

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

CABINET DECISIONS – 6 February 2024

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 Approved the commencement of an open procurement process and to delegate the award of the contract for the housing redevelopment for the Bore Street Shops to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Commissioning subject to the full cost being within Approved Budgets.
- 1.3 Approved the commissioning works to enable the Council to prepare for mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain (BGN) and establish a brokerage service from LWMTS for £70,000 (funded by BNG grant of £52,857 and Council funding of £17,143).

2 Medium Term Financial Strategy

The Cabinet:

- 2.1 Delegated to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Commissioning and the Assistant Director – Customer, Resident and Business Services responsibility to award Retail Discount and Supporting Small Business Relief to businesses which are eligible during 2024/25.

The Cabinet recommended to Council for approval:

- 2.2 The 2024/25 Revenue Budget of £15,330,000, Council Tax Requirement of £7,929,000 and a District Council proposed Band D Council Tax for 2024/25 of £192.85 (an increase of £5 or 2.66% on 2023/24).
- 2.3 The MTFS 2023-28 Revenue Budgets and 25 year revenue financial planning model in APPENDIX A of the Cabinet report.
- 2.4 The MTFS 2023-28 Capital Strategy including the 25 year capital investment model and the Capital Programme shown in APPENDICES B & C of the Cabinet report.
- 2.5 The recommended increase in the Minimum Level of General Reserves from £1,900,000 to £2,000,000.
- 2.6 The recommended approach to funding Business-as-Usual Capital Investment in 2027/28.

- 2.7 The updated approach to the pay award in 2024/25, planning fees, car parking fees, contract/other inflation, regeneration initiatives and Treasury Management investment income.
- 2.8 The recommended provisional inclusion of a cost of living contingency budget of £50,000 in 2025/26.
- 2.9 The recommended increase of £398,000 in 2024/25 and the provisional inclusion of an in-year growth/contingency budget of £250,000 in 2025/26.
- 2.10 The Minimum Revenue Provision Statement for 2024/25, at APPENDIX D of the Cabinet report, which sets out the Council's policy of using the asset life method for making prudent provision for debt redemption.
- 2.11 Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2024/25 APPENDIX E.
- 2.12 The Investment Strategy Report (APPENDIX F of the Cabinet report) where no changes are recommended for 2024/25.
- 2.13 The Capital and Treasury Prudential Indicators for 2023-28 in the financial implications section.
- 2.14 The Authorised Limit Prudential Indicator shown within the financial implications section.

The Cabinet noted:
- 2.15 The requirements and duties that the Local Government Act 2003 places on the Authority on how it sets and monitors its Budgets, including the CFO's report on the robustness of the Budget and adequacy of Reserves shown in APPENDIX G of the Cabinet report.
- 2.16 The results of the Budget Consultation summarised at APPENDIX H of the Cabinet report.

CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS

3 Reallocation of Section 106 Funds

- 3.1 The Cabinet Member for Housing & Local Plan approved to reallocate £13,224.95 of remaining Section 106 funds related to development at 7-9 High Street, Chasetown (12/00063/FULM) to Burntwood Town Councils project 'Refreshing the Meeting Space at Old Mining College'

- 3.2 The Cabinet Member for Housing & Local Plan approved to allocate £10,343.12 of Section 106 funds related to Elford Sports and Social Club, 13 The Beck, Elford (19/01707/OUTM) to Elford Parish Councils project 'Elford Sportsfield Pavilion Refurbishment'.

4 Greenways Project - Basic Asset Protection Agreement

- 4.1 The Cabinet Member for High Streets & Visitor Economy to sign the Basic Asset Protection Agreement which will allow works to commence on-site ahead of the lease agreement and will provide an opportunity to begin clearance works

That £100k UK SPF monies is allocated to the Greenways project:

- £75k allocated to the Basic Asset Protection Agreement costs
- £25k allocated to cover legal fees & enabling works

- 4.2 To receive a grant from GBSLEP Future Impact Fund, funded by distribution of GBSLEP surplus reserves to Lichfield District Council of £77,554 towards the delivery of the Greenways project.

5 Introduction of Digital Electoral Polling System

- 5.1 The Leader of the Council approved the immediate purchase of the Modern Polling system and to enter a 4-year contract for the system with Modern Democracy; and
- 5.2 Delegated authority to the Returning Officer to sign any required updated agreements to facilitate data sharing, data protection and cyber security to ensure compliance with requirements of the Elections Act 2022.

CIlr Doug Pullen
Leader of the Council