

Ashfield District Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday, 24 February 2020

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
Item 3	Minutes	<p>RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 27 January 2020 be received and approved as a correct record.</p>
Item 4	Scrutiny Review: Impact of Universal Credit	<p>RESOLVED that having considered the report, the following recommendations be approved subject to the Universal Credit seminar being classified as optional rather than mandatory as originally presented:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the hardship being experienced by Ashfield residents and the current and anticipated financial impact to the Council, as a result of the introduction of Universal Credit welfare scheme, be noted; b) a seminar be organised for all Councillors to equip themselves with the necessary knowledge and skills to support residents raising issues concerning Universal Credit; c) a letter be sent to local MPs, and the relevant ministerial department, outlining the difficulties claimants in Ashfield have experienced following the introduction of Universal Credit; d) joint working with partners such as the Department of Work and Pensions and the Citizens Advice Bureau be enhanced to ensure important information is efficiently shared; e) the Housing Management and Tenancy Services Team be recognised and commended for the extensive work undertaken in supporting Universal Credit claimants and responding to welfare reforms;

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		<p>f) the Housing Revenue Account 30 Year Business Plan be reviewed, taking into consideration the impact the introduction of Universal Credit will have on Housing and other Council services;</p> <p>g) the Welfare Reform Reserve Fund be reviewed to ensure sufficient funding remains available to support claimants and maintain adequate staffing levels;</p> <p>h) all publically displayed information regarding Universal Credit and wider welfare reforms be reviewed to ensure maximum visibility and relevancy;</p> <p>i) consideration be given to software and hardware requirements that could assist in improving the Council's efficiency and effectiveness in managing Universal Credit cases and supporting claimants.</p>
Item 5	Annual Budget & Council Tax 2020/21 and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) Update	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>a) that Council be recommended to approve the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a £5 (2.7%) increase in the level of the District's own Council Tax for 2020/21, setting the Band D equivalent at £190.46; • the proposed 2020/21 Revenue (General Fund) and HRA Budgets as set out in the report (Sections 3 and 4); • the proposed Capital Programme and associated borrowing 2019/20 to 2023/24 as set out in the report (Section 5); • the 2019/20 Revised HRA and Capital Budgets as set out in the report (Sections 4 and 5);

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the precept figures from Nottinghamshire County Council, Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Authority, Police and Crime Commissioner and the two Parish Council’s within the District be incorporated, when known, into the Council Tax recommendation to Council on 5th March 2020; • to note the estimated financial challenge in the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for 2021/2022 to 2024/25 and the planned approach to address the challenge (Section 6); • to bring an updated MTFS back to Cabinet after the 2019/20 Accounts have been closed and audited; • the proposed use of reserves as set out in this report (Table 5 (General Fund) and Table 9 (HRA)) and the creation of 5 new reserves and the amalgamation of 2 existing reserves (set out in Section 3.6); • acceptance of the comments and advice of the Corporate Finance Manager (Section 151 Officer), provided in compliance with Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003, as to the robustness of the estimates included in the 2020/21 Budget and the adequacy of the reserves for which this budget provides. (Section 7); • to note that the proposed 2020/21 budgets reflect the agreed changes to Fees and Charges approved by Cabinet on 27th January 2020; • the use of in-year Capital Receipts up to 2020/21 to maximise capitalisation opportunities arising from service transformation to deliver efficiencies and improved services to residents and clients, and thereby minimise the impact of costs on the revenue budget as included in the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts

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		<p>Strategy 2018/19 approved by Council on 11th October 2018;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to note that additional recurrent and non-recurrent costs of progressing the Digital Service Transformation (DST) programme at a quicker pace than had previously been planned are not included within the proposed 2020/21 budget, and that a separate report detailing the programme, costs and payback periods and how the programme will be funded will be brought for consideration through the appropriate channels in accordance with the Council’s Financial Regulations; <p>b) following feedback from Scrutiny Members as part of their consideration of the Annual Budget and MTFS update, the Director of Resources and Business Transformation be requested to present the results of the 2019 Employee Survey to the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee scheduled for 26 March 2020.</p>
Item 6	Treasury Management Strategy	<p>RESOLVED that</p> <p>a) the content of the Treasury Management Strategy (TMS) for 2020/21, be received and noted;</p> <p>b) Council be recommended to approve the Treasury Management Policy Statement incorporating the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) • Borrowing Strategy • Annual Investment Strategy • Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy; • Prudential Indicators and Treasury Management Indicators • Treasury Management Practices: Risk Management.

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Item 7	Capital Strategy	<p>RESOLVED that</p> <p>a) the content of the Capital Strategy (CS) for 2020/21 including Annexes 1 to 3, as appended to the report, be received and noted;</p> <p>b) Council be recommended to approve the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital Strategy; • Commercial Property Investment Strategy; • Commercial Property Indicators.
Item 8	Approval to Consult on the Draft Kirkby Town Centre Spatial Masterplan	<p>RESOLVED that</p> <p>a) the undertaking of a public and stakeholder consultation on the Draft Kirkby Town Centre Spatial Masterplan for a period of 3 weeks during March 2020, be approved;</p> <p>b) the Kirkby Town Centre Spatial Masterplan be approved in principle, subject to delegated authority being granted to the Director of Place and Communities, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Place, Planning and Regeneration, to make minor amendments to the Masterplan prior to adoption.</p>
Item 9	The Stations Masterplans	<p>RESOLVED that</p> <p>a) the undertaking of a public and stakeholder consultation for 4 weeks on a draft Maid Marian Line Economic Growth Feasibility Study, be approved;</p> <p>b) the Maid Marian Line Economic Growth Feasibility Study be approved in principle subject to delegated authority being granted to the Director of Place and Communities, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Place, Planning and Regeneration, to make any minor changes to the Study prior to publication;</p>

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		<p>c) the final Maid Marian Line Economic Growth Feasibility Study (including stations masterplans) be adopted as a basis for future action for linking the Kirkby and Sutton Parkway stations to the proposed HS2 train station at Toton, and to capitalise on the economic, social and environmental potential for development and improvement around the station locations;</p> <p>d) delegated authority be also granted to the Director of Place and Communities, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Place, Planning and Regeneration, to produce an action plan for the Study as required.</p>
Item 10	Regeneration Shared Service Dissolution	<p>RESOLVED that</p> <p>a) the decision to dissolve the Regeneration Shared Service between Mansfield District Council and Ashfield District Council with effect from 2 April 2020, be formally approved;</p> <p>b) the Chief Executive be authorised to formally serve written notice on Mansfield District Council in accordance with the Service Level Agreement.</p>
Item 11	Internal Audit Provision by the Central Midlands Audit Partnership - Partnership Extension	<p>RESOLVED that</p> <p>a) the extension of the Council’s partnership arrangement for Internal Audit services with the Central Midlands Audit Partnership (CMAP) for a further 5 years, be approved;</p> <p>b) delegated authority be granted to the Director of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer) to finalise and approve the terms of a revised Partnership Agreement;</p> <p>c) delegated authority be further granted to the Director of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer) to finalise, approve and sign an Information Management Agreement between the members of the Partnership.</p>