

CABINET – TUESDAY, 21 FEBRUARY 2023

DECISION NOTICE

The following decisions were taken on Tuesday, 21 February 2023 by Cabinet.

Date notified to all Members: **Wednesday, 22 February 2023.**

End of the call-in period is **12 noon on Monday, 27 February 2023.**

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

Present: D Lloyd, K Girling, Mrs R Holloway, R Jackson, P Peacock and T Wendels

<u>Agenda Item No.</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Decision</u>	<u>Action By</u>
4.	2023/24 Proposed Revenue Budget (Key Decision)	<p>AGREED that Cabinet recommends to Full Council at its meeting on 9 March 2023 that:</p> <p>i. the following amounts be now calculated by the council for the 2023/24 financial year, in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended by the Localism Act 2011:</p> <p>1. £51,696,080 being the aggregate of the amounts which the council estimates for items set out in Section 31A(2)(a) to (f) of the Act (the District Council's gross expenditure for 2022/23);</p> <p>2. £32,709,480 being the aggregate of the amounts which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3)(a) to (d) of the Act (the District Council's gross income for 2022/23); and</p> <p>3. £18,986,600 being the amount by which the aggregate at (b)(i) above exceeds the aggregate at (b)(ii) above, calculated by the council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its Net Budget Requirement for the year;</p> <p>ii. the figures shown as i.1. and i.3. above to be increased only by the amount of Parish Precepts for 2023/24;</p> <p>iii. the budget amounts included in the report be the council's budget for 2023/24; and</p> <p>iv. the fees and charges shown in Appendices C1-C21 be implemented with effect from 1 April 2023.</p>	Nick Wilson, Business Manager – Financial Services

		<p><u>Reasons for Decision:</u> To enable Cabinet to make recommendations to Council of the amounts to be calculated in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by the Localism Act 2011, for the purposes of setting Council Tax levels for the 2022/23 financial year.</p> <p><u>Options Considered:</u> Not applicable</p>	
5.	Capital Programme Budget 2023/24 to 2026/27 (Key Decision)	<p>AGREED that the General Fund schemes set out at Appendix A to the report, and the Housing Services schemes set out at Appendix B to the report, be recommended to Full Council on 8 March 2023 as committed expenditure in the Capital Programme for 2023/24 to 2026/27.</p> <p><u>Reasons for Decision:</u> To enable the Capital Programme to be considered by Cabinet in accordance with Financial Regulation 6.2.3 prior to its submission to Council.</p> <p><u>Options Considered:</u> If the Council did not have a Capital Programme, this would result in not being able to deliver the schemes and not achieve the objectives in the community plan.</p>	Nick Wilson, Business Manager – Financial Services and Jenna Norton, Senior Accountant
6.	Medium Term Financial Plan 2023/24 to 2026/27 (Key Decision)	<p>AGREED that Cabinet recommends the 2023/24 to 2026/27 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for approval by the Full Council at their meeting to be held on 9 March 2023.</p> <p><u>Reasons for Decision:</u> To provide a framework to support the Council’s future spending plans.</p> <p><u>Options Considered:</u> Not applicable</p>	Nick Wilson, Business Manager – Financial Services
7.	Localised Council Tax Support Scheme	<p>AGREED that Cabinet recommends to Council the uprating of the applicable amounts, premiums, state benefits and disregard criteria in accordance with the annual uprating amounts applied by the Department for Works & Pensions (DWP); whilst continuing the current Localised Council Tax Support Scheme for 2023/24 financial year.</p> <p><u>Reasons for Decision:</u> To ensure the Council discharges its responsibilities to agree its Council Tax Support scheme by 11 March 2023.</p>	Nick Wilson, Business Manager – Financial Services and Phil Ward, Business Manager – Revenues & Benefits

		<p><u>Options Considered:</u> An alternative option would be to increase the maximum award of 80% - the cost of doing this has been considered at 3.4 and 3.5 of this report.</p>	
8.	Council Tax Empty Homes Premium (Key Decision)	<p>AGREED that Cabinet recommends to Full Council the proposal to increase the long-term empty home premium as set out in paragraph 2.2 of the report, Option 1, effective from 1 April 2023.</p> <p><u>Reasons for Decision:</u> To assist the Council with achieving its objectives of creating more and better-quality homes through our roles as landlord, developer and planning authority and reducing crime and anti-social behaviour within our communities.</p> <p><u>Options Considered:</u> Section 2 of the report details the alternative options that have been considered as part of the production of this report.</p>	Nick Wilson, Business Manager – Financial Services
9.	Response to the Cost of Living Crisis (Key Decision)	<p>AGREED that Cabinet is recommended to support the initial list of proposals set out at paragraph 2.0 of the report.</p> <p><u>Reasons for Decision:</u> To support tenants, residents, businesses and employees with the rise in the cost of living.</p> <p><u>Options Considered:</u> A number of different ideas/options have been explored, with those contained at Section 2.0 being those considered to be of most value at the present time.</p>	John Robinson, Chief Executive
10.	Stodman Street Update (Key Decision)	<p>AGREED that Cabinet:</p> <p>a) note and welcome the updates provided; and</p> <p>b) approve an amendment to the Council’s Capital Programme to the Maximum Capital budget detailed in Exempt Report in order to secure a contractor and delivery of the 32 Stodman Street project.</p> <p><u>Reasons for Decision:</u> The project, one of 9 priority Towns Fund and Town Investment Plan project will contribute to all of the Council’s Community Plan objectives, including creating more and better-quality homes through our role as landlord and developer.</p>	Mark Eyre, Business Manager – Corporate Property and Kevin Shutt, HRA Development Manager

