



CABINET

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To: Councillors Miah (Leader), Hamilton (Deputy Leader), Ashcroft, Blackshaw, A. Gray, Jadeja, Jones and Tillotson (for attention)

All other members of the Council
(for information)

You are requested to attend the meeting of the Cabinet to be held in Committee Room 1, at the Council Offices, Southfields, Loughborough on Thursday, 7th March 2024 at 6.00 pm for the following business.

Chief Executive

Southfields
Loughborough

23rd February 2024

AGENDA SUPPLEMENT – SCRUTINY COMMISSION REPORTS

6. CORPORATE DELIVERY PLAN 2024-25 3 - 5
A report of the Chief Executive.
Key Decision
7. SUPPORT FOR THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR 6 - 8
A report of the Director Housing and Wellbeing.

Key Decision

8. HOUSING REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE POLICY 9 - 10

A report of the Director Housing and Wellbeing.

Key Decision

9. SHELTERED ACCOMMODATION STRATEGY FRAMEWORK 11 - 12

A report of the Director Housing and Wellbeing.

Key Decision

10. HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME 13 - 14

A report of the Director Housing and Wellbeing.

Key Decision

CABINET – 7TH MARCH 2024

Report of the Scrutiny Commission

CORPORATE DELIVERY PLAN 2024-25

Purpose of Report

To consider the comments and recommendations of the Scrutiny Commission in relation to the Corporate Delivery Plan 2024-25.

Recommendation of the Scrutiny Commission

That the Cabinet be informed that the Commission welcomes and supports the recommendations set out in the report of the Chief Executive.

Reason

The Commission, having carefully considered and asked questions on the report felt the Cabinet should approve the recommendations set out.

Meeting Discussion

- i. The relocation of the CCTV Control Centre to the Beehive multi storey car park was to consolidate assets. Eventually the ICS building could become vacant and the Council would have options to repurpose the building.
- ii. It was intended that the delivery of a portfolio of projects would promote Charnwood Borough Council as a key employer to enable it to retain and attract a strong and committed work force.
- iii. There had been a Car Parking Strategy started, which had so far focussed on the Council's current assets and fees and charges in relation to car parking. The Car Parking Strategy was still in development and it was expected that a draft would be completed by March 2024, and a completion date had been set for early 2025.
- iv. The Green Fleet Review was exclude waste vehicles, and would include all over vehicles in the Council's fleet.
- v. The Domestic Abuse Policy was a regulatory expectation and would impact a number of areas across the Council, including Landlord Services, Housing Needs and the Community Safety team.
- vi. It was suggested that the Council should encourage more market traders to engage with the specialist markets to be held. It was expected that the increased participation of market traders would encourage more traders to attend. The Chief Executive agreed to discuss this with the Markets team at the Council.

- vii. It was highlighted that a lot of the work associated with the 'Economy and Growth' section of the Corporate Delivery Plan 2024-25 would be focussed in the Loughborough Area as there was a significant amount of work associated with the Loughborough Town Deal being delivered. It was suggested that more work to support parishes and highstreets in other areas of the Borough would be welcomed.
- viii. There was an existing budget that the Loughborough Mela was able to access and organisers had been advised that they were able to bid for funding through the community grants process. An annual amount had been requested; however, this would need to be weighed in the future against other pressures.
- ix. The new major summer event would bring something new to the Borough to attract more visitors. There was a desire to increase commerciality to avoid financial strains on the Council's budgets.
- x. It was suggested that the Council considered the resettlement requirements of Asylum Seekers in future Corporate Delivery Plans. It was recognised that there were ongoing challenges and that the Council was limited, but would do as much as possible to support Asylum Seekers. The Council had an internal Ukraine group which looked at the support offered by the Council and a lot of the work required to rehome Asylum Seekers had been undertaken by existing teams within the Council. There had been no additional financial resources provided by Government to support this work. The Council also funded Equality Action Charnwood as a Strategic Partner, to provide advice and support to Asylum Seekers in need of resettlement.
- xi. The Council's Bereavement Services provided by North West Leicestershire District Council were due to end, and therefore the Council wanted to implement new arrangements for the delivery of an in-house Bereavement Service from September 2024. The change in service arrangements would not affect service users. It was possible that the service could be outsourced to other local authorities.
- xii. The way that Council Tax collections were recorded were incremental and were built up from quarter to quarter.
- xiii. Data on air quality was collected on the Ashby Road area and by Loughborough University, which were in close proximity to the incinerator. The Air Quality Strategy was intended to be Borough-wide and would likely include air quality in the Shepshed and Stonebow areas. The Chief Executive agreed to enquire about this with officers and feed back to members following the meeting.
- xiv. It was difficult to collect data on the percentage of Charnwood residents that were email subscribers. The Transformation and Improvement Manager agreed to liaise with the Communications Manager to see if this data was available, and would feed this back following the meeting. The Transformation and Improvement Manager highlighted that the Council was running a digital inclusion project which would support members of the public with channel shift.

