

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

CABINET DECISIONS – 30 July 2024

1 Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG): Year One

The Cabinet:

- 1.1 Noted the performance of LWMTS to date and future direction of travel/priorities.

(Cllr Farrell, S Fletcher and K Dove each declared an interest in this item as directors of LWMTS)

2 Money Matters: 2023/24 Financial Monitoring

The Cabinet:

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 Noted the level of general and earmarked reserves at 31 March 2024.
- 2.3 Approved £7,162,000 of Capital Programme slippage related to 2023/24 being added to the Approved Budget in 2024/25 as outlined at APPENDIX C in the cabinet report.
- 2.4 Delegated responsibility to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Commissioning and the Director Finance, Regulation and Enforcement to make updates to Prudential Indicators based on more up to date information as the accounts are finalised in advance of approval by Council.
- 2.5 Subject to review by Audit Committee, recommended to Council to approve the actual 2023/24 Prudential Indicators.

3 Procurement Matters Update 2023/24

The Cabinet:

- 3.1 Noted the contents of this report and the progress against planned actions in the Action Plan for 2023/24, Procurement projects for 2023/2024 and the updated self assessment against the National Procurement Strategy.
- 3.2 Approved the Future Procurement Plan/pipeline for 2024/25 shown at APPENDIX D in the Cabinet report to enable procurement exercises to be undertaken with winning bid contracts being approved either via a Cabinet Member Decision or Cabinet Approval.
- 3.3 Noted the update on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking for 2023/24.

4 Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)

The Cabinet:

- 4.1 Approved the approach in paragraph 1.6 in the Cabinet report to develop the refreshed Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- 4.2 Delegated to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Commissioning, responsibility to agree the form and timetable for the Budget Consultation covering 2025/26.
- 4.3 Approved the virement of £400,000 of budget from the projects detailed at 3.30 to increase the project budget for the new 3G pitch in Lichfield from £400,000 to £800,000.
- 4.4 Recommended to Council to update the Medium Term Financial Strategy to include a project in the Capital Programme for the implementation of Food Waste Collection for the Joint Waste Service of £1,766,540 funded by Government Grant (Lichfield DC (£1,131,640) and Tamworth BC (£634,900)).

5 Civic Matrix – Recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny (O&S) Committee

The Cabinet agreed:

- 5.1 That no determination of events required input from the Leader or Chief Executive as exists in the current matrix.
- 5.2 That the most appropriate Civic Head should attend functions.
- 5.3 To amalgamate the Chair and Vice-Chair's budgets.
- 5.4 To have a budget for clothing, with a maximum appropriate level to be set by Cabinet with a suggested limit of £200 per person.
- 5.6 That having reviewed the operation of the matrix, Cabinet recommends that the requirement for a civic matrix be withdrawn, with decisions on event invitations to now be determined by the Chair and Vice-Chair, with support from the Civic Officer.
- 5.7 That for transparency and accountability, Cabinet recommends that the Chair include a record of all events the Chair & Vice Chair have attended since last Full Council within the 'Chair's Announcements'

6 Staffordshire Leaders Board – Terms of Reference

The Cabinet:

- 6.1 Noted and agreed to the updated Terms of Reference for the Leaders' Board (see Appendix A of the Cabinet report)

7 Joint Waste Service Fleet Procurement

The Cabinet:

- 7.1 It is recommended that Cabinet delegate the award of the contract to the preferred bidder to Lichfield District Council's Cabinet Member for Operational Services, Parks & Waste, the Director for Resident & Business Services and the Director of Finance, Regulation & Enforcement (S151), subject to approval by Tamworth Borough Council's Full Council in September of the proposed contract award, and final contract discussions with the preferred supplier, provided it is deliverable within the allocated budget of £11.6m over seven years.
- 7.2 Noted a PCR-compliant tendering exercise was conducted and the preferred bidder demonstrated most economically advantageous tender and scored most highly in the quality criteria – see Appendix one of the Cabinet report for a full breakdown of price and quality scores (confidential).
- 7.3 Noted the new contract will offer the option to run all vehicles on hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO), which is the first stage in a transformation towards an alternatively fuelled fleet. A move to HVO would be subject to further Cabinet approval, based on considerations in relation to HVO fuel costs, availability and impact on efficiency and carbon targets.
- 7.4 Noted the proposed contract also offers some level of flexibility and should other forms of greener vehicles become available and practical to manage as part of the council's fleet in the future, the contract will allow for newer, greener vehicles to be switched in, subject to contract variation.
- 7.5 Noted the contract includes the option to extend a further seven years beyond the first seven-year contract period and delegates to Lichfield District Council's Cabinet Member for Operational Services, Parks & Waste, in consultation with Tamworth Borough Council, the Director for Resident & Business Services and the Director of Finance, Regulation & Enforcement (S151) the ability to exercise extension options provided the cost is deliverable within the approved budget.

