

CABINET – TUESDAY, 11 JULY 2023

DECISION NOTICE

The following decisions were taken on Tuesday, 11 July 2023 by Cabinet.

Date notified to all Members: **Wednesday 12 July 2023**
End of the call-in period is **12 noon on Monday 17 July 2023**.

These decisions will not be implemented until after this date and time.

Present: P Peacock, R Cozens, S Crosby, L Brazier, K Melton, E Oldham, M Spoons, P Taylor and
R Holloway

<u>Agenda Item No.</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Decision</u>	<u>Action By</u>
6.	Commercial Plan Update	<p>AGREED that Cabinet note the update on the Commercial Plan.</p> <p><u>Reasons for Decision:</u> To share how the Council is seeking to address our forecast financial deficit.</p> <p><u>Options considered:</u> Not applicable.</p>	Nick Wilson, Business Manager – Financial Services
7.	Corporate Annual Budget Strategy for 2024/25	<p>AGREED that Cabinet:</p> <p>a) approve the overall General Fund, Capital & HRA Budget Strategy for 2024/25;</p> <p>b) note the consultation process with Members;</p> <p>c) note that Budget Officers continue work on the assessment of various budget proposals affecting services for consideration in setting the Council's budget; and</p> <p>d) note that Budget Managers work with finance officers in identifying further efficiency savings, increasing income from fees and charges and in identifying new sources of income.</p> <p><u>Reasons for Decision:</u> To enable the Council's budget process to proceed encompassing agreed assumptions.</p>	Nick Wilson, Business Manager – Financial Services

		<p><u>Options considered:</u> Not applicable. The Council's Constitution sets out the process for developing the Council's Annual Budget.</p>	
8.	Annual Review of Exempt Items	<p>AGREED that the report be noted, with no items being released into the public domain given they were all considered as still containing exempt information.</p> <p><u>Reasons for Decision:</u> To review previous exempt reports considered by the Cabinet over the previous 12 months.</p> <p><u>Options considered:</u> None, this report is a useful tool in reviewing previous exempt items of business in order to release any into the public domain if considered appropriate.</p>	Nigel Hill, Business Manager – Elections & Democratic Services
9.	Customer Experience Strategy 2023-2027 (Key Decision)	<p>AGREED that Cabinet:</p> <p>(a) approve, in principle and subject to consultation, the Customer Experience Strategy and Customer Promise; and</p> <p>(b) approve the proposed pilot (as detailed in Paragraph 2.3 of the report).</p> <p><u>Reasons for Decision:</u> The Council does not currently have a Customer Experience Strategy, this is a document which sets out our key principles to guide all customer interactions. Whilst the Customer Experience Strategy and Customer Promise do not directly link to the Community Plan, it relates to every service, as it outlines the behaviours all Council employees and representatives will embody when interacting with customers. The Customer Experience Strategy and Customer Promise are important as they shape the quality of our customer interactions.</p> <p><u>Options considered:</u> Continue with no Council wide strategy and see no improvements.</p>	Jill Baker, Business Manager - Customer Services

10.	Ollerton Hall (Key Decision)	<p>AGREED that Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) note and welcome the updates provided; b) approve an amendment to the proposed terms of sale to allow an earlier disposal to the Council's preferred developer (Severns Developments (Middleton House) Ltd) for the Agreed Purchase Price detailed at Exempt Appendix A subject to completion of all identified necessary heritage works as detailed at Appendix B to the report; and c) any renegotiation of sale on the disposal be firstly agreed by the Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Performance & Finance in consultation with the Section 151 Officer and Director – Planning & Growth. <p><u>Reasons for Decision:</u> To dispose of Ollerton Hall and secure the long-term future of the building.</p> <p><u>Options considered:</u> Cabinet could decide not to agree to the proposed revisions to the terms of sale and present the building back to the market for disposal. Members will be aware this building and site has a long history of failed attempts to secure a viable and acceptable re-use for the site. A return to the market would lead to delay and is unlikely, in the opinion of Officers, to find an acceptable and fundable solution given the difficult balance of reinstating heritage value and securing a deliverable scheme.</p>	Matt Lamb, Director - Planning and Growth
11.	Plan Review Progress Report	<p>AGREED that Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) note and support the contents of the report; b) adopt the amendment to the Plan Review timetable (Local Development Scheme) as set in Section 3 of the report, to come into force on 18 July 2023; and c) request that the Chief Executive call an Extraordinary Full Council meeting be held on 20 September 2023 to agree publication of the Amended Allocations & Development Management 	Matthew Norton, Business Manager - Planning Policy