It was emphasized that the Council's services were accessible to everyone and were not entirely digital.

- xv. The delivery of football infrastructure across the Borough would use existing Council assets.

Post meeting note: The Head of Contracts (Leisure, Waste and Environment confirmed that the delivery of football infrastructure would most likely be on Council land. The projects that the Council had in development were on Council owned assets, or land that was leased to the Council.

Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

Scrutiny Commission Procedure Rule 11.12 sets out the procedure by which a report of a Scrutiny Committee should be considered by Cabinet.

Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions and Scrutiny

The information on this in the Cabinet report is not affected by the recommendation of the Scrutiny Commission.

Report Implications

The following implications have been identified for this report.

Financial Implications

There are no further financial implications associated with the recommendation of the Scrutiny Commission.

Risk Management

There are no specific risks associated with the recommendations of the Scrutiny Commission.

Key Decision:	Yes
Background Paper:	Scrutiny Commission Minute 115 2023/24, 4th March 2024.
Officer to Contact:	Sally Watson Democratic Services Officer (01509) 634969 Sally.watson@charnwood.gov.uk

CABINET – 7TH MARCH 2024

Report of the Scrutiny Commission

SUPPORT FOR THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR

Purpose of Report

To consider the comments and recommendations of the Scrutiny Commission in relation to the Support for the Voluntary and Community Sector report.

Recommendation of the Scrutiny Commission

That the Cabinet be informed that the Commission welcomes and supports the recommendations set out in the report of the Director of Housing and Wellbeing.

Reason

The Commission, having carefully considered and asked questions on the report felt the Cabinet should approve the recommendations set out.

Meeting Discussion

- i. It was emphasised that grants were open as before, and that there had been two aspects added to the criteria for grants, referencing the cost of living and the Council's Climate Change Strategy. The criteria for grants was applied to give weight to applications. Organisations did not necessarily have to fulfil every criteria. The additional criteria would not automatically exclude existing Member Grants groups.
- ii. The ring fencing of £30k from the Community Grants sum for 2024/25 was for community groups. It was recognised that for some smaller groups, decisions were much more time critical and that it would be beneficial to alter the process slightly, as recommended in the report. The recommended process would allow smaller community groups to receive smaller funds quicker, without compromising the necessary due diligence and checks against eligibility criteria. Members could still nominate and support local groups to access funds through the grants process.
- iii. The Grants Panel was made up of officers and Chaired by the Communities and Wellbeing Manager. The purpose of the panel was to ensure due diligence by checking applications against the eligibility criteria. Applications were scored by panel members individually and an average score was identified. The final score for an application could be amended if further information was received to improve the strength of the application. The Grants team provided support to complete applications if required.
- iv. Members Grants were introduced a number of years ago to enable members to support projects in their wards. Research had been undertaken which

highlighted that some other Councils administered member grants schemes and the Council chose to develop a scheme.

- v. Some organisations (such as The Bridge) had Service Level Agreements with the Council to provide services, and were funding through the Homelessness Prevention Grant. The Citizen's Advice Bureau were a Strategic Partner of the Council, and received funding through the Strategic Partner Grant. The Citizen's Advice Bureau also received funding from the Homelessness Prevention Grant to provide services on behalf of the Council, to reduce homelessness. The additional funding of £25k to the Citizen's Advice Bureau was to increase capacity and to enable them to support more residents.
- vi. The Citizen's Advice Bureau reported to the Council on a quarterly basis, detailing the services accessed by residents by ward. The Communities and Wellbeing Manager agreed to share this report with members following the meeting.
- vii. It was suggested that the list of voluntary sector organisations which the Council provides funding to, and the services offered, be circulated to members following the meeting.

Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

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Risk Management

There are no specific risks associated with the recommendations of the Scrutiny Commission.

Key Decision: Yes

Background Paper: Scrutiny Commission Minute 119 2023/24, 4th March 2024.

Officer to Contact:

Sally Watson
Democratic Services Officer
(01509) 634969
Sally.watson@charnwood.gov.uk

CABINET – 7TH MARCH 2024

Report of the Scrutiny Commission

HOUSING REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE POLICY

Purpose of Report

To consider the comments and recommendations of the Scrutiny Commission in relation to the Housing Repairs and Maintenance Policy.

Recommendation of the Scrutiny Commission

That the Cabinet be informed that the Commission welcomes and supports the recommendations set out in the report of the Director of Housing and Wellbeing.

Reason

The Commission, having carefully considered and asked questions on the report felt the Cabinet should approve the recommendations set out.

Meeting Discussion

- i. Members felt that the report was clear and accessible to customers.
- ii. The Handyperson service was free and had been introduced as the Council had acknowledged that the support offered to vulnerable tenants needed to be flexible. Members praised the introduction of this service and recognised the benefit to tenants. This would be publicised as part of the Housing Repairs and Maintenance Policy once adopted.
- iii. Tenants received information on the Customer Repair Responsibilities when signing a tenancy agreement. In addition, tenants received a Repairs Handbook, which detailed this information.
- iv. The timescale for adaptations was six months. The Council had a separate policy for adaptations.

Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

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Financial Implications

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Risk Management

There are no specific risks associated with the recommendations of the Scrutiny Commission.

Key Decision:	Yes
Background Paper:	Scrutiny Commission Minute 116 2023/24, 4th March 2024.
Officer to Contact:	Sally Watson Democratic Services Officer (01509) 634969 Sally.watson@charnwood.gov.uk

CABINET – 7TH MARCH 2024

Report of the Scrutiny Commission

SHELTERED ACCOMMODATION STRATEGY FRAMEWORK

Purpose of Report

To consider the comments and recommendations of the Scrutiny Commission in relation to the Sheltered Accommodation Strategy Framework.

Recommendation of the Scrutiny Commission

That the Cabinet be informed that the Commission welcomes and supports the recommendations set out in the report of the Director of Housing and Wellbeing.

Reason

The Commission, having carefully considered and asked questions on the report felt the Cabinet should approve the recommendations set out.

Meeting Discussion

- i. Members welcomed the Sheltered Accommodation Strategy Framework and felt that a review of the sheltered accommodation was beneficial.
- ii. It was acknowledged that the budget provisions associated with Recommendation 3 of the report involved a lot of investment. £200k of the investment outlined was to gain specialist external support for due diligence and to ensure the Council chose the most appropriate options. The costs associated with decommission Block A of Fielding Court would depend on the option chosen, and may not meet the £200k allocated.
- iii. Riversdale Court in Birstall had been a popular sheltered accommodation unit. If there was further demand for this type of property then the Council would consider this when making recommendations on the types of property required in the future.
- iv. The Council would engage with current and potential tenants through focus groups and direct communication in order to consult on and inform about proposed changes to sheltered accommodation.

Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

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Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions and Scrutiny

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Report Implications

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Financial Implications

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Risk Management

There are no specific risks associated with the recommendations of the Scrutiny Commission.

Key Decision:	Yes
Background Paper:	Scrutiny Commission Minute 118 2023/24, 4th March 2024.
Officer to Contact:	Sally Watson Democratic Services Officer (01509) 634969 Sally.watson@charnwood.gov.uk

CABINET – 7TH MARCH 2024

Report of the Scrutiny Commission

HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME

Purpose of Report

To consider the comments and recommendations of the Scrutiny Commission in relation to the Housing Capital Programme.

Recommendation of the Scrutiny Commission

That the Cabinet be informed that the Commission welcomes and supports the recommendations set out in the report of the Director of Housing and Wellbeing.

Reason

The Commission, having carefully considered and asked questions on the report felt the Cabinet should approve the recommendations set out.

Meeting Discussion

It was highlighted that the cost of the work to be undertaken as a result of flood damaged should be fully recoverable from the Council's insurance policies.

Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

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Risk Management

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Key Decision: Yes

Background Paper: Scrutiny Commission Minute 117 2023/24, 4th March 2024.

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