

FULL COUNCIL

6 DECEMBER 2022

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

1. COUNCIL UPDATE REGARDING CABINET

1.1 Purpose of Report

To advise Council of the main decisions taken at the Cabinet meetings on 6 October and 3 November 2022.

1.2 Background

1.2.1 This report highlights some of those decisions which have been 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 are the lists of decisions made.

1.3 Decisions – 6 October 2022

1.3.1 **Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2023/24** - Cabinet received an update on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme from 2023. Members were advised, and approved, that no changes be proposed for the CTR Scheme for 2023/24.

1.3.2 **Carers' Strategy 2022-27** – Members were advised of the new place-based strategy for the Solihull area, which was to be jointly approved by Solihull Council and the Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care Board. The new strategy had been developed with carers of all ages, alongside health and voluntary sector partners, recognising the valuable contribution they make to care and support in the Borough, and the priorities for development of support services for them over the next 5 years. Cabinet approved the Solihull Carers' Strategy 2022-27.

1.3.3 **Update on Children's Services Financial Position 2022/23 and Implications for Forthcoming Medium-Term Financial Strategy** – Members were advised of the unprecedented pressures that some areas within the Children's Services Directorate were facing. The figures provided an indication of the scale of the current position and the MTFS implications. The report would feed through into the Budget Strategy Group and be considered alongside other budgetary pressures in other Portfolios. Members recognised that the shortfall in social workers was a national concern and not just locally. It was noted that potential funding could be available from Fairer Future Funding.

1.3.4 **Solihull Connected Refresh - Draft Transport Strategy** – Cabinet was provided with an update on the refresh of the 2016 Solihull Connected Transport Strategy. The refreshed strategy highlighted the priority of active travel and public transport modes, through the development of a Public Transport Vision and the principles of the recently adopted Cycling and Walking Strategy. Members supported the Strategy and approval was given to a public consultation on the draft document.

1.3.5 **Kingshurst Village Centre Regeneration** – Cabinet was asked to approve the early demolition works at Kingshurst Village Centre and accept external funding to support the project in the event that recent funding applications were successful. Options were put forward and Cabinet approved the appointment of Willmott Dixon to undertake an early works package. Cabinet would receive a further report in the coming months, providing a business case and details of the final scheme.

1.4 Decisions – 3 November 2022

- 1.4.1 **Medium-Term Financial Strategy (Period 6) Update** – Cabinet received and noted an outline of the MTFS latest financial position, as at 30 September 2022 (Period 6). All portfolios, with the exception of Children’s Services, were in an equivalent or better financial position as at 31 March 2022, than that assumed in the budget approved by Full Council in February 2022. Noted were the latest Red, Amber and Green ratings for the delivery of the MTFS savings 2022/23 to 2024/25.