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**Our reference:**  
**Your reference:**  
**Date:** 10 February 2021

### **Record of Decisions taken by Cabinet – Tuesday, 9 February 2021**

At a meeting of the Cabinet held on Tuesday, 9 February 2021 the following decisions were reached on the items listed in the attached schedule.

**The implementation of any key decisions are suspended until the call-in period has expired without a call-in being validly invoked.**

**Under the Rushcliffe Borough Council Constitution, call-in is available in respect to key decisions only.**

The call-in deadline for any key decisions contained in this Decision Notice is before the end of the working day on Thursday, 18 February 2021. Subject to any call-in request being received, all the decisions will be actioned after Thursday, 18 February 2021.

Any Member of the Council shall be entitled to call for a decision to be suspended. To affect the call-in procedure, the appropriate form should be completed and returned to the Chief Executive by the end of the working day on Thursday, 18 February 2021.

### **CAR PARKING COUNTY PARTNERSHIP**

**It was RESOLVED that**

- a) the withdrawal from the Car Parking District Partnership be approved, which includes withdrawal from using the procured County services for enforcement officers and cash collection, withdrawal from managing Nottinghamshire County Council's on-street enforcement and responsibility for deficit liability;
- b) the employment of enforcement officers be approved;
- c) the use of Broxtowe Borough Council's cash collection service be approved;  
and
- d) the Executive Manager for Neighbourhoods be granted delegated authority to negotiate an agreement for the continued use of the processing unit of Nottinghamshire County Council for managing the Council's penalty notices.

## **REASON FOR DECISION**

In order to fulfil its statutory obligations, the Council must ensure appropriate arrangements are in place to operationally manage its car parking functions. However, such arrangements must also be efficient and cost effective and following a review, the Council has identified that cost efficiencies can be achieved by withdrawing from the partnership and employing relevant staff directly, who would also have an expanded community remit to maximise the Council's impact on place management. In addition, even greater cost efficiencies can be achieved by changing from the current partnership cash collection arrangements.

Withdrawal from the partnership will also help to protect the Council from any future financial liability for on-street parking deficit and remove the additional annual £20k from the street management fee.

## **2021/22 BUDGET AND FINANCIAL STRATEGY**

### **It was RESOLVED that Cabinet recommends that Council**

- a) adopts the budget setting report and associated financial strategies 2021/22 to 2025/26, as set out in the Annex to the report, including the Transformation Strategy and Efficiency Plan, as set out in Appendix 3 of the Annex, to deliver efficiencies over the five-year period;
- b) adopts the Capital Programme as set out in Appendix 4 of the Annex;
- c) adopts the Capital Investment Strategy as set out in Appendix 5 of the Annex;
- d) sets Rushcliffe's 2021/22 Council Tax for a Band D property at £147.36 (increase from 2020/21 of £4.62 or 3.24%);
- e) sets the Special Expenses for West Bridgford, Ruddington and Keyworth, as set out in Appendix 1 of the Annex, resulting in the following Band D Council Tax levels for the Special Expense Areas:
  - i) West Bridgford £49.65 (£48.51 in 2020/21);
  - ii) Keyworth £3.41 (£3.76 in 2020/21);
  - iii) Ruddington £4.00 (£4.12 in 2020/21);
- f) adopts the Pay Policy Statement as set out in Appendix 7 of the Annex; and
- g) agrees the proposal that the Year 1 funding for the Development Corporation be approved prior to receiving formal Government approval and financial support for the scheme (capped at £0.17m along with the conditions as set out at paragraph 4.2 (l) of the report).

## **REASON FOR DECISION**

To comply with the Local Government Finance Act (1972), and ensuring the budget enables corporate objectives to be achieved. The Council is required to set a balanced budget and ensure that it has adequate funds and reserves to address its risks. The impact of Covid on Council budgets makes it even more important that the Council is prudent, ensures that it can support short-term deficits, and has adequate reserves going forward.