CABINET DECISIONS – 10 September 2024

8 Money Matters: 2023/24 Financial Monitoring

The Cabinet:

- 8.1 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.
- 8.2 Approved the virement of £225,000 of budget from the projects detailed at paragraph 3.33 of the Cabinet report to include a project budget for Pedestrianisation implementation in Lichfield City of £225,000.
- 8.3 Accepted the Better Care Fund Grant of £1,209,854 and recommended to Council to increase the Disabled Facilities Grant Capital Budget by £169,000 from £1,041,000 to £1,210,000 in 2024/25.

9 LWM Annual Report 2023/2024

The Cabinet:

- 9.1 Reviewed the LWM Traded Services Ltd Annual Report 2023/24 and approved its publication.

(Cllr Farrell, S Fletcher and K Dove each declared an interest in this item as directors of LWMTS)

10 City Centre Pedestrianisation

The Cabinet:

- 10.1 Approved that the current ETRO in Lichfield City becomes a permanent Traffic Regulation Order (TRO).
- 10.2 Delegated the approval of a contract for the supply and installation of a Rising Bollard System within Lichfield City Centre to support the implementation and management of the TRO to the Cabinet Member for Visitor Economy, Ecology and Climate Change and Chief Operating Officer, subject to costs being within approved budgets.
- 10.3 Noted the progress on and provide feedback on the feasibility of the Bore Street realignment.
- 10.4 Tasked the Cabinet Member for Visitor Economy, Ecology and Climate Change and Chief Operating Officer to continue to progress discussions with Staffordshire County Council on Bore Street realignment, and report back to Cabinet.

CABINET DECISIONS – 8 October 2024

11 Local Plan Issues and Options

The Cabinet:

- 11.1 Noted the progress to date on the new local plan and its associated evidence base.
- 11.2 Approved the Local Plan 2043: Issues and Options document, the Habitat Regulations Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal for public consultation between 30 October and 11 December 2024 and approved the approach to consultation as laid out in the report.
- 11.3 Delegated authority to the Cabinet Member for Housing & Local Plan, in consultation with the Policy and Strategy Manager, to make any minor changes to the appearance, format and text of the Issues and Options document (and associated evidence documents) in the interests of clarity and accuracy prior to their publication for consultation.
- 11.4 Delegated authority to the Cabinet Member for Housing & Local Plan, in consultation with the Policy and Strategy Manager, to agree the arrangements for any consultation events or activities.

12 Staffordshire's Net Zero Planning Policy Commitments

The Cabinet:

- 12.1 Discussed and provided feedback on the broad policy directions in Staffordshire County Council's NetZero planning policy document ahead of the Staffordshire Leader's Board on 7th November 2024.
- 12.2 Agreed that the council signs its commitment to Staffordshire's Climate Emergency - planning policy as part of the development of policies in our new local plan.

(Cllr Cox declared an interest in this item as a member of Staffordshire County Council)

13 Infrastructure Funding Statement

The Cabinet:

- 13.1 Approved the publication of the IFS 2024 in line with statutory requirements set out in the Community Infrastructure Levy (Amendment) (England)(No. 2) Regulations 2019.
- 13.2 Noted monies received, held and spent from CIL and s106 in the financial year 2023/2024.
- 13.3 Approved the proposed Infrastructure List (IL), which outlines a shortlist of strategic projects and/or types of projects eligible for CIL funding applications in 2024/2025.

14. Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)

The Cabinet:

- 14.1 Noted the current position on the development of the MTFS and the next steps.
- 14.2 Noted the feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 2 October 2024.
- 14.3 Identified any Revenue Budget and Capital Investment priorities including the approach to using 'windfall' income from the Local Government Finance Settlement for 2025/26 to fund Business-as-Usual; capital investment in 2028/29.
- 14.4 Recommended to Council that a new project is added to the Capital Programme in 2024/25 of £50,000 for changing room refurbishment at Burntwood Leisure Centre. The funding will be provided by the Leisure Centres Compensation Reserve.

CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS

15 ICT Helpdesk Contract

The Cabinet Member for Finance & Procurement awarded a contract to Razorblue Ltd to provide an ICT Helpdesk service to the council for 3 years.

16 Allocation of S106 funding to sport pitch provision in Burntwood

The Cabinet Member for Operational Services, Parks & Waste agreed that £65,016 S106 funding be allocated to the following projects:

- £6,700 - construction of a car park at Burntwood Park.
- £14,950 - installation of netting to create a football pitch at Burntwood Park.
- £2,500 - supply and installation of goal posts, and relocation of existing benches.
- £39,166 - improvements to fencing around the artificial football pitch at Burntwood Leisure Centre.
- £1700 – additional contribution towards netting to fencing

17 Lichfield District Council Productivity Plan 2024

The Leader of the Council approved the 'Lichfield District Council Productivity Plan 2024' prior to its submission to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (previously the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities).

18 Annual Garden Waste Subscription Charge Amendment

The Cabinet Member for Operational Services, Parks & Waste approved the annual price increase for the coming year's subscriptions based on June's CPI figures, which are released in July annually by the Office for National Statistics. The final subscription price will also be rounded up or down to the nearest 50 pence.

This decision will also see the Cabinet Member responsible for waste services approve the price increase through delegated powers, in consultation with the Director responsible for waste services and the Council's Section 151 officer. Furthermore variations in pricing can also be agreed through the same delegation to support promotions (for example to encourage take-up of direct debits), provided these can be funded from within the service, without placing additional pressure on

the Medium Term Financial Strategy and any discounting approach is in line with the approved corporate charging policy.

19 To award a contract for the Development Manager Role to cover RIBA Stages 5&6 for the construction of a new leisure centre and associated landscaping works at Stychbrook Park

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Leisure & Major Projects awarded a contract to Total Swimming Ltd with a value of £646,955 for the Development Manager Role to Cover RIBA stages 5&6 for build and handover of a leisure centre and associated landscaping works at Stychbrook Park.

20 To award a contract for the construction of a new leisure centre and associated landscaping works at Stychbrook Park

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Leisure & Major Projects awarded a contract to Stepnell Construction Ltd for a maximum 56-week programme of work with a value of £9,490,059 for the creation of a leisure centre and associated landscaping works at Stychbrook Park.

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Leisure & Major Projects confirmed that a 'Letter of Intent' was issued to Stepnell Construction Ltd on Tuesday 13 August to the value of £750,000.00 excluding VAT, so that works could begin on the construction programme, whilst the VE exercise took place, and the contract is finalised and signed.

21 HNDU Detailed Project Development of the Heat Network

The Cabinet Member for Visitor Economy, Ecology & Climate Change awarded a contract to undertake a review of the possible options for minimising carbon emissions within Shenstone and Stonnall.

22 Supply and Installation of Bollards for the Pedestrianisation of Lichfield City Centre

The Cabinet Member for Visitor Economy, Ecology and Climate Change awarded a contract to Macs Automated Bollard Systems with a value of £112,646 for the supply, installation, and maintenance of bollards at three locations: Tamworth Street, Bird Street and Sandford Street.

23 On Demand Transport Project

The Cabinet Member for Visitor Economy, Ecology & Climate Change agreed to appoint WeDRT to deliver two on demand transport projects - 'Application and Call Centre' (408b) and 'Vehicle and Drivers' (408a) for a trial period commencing October 2024, funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

24 Delivering Temporary Accommodation For Vulnerable Adults And Families

To commence the investment of £2,157,000 of capital reserves, generated from commuted sums and right to buy receipts, into the provision of temporary

accommodation across the district, primarily through the purchase and refurbishment of existing built properties following the completion of an options appraisal as required by Cabinet on 9 April 2024, subject to the cost of acquisition and operating costs being within approved budgets.

To note that Cabinet has delegated the selection of the temporary accommodation units to the Cabinet Member for Housing & the Local Plan, S151 Officer, and Director for Resident & Business Services* which will commence on approval of this decision notice.

To note that £150,000 of the £2,157,000 will be set aside to support the potential delivery of rough sleeping homelessness units/pods, which will be subject to further Cabinet support and planning permission.

To note that we are seeking support of Homes England to support a potential increased investment in temporary accommodation. If successful, this will result in an increase in the project budget available that will be funded by external funding from Homes England.

**Cllr Doug Pullen
Leader of the Council**