

FULL COUNCIL

13 APRIL 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 11 February and 11 March.

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 – 11 February 2021

1.3.1 **Medium Term Financial Strategy Update (Incorporating Period 9 Position Statement)** – Cabinet received and noted an outline of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) latest financial position as at 31st December 2020 (Period 9) including the latest Covid-19 financial impact. Approval was given to create an Early Years Reserve in the Dedicated Schools Grant to manage adverse or favourable variances resulting from data that would be received at a later date.

1.3.2 **Housing Revenue Account Estimates and Rent Increases 2021/22** – Cabinet gave its annual consideration to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget estimates and the management fee the Council pays to Solihull Community Housing (SCH). Cabinet approved an average rent increase of 1.5% from 1 April 2021 for the Solihull MBC affordable homes, as well as a number of other rent increasers. The HRA budget for 2021/22, including SCH management fee, was also approved

1.3.3 **Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2021/2022 - 2023/24** – Cabinet approved for recommendation to Full Council a budget for 2021/22 of £151.372 million, including the forecast balances on the Budget Strategy, and the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Efficiency Plan 2021/22 – 2023/24, as updated in the Leaders report, and the Corporate Capital Strategy, incorporating the Council's strategy on the flexible use of capital receipts.

1.3.4 Approval was given to the creation of three new reserves and contributions, namely Environment Services, Covid-19 grant and business rates volatility.

1.3.5 Members also approved an increase in the level of the general council tax in 2021/22 of 1.99%; an increase in council tax for adult social care in 2021/22 of 1.50%; and the fees and charges proposed within each portfolio.

1.3.6 **Solihull's Net Zero Action Plan Green Paper** - Cabinet noted the Net Zero Solihull Green Paper Executive Summary and Green Paper as submitted. Approval was given to public consultation on these.

1.3.7 **Update on Applications to Funding Bodies that Support the Council's Priorities** - Cabinet approved the ongoing progress of four external funding applications,

1.3.8 **Birmingham Airport** - Members recommended a loan facility to BAML on commercial market terms, up to the value of £3.7 million, go forward to Council for approval.

1.4 Decisions – 11 March 2021

- 1.4.1 Solihull Holiday Activity and Food Programme** – Cabinet was updated on the support provided to families and vulnerable households during the Winter period, particularly on how grants received from the Government had been used. This included the Government’s Holiday Activity and Food Programme (HAFP) and the food offer available to families with children in receipt of free school meals during the Easter period. Members also approved the recommended approach for delivering HAFP for Summer and Christmas holidays 2021.
- 1.4.2 Solihull Cycling and Walking Strategy and Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan** – Following extensive public consultation, Members were provided with, and gave approval to, the publication of the Cycling and Walking Strategy and Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan.
- 1.4.3 Placemaking Fund - Proposed Allocations** – Cabinet approved the proposed allocation of the Council’s Placemaking Fund.
- 1.4.4 Urban Growth Company Business Plan 2021-22** – Following approval from the Urban Growth Company Board, Cabinet approved the Urban Growth Company Business Plan 2021-22.