

FULL COUNCIL

2 FEBRUARY 2021

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 3 December 2020 and 14 January 2021.

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 – 3 December 2020

1.3.1 **Medium Term Financial Strategy Update (Incorporating Capital Programme 2020/21)** – Cabinet gave approval to the rephrasing of the corporate capital programme for 2021/22; the revised corporate capital programme for 2020/21; the HRA capital programme, after proposals and virements; and the passporting of Government capital allocations for 2021/22 to individual Cabinet Portfolios for project allocation.

1.3.2 **Shirley Economic Growth Plan** – Cabinet was presented with a refreshed Shirley Economic Growth Plan, which had been updated following the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. A revised Action Plan was submitted following a further round of consultation with key businesses, stakeholders and Ward Members was undertaken. Members approved the Plan and agreed the next stage of funding from the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership alongside the use allocated Council reserves.

1.3.3 **Update on Applications to Funding Bodies that Support the Council's Priorities** – Cabinet noted the submission and progress of a number of external funding applications to West Midlands Combined Authority and the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership, in order to deliver on the Council's Growth and Development Investment Plan.

1.3.4 **Kingshurst Village Centre** - Members received an update on the Kingshurst Village Centre Masterplan and further important steps taken towards redevelopment of the centre, including information on the community pilot and the Inclusive Growth Outcomes Framework. Approval was given to the use of Compulsory Purchase Powers to acquire land to enable delivery of the Village Centre regeneration.

1.3.5 **Update to HRA Capital Programme** - Following changes to Building Regulations, a number of buildings were found to require work to comply with the new regulations and members approved revisions to the HRA Capital Programme in order for these works to be made.

1.4 Decisions – 14 January 2021

- 1.4.1 West Midlands Rail Executive Governance Changes** – Cabinet approved the Council’s Member of the West Midlands Rail Limited Board be authorised to vote in favour of the proposed governance changes at an extraordinary meeting of West Midlands Rail Limited Board, namely that the Mayor of the West Midlands become a non-voting chair, and thus gain direct and formal influence over local rail services and rail strategy. This also meant that the Mayor’s formal role increased the likelihood that West Midlands Rail Limited would be able to successfully lobby the Department for Transport for greater powers and funding in the future.
- 1.4.2 Infrastructure Funding Statement 2019/20** – Approval was given to the publication of the 2019/20 CIL Annual Monitoring Report, including all the necessary details of receipts and expenditure through CIL, and development contributions required to comply with reporting regulations. Progress of the CIL would continue to be reviewed and improvements made to the process wherever possible.
- 1.4.3 Update on Applications to Funding Bodies that Support the Council’s Priorities** – Members agreed to accept external funding from the West Midlands Combined Authority to support the Hub Movement and Connectivity Package, in order to deliver on the Council’s priorities.