

## FULL COUNCIL

7 JULY 2020

### REPORT OF CABINET MEMBER FOR STRONGER AND SAFER COMMUNITIES

#### 1. COUNCIL UPDATE REGARDING STRONGER AND SAFER COMMUNITIES

##### 1.1 Purpose of Report

To advise Members that decision making sessions were held on 24 February, 30 March and 17 June 2020, covering CPH Stronger and Safer Communities.

##### 1.2 Background

1.2.1 This report highlights some of those decisions which I have made, but not all. Members wishing to view all decisions made can find these at <http://eservices.solihull.gov.uk/mgInternet/mgListCommittees.aspx?bcr=1>

1.2.2 Attached to this report is a list of decisions made.

##### 1.3 Decisions

###### 1.3.1 24 February 2020

###### 1.3.2 Solihull's Approach to Anti-Semitism

1.3.3 As Cabinet Member I approved the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of Anti-Semitism.

###### 1.3.4 Armed Forces Community Covenant Update

1.3.5 I signed the Armed Forces Community Covenant on behalf of the Council and noted the work being done by the Council in fulfilling its commitment to the Armed Forces Community. It was agreed that the Council applies for the Silver Award under the Ministry of Defence (MOD) Recognition Scheme subject to Cabinet Member sign off by April 2020.

###### 1.3.6 30 March 2020

###### 1.3.7 Mortuary & Pathology Services

1.3.8 I approved the progression of phase two work to develop proposals and a business case for the future delivery of mortuary and pathology services for Solihull residents.

###### 1.3.9 Review of Neighbourhood Proportion of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Bidding Process

1.3.10 I reviewed the potential changes to the Neighbourhood CIL bidding process and agreed the changes in light of the review.

###### 1.3.11 Memorial Permit Fees

1.3.12 I approved the introduction of a flat rate fee for memorial permit applications, which will be reviewed annually in line with the Authority's fees and charges.

###### 1.3.13 17 June 2020

###### 1.3.14 Animal Welfare Regulations – Fee Setting

1.3.15 A report was presented to me on proposed fees for licensing activities, involving animals, for all applications made and licenses granted from the 1 April 2020, which I approved.

### 1.3.16 **Private Sector Anti-Social Behaviour Service Annual Update**

1.3.17 I noted the progress made by the service to deal with private sector anti-social behaviour in the Borough and approved that in future the Private Sector Anti-Social Behaviour performance is monitored by SCH Quarterly Monitoring Board and annual updates on the funding of this service are provided to the Safer Solihull Partnership Board.

### 1.3.18 **Council Plan and Priorities**

1.3.19 Creating the Conditions for Communities to thrive by developing an integrated community based approach to enable people to start and live well.

### 1.3.20 **Good News and Issues of Interest**

### 1.3.21 **Community Response to COVID-19.**

1.3.22 I am really impressed with how our communities have responded to the COVID-19 crisis. Whilst this has been devastating for many, it is heart-warming to see our communities stand up and support each other.

1.3.23 Our staff, in partnership with our communities, have put in place a network of support to ensure our vulnerable residents had access to the support that they needed to get them through this outbreak.

1.3.24 Alongside Solihull Community Housing staff, we have directly supported around 7,000 of our most vulnerable residents who are shielding.

1.3.25 Over 40,000 Solihull residents have been directly offered support by a range of groups such as Faith groups, Parish Councils, Police and Fire Service, Food Banks and Community and Voluntary Sector organisations. A number of online community groups have been established and they have become an invaluable life line for lots of people.

1.3.26 As well as a number of residents signing up to volunteer a number of businesses have provided help and support, which has been invaluable.

1.3.27 I would like to thank everyone that have supported someone through this crisis.

1.3.28 If members would like more specific information on the Community and Business support, please let me know.

### 1.3.29 **Other news**

1.3.30 During the last several months I attend a number of meetings and events, etc. as follows:

- Queen's Award for the Voluntary Sector (QAVS) meeting - 10th February;
- I completed the 500th Park Run in Solihull, in under 30 minutes, on the 22nd February;
- In preparation for the London Marathon on the 4<sup>th</sup> October, I ran 20 miles on the 8th March in 3 hours and 41 minutes;
- Attending the Drug Summit - 13th March;
- VE Day celebration - 8th May;
- Safer Solihull Board - 21st May;
- Fireworks Task and Finish Group - 3rd June;

- Love Solihull event – 11 June;
- Fireworks Task & Finish Group – 24<sup>th</sup> June.

1.3.31 I have been informed that Solihull has been voted the top library service in the country for the issuing of e-books and other e-materials. The report was published by Tim Coates, an influential writer on public library services. Solihull issued 10% of its library stock digitally last year compared to Edinburgh who came in second with 7.6%. Whilst this shows that response to our digital offer continues to improve we recognise that not everyone has access to the internet and we are working on ways to improve this.

#### 1.4 **Future Decisions**

1.4.1 At my future decision making sessions I will be considering the following:

- Statutory Food & Safety Service Plan 2020-21
- Crematoria Webcasting Fees