		<p><u>Options Considered:</u> Cabinet could decide not to proceed with the development, which would result in the lack of a much-needed town centre intervention which has the full support of this Council, the Newark Towns Board, the Newark Town Investment Plan and Central Government who have approved the Newark Towns Fund. Moreover, Newark Towns Fund grant would be at risk if the project does not proceed.</p>	
11.	Funding Requirement for Jubilee Bridge Maintenance Costs (Key Decision)	<p><i>Members are requested to approve option three for the reasons cited within the contents of this report. This is recommended that given the prolonged lifespan of the more durable materials and the lower repair costs. On approval of option three an estimated budget cost of £333,499.67 + Vat will then be added to the capital programme.</i></p> <p>AGREED that Cabinet:</p> <p>a) approve repair option 3 to Upgrade the existing approach ramp with steel trays infilled with tarmacadam / hot rolled stone chippings to match the existing subject to approval by a structural engineer; and</p> <p>b) approve an estimated budget cost of £333,499.67 + Vat will then be added to the capital programme.</p> <p><u>Reasons for Decision:</u> To ensure the maintenance of the Jubilee Bridge is undertaken to provide safe use and enhancement of the area for local residents.</p> <p><u>Options Considered:</u> Not completing the works would result in the eventual closure of the bridge and the detrimental impact to the area because of poorly maintained public infrastructure.</p>	Mark Eyre, Business Manager – Corporate Property
12.	Outcome of the Consultation on a Kerbside Glass Service (Key Decision)	<p>AGREED that Cabinet:</p> <p>a) approve, based on resident support, the implementation of a glass collection service in the district as agreed by Cabinet, 8 weekly, 140l bin, and assign the required budget, as detailed at 6.0 in the report; and</p> <p>b) approve the next steps for implementing the service, as outlined at 5.0 in the report, including contacting all households, and assign £35,900 from the Change Management Reserve for the implementation activity.</p>	Andrew Kirk, Business Manager – Environmental Services

		<p><u>Reasons for Decision:</u> To decide on the implementation of a kerbside glass collection service based on resident views and considering the costs and options presented to Cabinet on 1 November.</p> <p><u>Options Considered:</u> Not to introduce the service.</p>	
13.	Pay Policy Statement 2023/24	<p>AGREED that Cabinet:</p> <p>a) approve the Pay Policy Statement for presentation to Full Council including amendments as detailed at section 2 of the report; and</p> <p>b) note the ongoing issues with recruitment and endorse a review of pay and market supplements.</p> <p><u>Reasons for Decision:</u> Compliance with Section 38 (1) of the Localism Act 2011.</p> <p><u>Options Considered:</u> Not applicable - the publication of the Pay Policy Statement is required by the Localism Act 2011.</p>	Sarah Lawrie, Business Manager – HR & Training
14.	Amended Allocations and Development Management DPD Representation Period and Gypsy, Roma Traveller Site Provision and Delivery (Key Decision)	<p>AGREED that Cabinet:</p> <p>a) note the initial results of the period of public representation of the Amended Allocations & Development Management Development Plan Document; and</p> <p>b) authorise the delay of the submission of the DPD to allow the Environment Agency to validate the results of the Tolney Lane Flood Alleviation Scheme modelling.</p> <p><u>Reasons for Decision:</u> To allow for the update to be noted.</p> <p>The objection of the Environment Agency means that submission of the DPD is not possible in March 2023.</p> <p><u>Options Considered:</u> As set out at 2.3 without support by the Environment Agency for the overall strategy the DPD cannot currently be submitted.</p>	Matthew Norton, Business Manager – Planning Policy & Infrastructure

15.	Next Step with the Delivery of the Forest Corner Masterplan Project (Key Decision)	<p>AGREED that Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) note the update and endorse the direction of travel for the Forest Corner project; b) welcome plans to commence a second phase of work to develop the wider offer for Sherwood Forest; and c) approve £75k revenue for 2023-24 to sustain this work through project management, specialist studies and short-term improvements. <p><u>Reasons for Decision:</u> These recommendations are made in order to ensure Cabinet is aware of recent work and intended next steps and to secure the necessary resources to maintain momentum.</p> <p>The proposals align with the Community Plan objectives to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver inclusive and sustainable economic growth • Enhance and protect the district’s natural environment <p>Improve the health and well-being of local residents</p> <p><u>Options Considered:</u> A ‘do nothing’ alternative has been considered with regard to the Forest Corner project. This would have significant reputational risk given the undertaking made to stakeholders in 2020 to revise the masterplan in light of consultation responses. It would also fail to realise the potential of the area and close the gap between visitor expectation and experience.</p>	Neil Cuttall, Business Manager – Economic Growth & Visitor Economy
16.	Tenancy Agreement Review (Key Decision)	<p>AGREED that Cabinet approve the adoption and implementation of the revised Tenancy Agreement.</p> <p><u>Reasons for Decision:</u> The current tenancy agreement has been in use since 2010 and needs updating to reflect changes in the law, regulation, our policies and general accepted good practice.</p> <p>The revised agreement aligns with the Community Plan objectives:</p> <p>Create vibrant and self-sufficient local communities where residents look out for each other and actively contribute to their local area</p>	Julie Davison, Business Manager – Housing Services & Estates

