

## REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

### CABINET DECISIONS – 5 September 2023

#### **1 Money Matters 2023/24 : Financial Monitoring**

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 an increase in the Streethay Community Centre budget of £250,000. This will increase the project budget from £600,000 to £850,000 and will be funded by £250,000 of Section 106 funding

#### **2 Local Plan Update**

The Cabinet:

- 2.1 Noted the progress made in responding to initial comments and queries received from the examiner, as part of the current progress of the plan submitted for examination in June 2022.
- 2.2 Recommended to Full Council to approve and instruct officers to take all necessary steps, including giving the required notice under the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended), to withdraw the Local Plan 2040 from examination, in accordance with section 22 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
- 2.3 Recommended to Full Council to approve the draft statement of withdrawal as set out at Appendix A of the Cabinet report for release.

#### **3 Council Tax Reduction Scheme as a Discount**

The Cabinet:

- 3.1 Approved transforming the way the council administers the local council tax reduction scheme and transforms it into a discount-based scheme from 1 November 2023, including the procurement of an intuitive form and campaign technology that can be met from within existing service budgets
- 3.2 Delegated any final decisions in relation to the roll out of the transformed scheme to the Cabinet Member for Finance & Commissioning in partnership with the Assistant Director of Customer, Resident & Business and Assistant Director of Finance & Commissioning (Section 151).

#### **4 Transforming Planning Service Proposal**

The Cabinet:

- 4.1 Approved the high-level proposals set out in section 4 of the Cabinet report to transform the planning service.
- 4.2 Delegated implementation of the proposals, including the potential to utilise the council's wholly owned trading company to deliver and enhance elements of the planning service, to the Leader of the Council, Assistant Director of Customer, Resident & Business and Assistant Director of Finance & Commissioning (Section 151), in particular where doing so will deliver a more strategic, robust and welcoming approach to major developments and is within existing budgets.

### **CABINET DECISIONS – 10 October 2023**

#### **5 Medium Term Financial Strategy**

The Cabinet:

- 5.1 Noted the current position on the development of the MTFS and the next steps.
- 5.2 Noted the feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 14 September 2023.
- 5.3 Reviewed the initial revenue investment (para 3.40 of the Cabinet report) and capital investment (para 3.54 of the Cabinet report) modelling identified in this report and to identify any further revenue and capital investment priorities for 2024/25 and beyond for potential future inclusion as the development of the MTFS progresses.

#### **6 LWMTS Annual Report**

The Cabinet:

- 6.1 Received and agreed the LWTMS Annual Report 2022/23.

#### **7 Community and Voluntary Sector Funding 2024 - 2027**

The Cabinet:

- 7.1 Approved the 2024-2027 VCS Funding Prospectus at Appendix 1 of the Cabinet report to be launched on the 18th October 2023.
- 7.2 Delegated authority to the Cabinet Member for Community Engagement in conjunction with the Chief Operating Officer to agree the funding awards, subject to the awards being within existing budgets and following consultation with an Officer Panel and a Member Panel.

## **CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS**

### **8 Council Tax Support Fund Update**

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Commissioning approved:

- The updated council tax support fund policy 2023/2024 (see appendix 1 of the Cabinet Member Report), which will see the remaining council tax support funds distributed as follows:
- An additional £150 council tax reduction will be awarded to local council tax claimants who were in receipt of the limited capability to work element in their universal credit on the 1 April 2023. This is in recognition of the fact the council's new local council tax support scheme for 2023/2024 does not take this benefit payment into consideration, and so such claimants received less financial support this year through the council's main work-age council tax reduction scheme. This would benefit approximately 228 residents and award £34,200.
- Any customers who submit a new claim for local council tax support during the 2023/24 financial year will receive the same up-to £50 reduction as those who were claiming it on 1 April 2023, until such time as the funding is exhausted. It is anticipated that sufficient funds would remain to allow for 623 new applicants for council tax support to receive the funding.
- That the funds are distributed using the council's discretionary powers under S13A(1) (C) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

### **9 Housing Allocation Scheme Amendment**

The Cabinet Member for Housing & Local Plan approved an amendment to two sections of the housing allocations scheme to better support customers who are living in potentially overcrowded accommodation.

### **10 LWMTS Business Plan**

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Commissioning and the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Parks and Major Projects agreed the revised LWTMS Business Plan (appendix A of the Cabinet member report) approved by the Company Board in June 2023.

### **11 Variable Messaging Signs (VMS) Hardware and Associated Services Contract Award**

The Cabinet Member for High Streets & Visitor Economy approved to award:

- The contract to Clearview Intelligence Ltd to provide 3 Variable Messaging Signs.
- A 3 year maintenance contract to Clearview Intelligence Ltd.
- A 3 year back-office communication contract to Clearview Intelligence Ltd

## **12 Review of Fees & Charges - Garden Waste**

12.1. The Cabinet Member for Waste, Recycling, Ecology and Climate Change approved the recommended increase in the Garden Waste collection charges, effective for the collection year 2024, due to launch in October 2023. This includes the £40 fee via direct debit and £42 fee via other payment methods.

12.2. The Cabinet Member for Waste, Recycling, Ecology and Climate Change in consultation with the Assistant Director Operations Regulation and Enforcement will review the charge for Garden Waste on an annual basis and adjust the fee accordingly in line with CPI (the immediate preceding September for the forthcoming subscription year) and the corporate charging policy, subject to consultation with the Joint Waste Board.

## **13 Website Contract**

13.1. The Leader of the Council approved the renewal of the Jadu contract through the GCloud framework for a period of three years, with the option to extend for one year, subject to usual financial checks and guarantees. The cost of this can be met from within existing budgets and is included in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

13.2. The Leader of the Council noted that a design refresh of the council will be carried out in Autumn 2023 and that the costs of this can be met within from within existing capital budgets.

## **14 Appointment of LATCo Board Member (Called-in)**

The Cabinet Member for Leisure, Parks & Major Projects approved the decision to appoint Councillor Alex Farrell as Director of Lichfield West Midlands Traded Services Ltd.

## **15 To run a procurement process for the Birmingham Road multi-storey car park demolition and associated landscaping works**

The Cabinet Member for Leisure, Parks & Major Projects approved the open tender procurement process to appoint a demolition and landscaping contractor to carry out the demolition and associated works. The works will include the demolition of the Birmingham Road multi-storey car park and landscaping works, with the option to include the demolition of retail units associated with the Birmingham Road Site cinema development.

## **16 Business Rates Pilot**

The Cabinet Member for Finance & Commissioning approved a Business Rates Pilot

on the basis that this will maximise business rates revenue to the district council, up to a maximum spend of £75,000.

**17 Database support for Revenues & Benefits System**

The Cabinet Member for Finance & Commissioning approved the procurement of additional database support from NEC Software Solutions Ltd for the revenues and benefits system up until 31 March 2025. The cost of which will be met from within existing revenue budgets.

**Cllr Doug Pullen  
Leader of the Council**