## **CREMATORIUM UPDATE**

**It was RESOLVED that** the allocation of an additional £2m in the 2021/22 capital programme for the delivery of a new crematorium, to be included in the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy be supported.

## **REASON FOR DECISION**

To meet the demand within the Borough for a modern and efficient crematorium, and investment in the facility makes sound economic sense for the Council.

To provide a modern, accessible, community facility for the residents of Rushcliffe, a Borough which has been tasked by the Government with delivering significant housing growth and will therefore see a corresponding growth in population and services required.

The projected costs have increased for the reasons outlined in the report. The costs have been scrutinised and challenged and a benchmark exercise has been undertaken, which demonstrates that the pre-tender estimate is within an acceptable range.

Based on a project cost of £8.5m, including land, it is expected that the crematorium will provide the Council with an estimated revenue cash return of £68m over the next 40 years, with the in-house operating model. This represents an internal rate of return of 9%.

## **COVID 19 UPDATE REPORT**

**It was RESOLVED that** the work of officers of the Council and partners in responding to and supporting the recovery from Covid 19 be noted.

## **REASON FOR DECISION**

To update the Cabinet on the current impact of Covid 19, how this has changed since the last update in December 2020, and how the Council and its partners are responding to the pandemic.

The report is correct at the time of writing; however, as the Council has experienced, the situation can change quickly. It is important, therefore, that the Council remains

flexible and responsive to these new challenges and the report reflects the need to do this.

## **ELECTORAL REVIEW OF RUSHCLIFFE**

### **It was RESOLVED that**

- a) the Review of Council Size, which proposes an increase in the number of Councillors for Rushcliffe Borough Council to 46 Councillors subject to Full Council approval in March 2021 be endorsed; and
- b) the Chief Executive be requested to make arrangements for the Review to be sent to the Commission as the Council's draft submission subject to Full Council approval in March 2021.

### **REASON FOR DECISION**

The Review of Council Size required the Council to consider how many Councillors are needed to effectively represent the electorate and govern the authority. Given that the Borough is anticipating growth of 18% over the review period of 2020-2027, this increases the average number of electors per Councillor from 2,058 to 2,509 based on the current number of Councillors.

When considered at a ward level there are much greater variances between wards. Therefore, the Council is recommending an increase of two Councillor positions bringing the overall number of Councillors for Rushcliffe to 46. This increase in the number of Councillors brings the average number of electors per Councillor to 2,400.

The increase has been recommended to meet the substantial growth in two areas of the Borough (the Fairham development and the Gamston/Tollerton development). Numbers of electors in these two areas are predicted to be between 3,500 and 4,000 in 2027, with further growth continuing after that date, making these areas comparable in size to those which already have two ward Councillors.

This recommended increase is also in response to feedback from Councillors who have already experienced significant growth within their ward and have reported the increased workload involved in dealing with new developments, new residents and the existing community.

The Council welcomes the second stage of the Review process which looks at the boundaries between wards to equalise, as far as is possible, the number of electors per Councillor.

## **RUSHCLIFFE NATURE CONSERVATION STRATEGY**

### **It was RESOLVED that**

- a) the Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy 2021 – 2025 be adopted;

- b) the funding for the Free Tree Scheme be extended to include funding of £50,000 over 2021 – 2025 within the Strategy, to cover planting of trees and to support the introduction of wildflowers seed distribution in line with the Strategy lifecycle; and
- c) That the Council should work with neighbouring local planning authorities and partner organisations to introduce biodiversity net gain policies that complement the Nature Conservation Strategy's objectives.

**REASON FOR DECISION**

To meet the resolutions of Council of 5 March 2015 and 16 July 2020, and the recommendation the Community Scrutiny Group on 7 October 2020.

The current adopted Nature Conservation Strategy ran to the end of 2020, an updated Strategy is therefore recommended for its work to continue to meet the Council's environmental aspirations.

The resolution supported a target of planting 2000 trees and 500 square metres of wildflower grassland creation per annum.

Yours sincerely,



**Sanjit Sull**  
**Monitoring Officer**