

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

CABINET DECISIONS – 5 March 2024

1. Governance of Planning Obligations - Strategic Infrastructure Group and Allocation of Community Infrastructure Levy

The Cabinet approved:

- 1.1 The revised membership of SIG in Table 1 of the Cabinet report.
- 1.2 The creation an annual 'Infrastructure List' within the Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS) which would set out a shortlist of strategic projects and/or types of projects that would be eligible for applications for CIL funding that year.
- 1.3 The revised CIL governance and administration procedures (Appendix A of the Cabinet report), and the allocation and spend of CIL additional guidance (Appendix B of the Cabinet report) documents to reflect the proposed changes.

2. Local Plan Update

The Cabinet:

- 2.1 Noted the initial work that has started on a new local plan following the successful withdrawal of the Local Plan 2040.
- 2.2 Approved the publication of the revised Local Development Scheme 2024 (Appendix A of the Cabinet report).
- 2.3 Approved the proposal to establish 'Local Plan Member Briefing and Information Sessions'.
- 2.4 Delegated authority to the Cabinet Member for Housing & Local Plan, in consultation with the Policy & Strategy Manager for the following:
 - Update and publish the council's Local Development Scheme as required when the timetable for local plan progression has changed.
 - Review and publish on the council's website the technical studies that form the evidence base that will underpin the new local plan when it becomes available.
 - Review and agree to the submission of formal responses on behalf of the council on neighbouring authorities local plan consultations, neighbourhood plan consultations, national government consultations or other consultations on plan-making matters where appropriate, and to sign agreements with neighbouring authorities on plan-making matters including Statements of Common Ground.

3. Sale of 29 to 33 Levetts Field, Lichfield

The Cabinet:

- 3.1 Accepted the offer detailed within confidential Appendix B of the Cabinet report and agreed to the disposal of 29 to 33 Levetts Field, Lichfield.
- 3.2 Delegated authority to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Commissioning and the Assistant Director Finance and Commissioning to complete all legal agreements necessary to complete the disposal.
- 3.3 Recommended to Council to update the Medium Term Financial Strategy to include a project in the Capital Programme of up to £250,000 for Strategic Priorities within the District funded by the net capital receipt.

CABINET DECISIONS – 9 April 2024

4. Design Code for the Birmingham Road Development Site

The Cabinet:

- 4.1 Recommended to Full Council to adopt the Design Code for the Birmingham Road Site (BRS).
- 4.2 Recommended to Full Council that delegated authority is given to the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive to make minor changes to the BRS Design Code without referring to Council.

5. Lichfield District Design Code Supplementary Planning Document

The Cabinet:

- 5.1 Noted the progress of the Lichfield District Design Code to date, including the summary of the responses which were received to the informal consultation held at the end of 2023.
- 5.2 Approved the Lichfield District Design Code SPD for the purpose of undertaking public consultation between April 22nd and June 3rd 2024 and approve the approach to consultation as detailed at paragraphs 3.9 to 3.11 of the report.
- 5.3 Delegated authority to the Cabinet Member for Housing & Local Plan, in consultation with the Policy & Strategy Manager to make any minor typographical and visual amendments to the SPD ahead of public consultation.

6. Delivering Temporary Accommodation for Vulnerable Adults

The Cabinet:

- 6.1 Approved the spend of commuted sums and Right to Buy receipts, projected to the end of the current financial year, on delivering new temporary accommodation in the district and to delegate the selection of units to the Cabinet Member for Housing & the Local Plan, S151 Officer and Assistant Director for Customer, Resident & Business Services, subject to a completed options appraisal (see recommendation 2.3 of the Cabinet report) and council approval of recommendation 2.4 of the Cabinet report.
- 6.2 Requested the purchase, refitting and management of the properties purchased using the funding agreed, for the purpose of delivering new temporary accommodation is carried out by the council's wholly owned company LWM Traded Services Ltd.
- 6.3 Acknowledged that a wrap-around support package will be required to ensure the welfare of individuals and families placed in the temporary accommodation units and the ongoing maintenance and management of units delegates the delivery of an options appraisal into the most effective support package delivery model to the Cabinet Member for Housing & the Local Plan, the S151 Officer and Assistant Director for Customer, Resident & Business Services, subject to the costs of the delivery being within approved budgets.
- 6.4 Recommended to Council to increase the approved budget in the capital programme for new temporary accommodation in the district by £979,000 from £1,178,000 to £2,157,000 with funding provided by additional projected housing capital receipts of (£979,000). Future commuted sums and capital receipts may be allocated to further affordable housing as part of the normal budget monitoring process.

