

FULL COUNCIL

8 DECEMBER 2020

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

1. COUNCIL UPDATE REGARDING CABINET AND LEADER

1.1 Purpose of Report

To advise Council of the main decisions taken at the Cabinet meeting on 5 November 2020.

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 Decision: 5 November 2020

1.3.1 **Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTR) 2021/22** - Cabinet received an update on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme from 2021. The impact of Covid-19 had seen claims for this scheme rise to 1,203. Support mechanisms were in place to help claimants who were suffering financial hardship. Members approved the CTR Scheme for 2021/22.

1.3.2 **Solihull Town Centre Masterplan** - Cabinet was presented with the refreshed Solihull Town Centre Masterplan and the vision and principles of this were explained. The plan is designed to provide a mix of housing and business accommodation that will maintain its place as a key centre in the region, but could be reviewed if requirements changed. Approval was given to the refreshed Plan and the next steps in publishing, promoting and delivering it.

1.3.3 **Smarter Ways of Working Strategy** - As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on work, the Wider Corporate Leadership Team had developed an approach to reset the way organisation works in the changing environment that we are facing

1.3.4 **Medium-Term Financial Strategy Update (Incorporating the Period 6 Position) as at 30 September 2020** - Members noted the current financial position and that no further action was needed at this stage to address the budget variances.

1.3.5 **Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Recovery Plan** - Members were provided with a detailed background to the DSG High Needs Block financial position and the action that was being taken. Members recognised the significant impact Covid-19 had made on both the LA and schools and noted and approved the action that was being taken

1.3.6 **Property Investment Strategy** - Cabinet was presented with and subsequently approved the Property Investment Strategy, which had been updated following advice from the Government and the Chartered Institute of Public Finance. The Strategy would continue to support the Council's objectives and provide robust procedures in its investment activity.