Land at Easthill Farm, Fradley (07/00147/OUTM) to St Stephens Church for the project 'Upgrading of electrical heating in St Stephens Church, Fradley.

**Cllr Doug Pullen  
Leader of the Council**