		<p>DPD.</p> <p><u>Reasons for Decision:</u></p> <p>a) To allow Cabinet to note progress on the Plan Review.</p> <p>b) To agree an amendment to the timetable so that the Local Development Scheme can be updated to comply with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and appropriate regulations.</p> <p>c) To allow the Council to agree to the publication of the Amended Allocations & Development Management DPD in September 2022.</p> <p><u>Options considered:</u></p> <p>It is considered that delaying the plan production or starting the process of plan production afresh would deliver any benefits to the Council, as neither would more efficiently address the current planning situation with regard to GRT pitch provision.</p>	
12.	Newark and Sherwood's Housing Strategy and Delivery Plan 2023-2028 (Key Decision)	<p>AGREED that Cabinet approves the Housing Strategy and Delivery Plan 2023 – 2028, noting the addition of the incorporation into the Strategy the needs of care leavers or those with lived experience of the care system.</p> <p><u>Reasons for Decision:</u></p> <p>The Council does not currently have a district wide Housing Strategy and Delivery Plan (the previous strategy expired in 2016). This document sets out the key issues affecting housing in Newark and Sherwood and the impact these have on residents, sets out how the Council will work in partnership to address the issues identified and demonstrates alignment with other key strategies and plans.</p> <p><u>Options considered:</u></p> <p>Continue with no formal Housing Strategy and Delivery Plan and increase the scope for a lack of co-ordination, communication, and accountability for housing services.</p>	Cara Clarkson, Strategic Housing
13.	Social Housing	AGREED that Cabinet:	Caroline

	<p>Decarbonisation Fund Wave 2.1 (Key Decision)</p>	<p>a) endorse the project plan and accept receipt of grant funding of £1.306m from the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund, which will be drawn down in arrears; and</p> <p>b) approve an increase in the Capital Programme of £458,106 in 2023/24 and £676,235 in 2024/25 equivalent to the Capital grant due which is the match funding being provided by the Council.</p> <p><u>Reasons for Decision:</u> This Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund provides 50% grant funding for 102 of the Council’s housing to have carbon neutral and lower cost-effective heating for tenants who currently have oil boiler heating systems. It meets both Community Plan objectives to create better homes as a landlord and improve tenants wellbeing by reducing fuel poverty and contributing to reducing carbon emissions.</p> <p><u>Options considered:</u> As detailed in the report, there were no viable alternatives and taking no action would make it harder for the Council to meet the Government requirements on Energy Performance Certificates and decarbonisation of social housing stock.</p>	<p>Wagstaff, Business Manager- Housing Maintenance and Asset Management</p>
<p>14.</p>	<p>Local Authority Housing Fund - Request for Delegated Authority (Key Decision)</p>	<p>AGREED that Cabinet approve the following delegated authority:</p> <p>a) purchase of property with a value of £300k or less be delegated to Director - Housing, Health & Wellbeing; and</p> <p>b) purchase of property with a value over £300k be delegated to the Portfolio Holder for Housing, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Section 151 Officer subject to Key Decision requirements.</p> <p><u>Reasons for Decision:</u> To enable the Council to fulfil our obligations under the Local Authority Housing Fund Scheme to purchase 14 market sale properties in a timely manner between April and November 2023.</p> <p>The delivery of this scheme aligns with our community</p>	<p>Julie Davidson, Business Manager- Housing and Estates</p>

		<p>plan to “create vibrant and self-sufficient local communities where residents look out for each other and actively contribute to their local area”.</p> <p><u>Options considered:</u> Continue with no delegated authority and fail to meet financial deadlines required to fulfil our obligations of the Scheme.</p>	
15.	Tenant Engagement Strategy	<p>AGREED that Cabinet approve the Tenant Engagement Strategy.</p> <p><u>Reasons for Decision:</u> Effective Tenant Engagement is not optional; this strategy sets out how we will engage in order to meet our legal obligations as set out by the Regulator for Social Housing</p> <p>The delivery of this scheme aligns with our community plan to “Create vibrant and self-sufficient local communities where residents look out for each other and actively contribute to their local area”.</p> <p><u>Options considered:</u> Continue with no Council wide strategy and fail to meet our legal obligations with regard to tenant engagement.</p>	Julie Davidson, Business Manager- Housing and Estates
16.	Responding to Increased Demand In Anti-Social Behaviour and Safeguarding	<p>AGREED that Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) note the current work on Anti-Social Behaviour and Community Safety as set out in Section 1 of the report; b) approve the additional one full-time post to the Council’s establishment; c) approve the overspend in salaries 2023-24 funded by the overall predicted overall council General Fund underspend in year; and d) approve the growth of salary budget set out in the report for all future years from 2024-25 <p><u>Reasons for Decision:</u> To note the current work the Council currently</p>	Jenny Walker, Business Manager – Public Protection

undertakes to tackle Anti-Social Behaviour within the district and to look how this can be improved and enhanced ensuring support for the team and residents.

Options considered:

Continuing service delivery with existing resources which would not help to combat the increasing demand.