

Ashfield District Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday, 18 February 2019

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
A3	Maid Marian Line Economic Growth Feasibility Study	<p>that the Interim Director Place and Communities, in conjunction with the Leader, be delegated authority to commission a high level feasibility study into local economic growth opportunities linked to the proposed Maid Marian line.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISION</p> <p>The Maid Marian line rail link between Sutton Parkway, to Toton was first proposed by Ashfield District Council and is now one of the options being considered by HS2 Steering Group to support connectivity with Toton. In order to further inform discussion and decision making a high level economic growth study is proposed.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REASONS FOR REJECTION</p> <p>The option not to undertake a study is an option was not recommended as this would mean that the potential for local economic growth was overlooked.</p>
A4	Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee Terms of Reference update	<p>a) that the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee Terms of Reference, as attached at appendix 1 of the officer's report be approved.</p> <p>b) that authority be delegated to the Leader, Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer to make any future minor non substantive changes to the Terms of Reference.</p> <p>REASON FOR DECISIONS</p> <p>In order to acknowledge and approve the revised terms of reference for the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee following a review.</p>

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		<p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REASONS FOR REJECTION</p> <p>The option not to approve the revisions and to seek further discussion at the EPC regarding the details of the terms of reference was not recommended due to the relatively minor and positive changes to the Terms of Reference.</p>
A5	Car Parking Order	<p>a) that initiatives to support town centres and green travel including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing a number of parking bays for free two hours parking and changes to car parking charges • installing electric vehicle charging bays within a number of car parks • alterations to the boundary of Piggins Croft Car Park, Hucknall <p>be approved.</p> <p>b) that officers start undertaking preparations to commence the legal process for varying the existing Ashfield District Council Civil Enforcement Off Street Parking Order to enable the initiatives detailed at (a) above.</p> <p>c) that £24,200 be allocated from the Regeneration Reserve to fund the costs associated with a new Parking Order, upgrading of parking machines and line marking for the two hour free bays.</p> <p>REASONS FOR DECISIONS</p> <p>A revised Parking Order will be required to implement the following changes to parking provision:</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise the current car parking charges and to provide up to two hours free parking in the three main town centre car parks within a number of designated and ‘marked out’ spaces only. • The installation of electric vehicle charging points within a number of car parks within the District. This will support the development of the charging point network across Nottinghamshire, supporting increased use of electric vehicles and reducing air pollution. • To increase the area covered by the Parking Order at Piggins Croft car park, Hucknall to include land acquired during the purchase of the property occupied by Wilkinson’s and Central Walk retail properties to ensure effective enforcement action can be undertaken when necessary. <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REASONS FOR REJECTION</p> <p>The option not to vary the Ashfield District Council Civil Enforcement Off Street Parking Order was not recommended as it would not allow the initiatives to support town centres and green travel.</p> <p>The option to provide two hours free parking in all car parks was not recommended as the cost would be prohibitive. Additional costs would include alterations to seven ticket machines at an estimated cost of £14,000. There would also be significant loss of income from ticket sales, as total sales for two hour tickets in 2017 were £64,000.</p> <p>The option not to introduce electric vehicle charging points was not recommended as all costs were being met through a grant secured by Nottingham City Council.</p>

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A6	Annual Budget and Council Tax 2019/20 and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) Update	<p>That Cabinet recommends to Council that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the level of the District’s own Council Tax for 2019/20 be frozen, setting the Band D equivalent at £185.46; the same as in 2018/19. b) the proposed Revenue (General Fund) and Housing Revenue Account 2019/20 Budgets, as set out at Sections 3 and 4 of the officer’s report be approved. c) the proposed Capital Programme and associated borrowing 2018/19 to 2022/23, as set out at Section 5 of the officer’s report be approved. d) the 2018/19 Revised Housing Revenue Account and Capital Budgets, as set out at Sections 4 and 5 of the officer’s report be approved. e) 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 4 March 2019. f) the estimated financial challenge in the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2020/2021 and 2021/22, and the planned approach to address the challenge as set out at Section 6 of the officer’s report be noted. g) an updated Medium Term Financial Strategy be brought back to Cabinet after the 2018/19 Accounts have been closed and audited. h) the proposed use of reserves, as set out at (Table 6 Revenue) and Table 11 (Housing Revenue Account) of the officer’s report be approved.

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		<p>i) 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 2019/20 Budget and the adequacy of the reserves for which this budget provides (Section 7) be accepted and noted.</p> <p>j) the Fees and Charges set out at paragraphs 3.10, 3.11, 3.12 and 3.13 of the officer’s report, which were not available for inclusion in the Fees and Charges report submitted to Cabinet on 26 November 2018, be approved.</p> <p>k) 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 Strategy 2018/19 approved by Council on 11 October 2018, be approved.</p> <p>REASON FOR DECISIONS</p> <p>In accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992 the Council must set its annual budget by 10 March in the preceding financial year.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REASONS FOR REJECTION</p> <p>The District Council is able to set a Council Tax increase of up to the greater of 2.99% or £5 per annum without triggering a referendum. The proposal to freeze the level of District Council Tax for 2019/20 was recommended as the Council is able to set a balanced budget for 2019/20 without increasing the District’s Council Tax level.</p> <p>Careful consideration has been given to each of the proposed investments included in</p>

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		<p>this report. The investments proposed will support the Council in delivering its Corporate Plan priorities and will further facilitate the progression of the Council's Digital Transformation Programme for the benefit of residents and customers.</p>
A7	Capital Strategy	<p>That Cabinet recommends to Council that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the Capital Strategy be approved. b) the non-treasury Investment Strategy, as set out at appendix 1 of the officer's report, and the annex that documents the processes and responsibilities in respect of Commercial Property Investment, be approved. c) that subject to the receipt and evaluation of expected CIPFA guidance in respect of Commercial Investment Property acquisitions it be noted that it may be necessary to submit a revised Capital Strategy for Council approval, as detailed at paragraph 6.2 of the officer's report. <p>REASON FOR DECISIONS</p> <p>The Capital Strategy provides an overarching framework on how capital investment decisions should be undertaken by the Authority. It is a statutory requirement to produce a Capital Strategy from 2019/20.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REASONS FOR REJECTION</p> <p>To not have a Capital Strategy is not an option as this is a requirement of the CIPFA Prudential Code which all Local Authorities need to observe.</p>

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A8	Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Minimum Revenue Policy and Prudential Indicators	<p>That Cabinet recommends to Council that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the Annual Investment Strategy be approved. b) the revised Minimum Revenue Provision Policy be approved. c) the proposed Prudential Indicators be adopted. d) that the remaining content of officer’s report be noted. <p>REASON FOR DECISIONS</p> <p>The recommendations to Council will allow for effective Treasury Management operations within the Authority, the revised Minimum Revenue Provision Policy will ensure that Minimum Revenue Provision charges will be applied more effectively and the Prudential Indicator ratios offer a benchmark by which any future capital expenditure decisions should be made. The Treasury Management Code of Practice requires Council approval of these Policies.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REASONS FOR REJECTION</p> <p>There were no alternative options considered as it is a requirement of the CIPFA Treasury Management Code for all Local Authorities to have a Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS).</p>