

MINUTES OF CABINET

5 FEBRUARY 2024

PRESENT:

Councillors Poole (Chair), Daly, Picker, Ms Robbins, Ms Watson-Merret and Willis.

Councillors Mistry and Roodhouse were also in attendance.

87. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 January 2024 were approved and signed by the Chair.

88. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillors Miss Dumbleton and Moran.

89. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

90. QUESTION TIME

There were no questions.

Item considered not within a specific portfolio

91. CORPORATE PEER CHALLENGE – ACTION PLAN

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Executive (Part 1 – agenda item 5) concerning the Council's proposed action plan relating to the recommendations of Corporate Peer Challenge carried out by the Local Government Association (LGA) in October 2023.

RESOLVED THAT – IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT the action plan to address the recommendations set out in the Corporate Peer Challenge report, as at Appendix 1, be approved.

Growth and Investment Portfolio

92. APPROVAL OF COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY CHARGING SCHEDULE

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Growth and Investment (Part 1 – agenda item 6) concerning the proposed Community Infrastructure Levy charging schedule.

RESOLVED THAT – IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT –

- (1) the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) charging schedule is approved;
- (2) delegated authority be given to the Chief Officer for Growth and Investment to publish the charging schedule in accordance with the Regulations to come into effect on 1 April 2024;
- (3) delegated authority be given to the Chief Officer for Growth and Investment in accordance with Regulation 26 of the Regulations to correct any minor errors in the charging schedule which come to light within 6 months of its approval; and
- (4) charging CIL commence from 1 April 2024 in accordance with the CIL Charging Schedule.

93. ARTICLE 4 DIRECTION – HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Growth and Investment (Part 1 – agenda item 7) concerning the proposal for Council to make an Article 4 Direction across five wards within the central and northern area of Rugby.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) delegated authority be given to the Chief Officer – Growth and Investment to make a direction under Article 4; and
- (2) delegated authority be given to the Chief Officer – Growth and Investment to carry out the statutory procedure for making the Article 4 Direction including the necessary consultation procedure.

Finance, Performance, Legal and Governance Portfolio

94. COUNCIL TAX BASE 2024/25, DRAFT GENERAL FUND REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2024-28

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Finance and Performance (Part 1 – agenda item 8) concerning the Council's draft revenue and capital budget for 2024/25 together with its medium term financial plan for 2024-28 and the Council Tax base for 2024/25.

RESOLVED THAT – IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT -

- (1) the Medium-Term Financial Strategy as outlined in Section 1 of the Budget Booklet 2024/25 (Appendix B to this report) be approved;
- (2) the Medium-Term Financial Plan as outlined in Appendix 4 of the Budget Booklet be approved;
- (3) the Growth and Savings proposals for 2024/25 as set out in Appendix 2 of the Budget Booklet be approved;

- (4) the Fees and Charges as set out in the detailed schedule at Appendix 7 of the Budget Booklet be approved;
- (5) the NNDR return set out in Appendix D be noted; and
- (6) subject to further information being available, updates on the budget be presented to Council in accordance with the deadlines for the 21 February meeting.

95. FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING 2023/24 – QUARTER 3

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Legal and Governance (Part 1 - agenda item 9) concerning the Council's anticipated 2023/24 financial and performance position based on data at 31 December 2023 (Quarter 3) together with proposed 2023/24 budget adjustments for approval as required by Financial Standing Orders.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) the Council's forecast financial position for 2023/24 be noted;
- (2) performance information in section 6 be noted; and
- (3) IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT 2023/24 Budget Virements as detailed in section 5 to be approved.

96. MEMBERSHIP OF WORKING GROUPS 2023/24

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Legal and Governance (Part 1 - agenda item 10) concerning proposed changes to the membership of some working groups for the remainder of the 2023/24 municipal year together with the establishment of an Economic Strategy Working Group.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) the Economic Strategy Working Group be established; and
- (2) the appointments to the Economic Strategy Working Group and the changes to the memberships of various working groups, as outlined in the report, be approved for the remainder of the 2023/24 municipal year.

Communities, Homes, Digital and Communications Portfolio

97. AREA ACTION: BENN AND NEW BILTON

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Communities and Homes (Part 1 – agenda item 11) concerning proposed area action plans for Benn and New Bilton Wards to implement the Council's approach to levelling up.

RESOLVED THAT - The Area Action Plans (attached as Appendices 3 and 4 to the report) for Benn and New Bilton wards be approved.

98. DRAFT HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT CAPITAL AND REVENUE BUDGETS 2024/25 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2024-28

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Communities and Homes and the Chief Officer – Finance and Performance (Part 1 – agenda item 12) concerning the Council's proposed final draft Housing Revenue Account (HRA) position for 2024/25 together with an HRA medium term financial plan and a summary of reserves.

RESOLVED THAT - IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT -

- (1) the draft revenue budgets for 2024/25 and the updated medium term financial plan in Appendices A and C be approved inclusive of 7.7% increase in rent and service charges based on estimated costs and the pitch fees at Woodside Park;
- (2) the approved capital budget in Appendix B be noted; and
- (3) the contribution to the Transformation reserve as set out in paragraph 9.4 be approved.

99. ASYLUM SEEKER SUPPORT FROM WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Communities and Homes (Part 1 – agenda item 13) concerning the transfer of funding received for asylum seeker support to Warwickshire County Council.

RESOLVED THAT - IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT -

- (1) a supplementary General Fund revenue budget of £96,375 be established to enable the transfer of funding to Warwickshire County Council;
- (2) the remaining funding be held as a reserve to support any financial pressures arising from increased homelessness within the cohort during 2024/25;
- (3) delegated authority be given the Chief Officer for Communities and Homes to utilise this funding, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Communities, Homes, Digital and Communication; and
- (4) any unutilised funding, as at 31 March 2025, be returned to balances.

Change and Transformation Portfolio

100. AGENCY WORKERS POLICY AND DIGNITY AT WORK POLICY

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Executive (Part 1 – agenda item 14) concerning the adoption of an agency workers policy and a dignity at work policy.

RESOLVED THAT - the Agency Workers Policy and the Dignity at Work Policy, 2023, as set out in appendix 1 and appendix 2 to the report, be approved.

101. MOTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC UNDER SECTION 100(A)(4) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

RESOLVED THAT - under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of information defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

Regulation and Safety Portfolio

102. RAINSBROOK CEMETERY

Cabinet considered the private report of the Chief Officer – Regulation and Safety (Part 2 – agenda item 1) concerning Rainsbrook Cemetery.

RESOLVED THAT – IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT:

- (1) the development of a cemetery on the land at Rainsbrook Crematorium, be approved at the existing Rainsbrook Cemetery & Crematorium site as detailed within this report;
- (2) a supplementary capital budget as set out in Section 8 of this report be approved; and
- (3) delegated authority be granted to the Chief Officer for Regulation and Safety to implement the scheme as detailed within this report and authorise any necessary expenditure as detailed in Section 8 of this report.

Note: this decision is not subject to call-in.

CHAIR