7. Skateboard Facility at Burntwood Leisure Centre

- 7.1 Approved the installation of a new Skatepark facility at Burntwood Leisure Centre with operational management and responsibility for maintenance assigned to Lichfield West Midlands Traded Services Ltd.
- 7.2 Delegated to the Deputy Leader and Property Services and Estates Manager responsibility to agree all necessary agreements to facilitate the project subject to financial implications being within Approved Budgets.
- 7.3 Recommended to Council to include a project in the Capital Programme for the new Skateboard Facility of £106,000 with (£86,000) of funding provided by Section 106 and a contribution from Burntwood Town Council of (£20,000).

(Councillors Cox, Silvester-Hall and Wilcox declared an interest in item as a Staffordshire County Councillors)

(S. Fletcher and K. Dove declared an interest in this item as Directors of LWMTS)

8. Lichfield District 2050 Strategy

The Cabinet:

- 8.1 Reviewed the key findings from the public consultation on the draft strategy and agreed the amendments made to the strategy as a result.
- 8.2 Reviewed the feedback from Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the consultation results, the Strategy and the Delivery Plan.
- 8.3 Endorsed the Lichfield District 2050 Strategy and recommends its adoption by Full Council (Appendix B of the Cabinet report).
- 8.4 Agreed the Year 1 Delivery Plan (Appendix C of the Cabinet report).
- 8.5 Delegated finalising the details of the Lichfield District 2050 Strategy and the Year 1 Delivery Plan to the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive, prior to final publication.

9. Securing an Anchor Food and Beverage Tenant for the Cinema Complex

The Cabinet:

- 9.1 Subject to the receipt of external assurance that the proposed Head of Terms and lease provides Best Value to the Council, approved and delegated authority to the three Council LLP Board Representatives (Leader of the Council, Chief Executive and Chief Operating Officer) to agree on behalf of the Council that the LLP enters a lease with the tenant. The delegation is based on the Head of Terms included in the confidential report, is subject to Council approving recommendation 2.2 of the Cabinet report and resulting financial implications for the Council remaining within Approved Budgets.
- 9.2 Agreed and recommended to Full Council to update the Medium-Term Financial Strategy:
 - To increase the budget in the Capital Programme by £1,700,000 to fund the capital contribution contained within the Head of Terms. The plan is for the borrowing need created by the capital contribution to initially be funded through internal borrowing.
 - Then to:
 - A. Either allocate the first £1,700,000 of capital receipts generated from the sale of land in the Birmingham Road Site to fund the capital contribution and negate the creation of borrowing need or;
 - B. In the event the capital receipt does not reach the £1,700,000 level, or Council does not approve its allocation to this project, to approve the identification of budgetary savings (to maintain the level of Approved risk 'headroom') equivalent to the Central Scenario annual Capital Financing Costs by ensuring no increase in the funding gap.

- Continued the approach that the MTFS is based on a neutral (no surplus or deficit or capital receipts are included) budget position until more informed financial projections are provided through the Business Plan. Any future changes following receipt of the Business Plan will be reported in line with the Council's budget monitoring and any budget approvals will be in line with the budget framework

(Councillor Pullen, S. Fletcher and K. Dove declared an interest in this item as Directors of Darwin Prospects LLP).

CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS

10. The Amendment of an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) for the Pedestrianisation of Lichfield City Centre

The Cabinet Member for High Streets & Visitor Economy approved that the pedestrianisation ETRO is amended as shown in the Cabinet Member Decision Notice.

11. To award a contract for the Birmingham Road multi-storey car park demolition and associated works

The Deputy Leader and the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Parks & Major Projects approved an award of a contract to Cawarden Co. Ltd for a maximum 26-week programme of work with a value of £824,944.40 for the demolition of the Birmingham Road multi-storey car park, four retail units and associated landscaping works.

12. LWMTS Business Plan 2024/25

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Commissioning and the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Parks and Major Projects agreed the LWMTS Business Plan for 2024/25 approved by the Company Board in March 2024.

13. Discretionary Business Rates Policy

The Cabinet Member for Finance & Commissioning approved the new policy.

14. Launch of Planning Transformation Initiatives and Fees

The Leader of the Council approved the proposed new local planning fees that are to be launched from 1 April 2024.

15. Membership of West Midlands Employers

The Leader of the Council approved:

- That West Midlands Employers be notified of the Council's intention to terminate its membership.
- That the process of termination together with the implications, as set out in the report, be noted.
- That the final termination be subject to the Leader of the Council reviewing the statement of liabilities once prepared and submitted by West Midlands Employers and any costs related to the liabilities being within Approved Budgets.

16. Private Healthcare Insurance Provider

The Leader of the Council awarded the one year contract for private health insurance for staff of Lichfield District Council to AXA Health.

**Cllr Doug Pullen
Leader of the Council**