		<p>Improve the health and wellbeing of local residents</p> <p>Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and increase feelings of safety in our communities</p> <p><u>Options considered:</u> Not applicable</p>	
17.	Community Grant Scheme - Round 3	<p>AGREED that:</p> <p>a) the recommendations of the Portfolio Holders as detailed in Appendix A of the report be approved; and</p> <p>b) a review of the criteria for Community Grant Scheme applications be undertaken and any proposed amendments reported back to Cabinet for approval.</p> <p><u>Reasons for Decision:</u> The schemes have been assessed by Portfolio Holders and Members in respect of alignment to the Council's wider 'Community Plan' objectives and each will provide community value and benefit when delivered.</p> <p>To enable the approved schemes, submitted under Round Three of the Community Grant Scheme, to be delivered and thereby provide valuable community benefits aligned to the current approved Council Community Plan objectives.</p> <p><u>Options Considered:</u> That the awards as recommended are increased which would require further additional budget provision.</p>	Andy Hardy, Sports, Community Facilities & Events Manager
18.	Plans for a Programme of Playground Improvement Works (Key Decision)	<p>AGREED that Cabinet:</p> <p>a) approve the replacement and modernisation programme at the ten sites across Newark & Sherwood that are identified in the report;</p> <p>b) approve, in principle, that a budget of £349, 201 is entered into the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account capital budgets for 2023/24, subject to approval from Cabinet;</p> <p>c) subject to the above, Cabinet approve that public consultation is sought on the plans to develop a new Castle-style playground and outdoor fitness zone at the Sconce and Devon Park, and on plans for improvements at the Turner Lane play park in Boughton and the Cleveland Square play park in Newark; and</p>	Ben Stacey, Street Scene Manager

		<p>d) support the medium-term development of a formal play park and play equipment policy, together with a complementary asset register, to guide the future development and investment in play parks in its ownership across Newark and Sherwood.</p> <p><u>Reasons for Decision:</u> The recommendations align with the Community Plan objectives in relation to health and wellbeing and the environment and in response to resident feedback as evidenced through the latest resident survey.</p> <p><u>Options Considered:</u> Given the age of the equipment, doing nothing was not deemed to be a viable option. The plan to develop a play park and play equipment policy, together with an asset register, will lead to a cycle of play park improvements at all sites over the medium and longer term.</p>	
19.	Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group Review	<p>AGREED that Cabinet approve the recommendations of the ASB Working Group as endorsed by the Policy & Performance Improvement Committee.</p> <p>These are set out in section 2 of the report. Noting that a timeline of 9 months is added to recommendation (q) to ensure it is undertaken within an appropriate timeframe.</p> <p><u>Reasons for Decision:</u> To consider the work the Council currently undertakes to tackle ASB within the district and to suggest ways in which this could be enhanced.</p> <p><u>Options Considered:</u> Alternative recommendations and suggestions were debated throughout the working group process. These were outlined in appendix 1 to the original working group report.</p>	Alan Batty, Business Manager – Public Protection and Ella Brady, Transformation & Service Improvement Manager
20.	Changes to the Collection of Waste - Upholstered Domestic Seating	<p>AGREED that Cabinet:</p> <p>a) approve the proposed changes detailed in this report to ensure that there are sufficient resources to facilitate the changes in collections;</p> <p>b) approve that 3 additional staff be added to the establishment in line with paragraph 4.1 below; and</p> <p>c) approve the vehicle purchase to be financed from the change management reserve in line with paragraph 4.1 below.</p>	Ryan Oliff, Waste & Recycling Manager

Reasons for Decision:

In order to meet the new legislative requirements and mitigate the risk of service reduction in cleansing services which are valued by local residents and a key component of the Council's work to create a Cleaner, Safer, Greener Newark & Sherwood as set out in the Community Plan.

Options Considered:

Officers have considered alternatives to the proposed solution and consulted Councils across Nottinghamshire. Some are choosing to re-direct cleansing resources to undertake this function, whilst others have no plans as yet. The size of Newark and Sherwood, accounting for one-third of the landmass of Nottinghamshire, and the volume of fly tips due to its size and connectivity to main trunk roads, are considerations specific to the N&S area. Given the Community Plan objectives to cleaner, safer and greener, it is also not recommended to divert away resources from cleansing duties.