

Ashfield District Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday, 26 November 2018

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
Item 4	Place Enhancement	<p>a) that the officer’s report be noted.</p> <p>b) that the further development of the Ashfield Place Leadership programme, as detailed in the officer’s report be approved.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION</p> <p>To continue the work to contribute to the Council’s Corporate Plan commitments to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance the identity and brand for Ashfield; so it is cherished by those who live or work here, desirable to those who visit, and attractive to those who bring jobs and investment. • Raise the profile of Ashfield as a place where people want to visit and spend their time enjoying themselves. <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REASONS FOR REJECTION</p> <p>The option of not doing anything was not recommended for a number of reasons. The insight work carried out to date in conjunction with public, private and voluntary sector stakeholders has allowed the Council to increase understanding of the District by creating the ‘Ashfield Story’ and future requirements. The ‘Ashfield Story’ will be central to the successful delivery of the Place Leadership Programme objectives set out within the Corporate Plan (2016-2019).</p>
Item 5	HS2 Consultation Response	<p>a) that the consultation response as set out in the appendix of the officer’s report be approved for submission to HS2, and brought into effect from 26 November 2018.</p> <p>b) that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and Portfolio Holder, to approve any minor drafting amendments to the consultation response.</p>

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		<p>REASON FOR DECISION</p> <p>To enable the Council to inform HS2 of the Council's concerns, to encourage opportunities to expand the economic benefits of the new infrastructure and highlight the key changes required to the proposals to mitigate the impact on the district.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REASONS FOR REJECTION</p> <p>The alternative option was not to submit comments to HS2. This was not recommended as it would have been a lost opportunity to put forward for consideration the Council's views on the impact of HS2 on the district's communities, environment and economy.</p>
Item 6	Ashfield Spring Clean	<p>a) that the full evaluation of the 2018 Big Ashfield Spring Clean, as detailed in the officer's report be noted.</p> <p>b) the plans for the 2019 Big Ashfield Spring Clean, as set out in the officer's report be approved.</p> <p>c) that authority be delegated to the Director of Place and Communities and Assistant Director Neighbourhoods and Environment, in conjunction with the Deputy Leader of the Council, Outward Focus, to lead on the project.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION</p> <p>to use the evaluation and lessons learned from the Big Ashfield Spring Clean to inform the most effective way forward for 2019 and future years.</p>

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		<p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REASONS FOR REJECTION</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Repeat the Big Ashfield Spring Clean campaign in its current format – This option was not recommended as it would not take into account the learning points from the Big Ashfield Spring Clean 2018. 2. Community led spring clean campaign with free bulky waste collections – This option was not recommended as while here is a recognition that there are pockets of active volunteers and groups in Ashfield there is no consistent approach districtwide.
Item 7	Scrutiny Consideration of Play Strategy for Rural Areas / Green Space Projects	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) that the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted. b) that the Deputy Leader (Outward Focus) attends a future meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to explain Cabinet’s response to the committee’s recommendations and to provide a progress report on the investments being made to Play areas c) that it be noted that Cabinet had looked at the Section 106 agreement for Brand Land, but that it be noted that the agreement could not be amended without the consent of the developer. <p>REASON FOR DECISIONS</p> <p>To consider the recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee following the call-in regarding the Play Strategy for Rural Areas / Green Space Project and the topic being referred back to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for further consideration.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REASONS FOR REJECTION</p> <p>The option of approving the recommendation made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee “that the proposed schedule of work for investing in play areas, as detailed in the emerging Play Strategy be informed by specific needs for investment, and that these needs be recorded,</p>

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		rather than investment being determined solely on a schedule and list of areas” was rejected in order to ensure that play areas in rural areas received the same levels of extra funding as play areas in other areas of the district.
Item 8	Budget Monitoring (position to end of November 2018)	<p>RESOLVED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) that the forecast variances against revised budgets for the General Fund (underspend of £66,000), Housing Revenue Account (underspend of £3.126m) and Capital Programme (slippage of £9.059m), be noted b) that a one-off transfer of £20,000 from the forecast underspend on Legal and Governance services be used to contribute, along with a number of the Nottinghamshire districts, towards legal and financial assessment costs associated with the LGR/Unitary work. c) that £29,000 of the forecast underspend be used to fund a second Ashfield Big Spring Clean early in 2019. d) that the new capital schemes included in the officer’s report be recommended to Council for approval. <p>REASON FOR DECISIONS</p> <p>To report to those charged with Governance the financial position to September 2018 and comply with the Council’s Financial Regulations.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS AND REASONS FOR REJECTION</p> <p>There were no alternative options identified.</p>

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Item 9	Fees & Charges/Income Update	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>a) that the forecast variances against revised budgets for the General Fund (underspend of £66,000), Housing Revenue Account (underspend of £3.126m) and Capital Programme (slippage of £9.059m), be noted</p> <p>b) that a one-off transfer of £20,000 from the forecast underspend on Legal and Governance services be used to contribute, along with a number of the Nottinghamshire districts, towards legal and financial assessment costs associated with the LGR/Unitary work.</p> <p>c) that £29,000 of the forecast underspend be used to fund a second Ashfield Big Spring Clean early in 2019.</p> <p>d) that the new capital schemes included in the officer’s report be recommended to Council for approval.</p> <p>REASON FOR DECISIONS</p> <p>To report to those charged with Governance the financial position to September 2018 and comply with the Council’s Financial Regulations.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS AND REASONS FOR REJECTION</p> <p>There were no alternative options identified.</p>
Item 10	Mid-Year Treasury Review	<p>a) that the change from existing Constant Net Asset Value (CNAV) Money Market Funds to Low Volatility Net Asset Value (LVNAV) Money Market Funds be noted.</p> <p>b) that the mid-year position in respect of the treasury activity and performance against the prudential indicators be noted.</p>

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		<p>REASON FOR DECISIONS</p> <p>To inform Cabinet of the current Treasury Management performance position and to meet the requirements of the Council’s Financial Regulations (C.30).</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REASONS FOR REJECTION</p> <p>There were no alternative options considered as it is a requirement to report on Treasury Management performance during the year in accordance with Financial Regulations.</p>
Item 11	Universal Credit Support Staff	<p>that a Welfare Reform Officer, to assist with the wider roll out of Universal Credit and assist tenants in paying their rent, be added to the Council’s establishment for a fixed term of two years.</p> <p>REASON FOR DECISION</p> <p>To increase the range and capacity of advice and support offered by the Council to tenants in order to both reduce the risks of rent arrears and also assist in the sustainment of tenancies.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REASONS FOR REJECTION</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not to recruit - This option was not recommended due to the number of tenants who will be directly affected by the introduction of Universal Credit and the need to protect the Housing Revenue Account income stream which faces significant risk due to the direct payment of housing costs to tenants rather than the Council itself. 2. Outsourcing the provision of advice - This option was not recommended due the potential delays it may cause, the need to have a data sharing agreement and for the potential for advice contrary to Housing’s ‘rent first’ policy when using Housing Revenue Account money to provide monetary advice.