

**CABINET
11TH JANUARY 2024**

PRESENT: The Leader (Councillor Miah)
The Deputy Leader (Councillor Hamilton)
Councillors Ashcroft, Blackshaw, A. Gray, Jadeja
and Tillotson

Councillor Rattray

Chief Executive
Director Finance, Governance and Contracts
Democratic Services Manager
Director Commercial and Economic Development
Director Housing and Wellbeing
Head of Transformation, Strategy and
Performance
Head of Planning and Growth
Head of Strategic Housing
Communities and Wellbeing Manager
Democratic Services Officer (LS)

APOLOGIES: Councillor Jones

The Leader stated that this meeting would be recorded and the sound recording subsequently made available via the Council's website. He also advised that, under the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, other people may film, record, tweet or blog from this meeting, and the use of any such images or sound recordings was not under the Council's control.

56. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS, AND OTHER REGISTRABLE AND NON-REGISTRABLE INTERESTS

No disclosures were made.

57. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader made the following announcement:

I would like to place on record my thanks and the Cabinet's thanks to all the agencies, organisations, Council staff and volunteers who have helped our local communities during the floods last week.

We have seen some of the worst flooding in Charnwood for years affect the borough with many homes and businesses affected.

We worked hard as a council to respond and support communities and we will continue that work in the coming weeks and months.

I would also like to thank the community for rallying around and helping each other during these difficult times. It was heart-warming and inspiring to see the voluntary work, parcel collections and fundraising taking place to help those who have been hit the hardest by these floods.

The Council will continue to support the recovery of the most affected areas.

We will also support investigations into why the flooding happened and any resulting need for future flood protection measures.

58. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th December 2023 were confirmed as a correct record and signed.

59. QUESTIONS UNDER CABINET PROCEDURE 10.7

No questions had been submitted.

60. CORPORATE STRATEGY 2024-2028

Considered, a report of the Chief Executive: Corporate Strategy 2024-2028, for recommendation to Council (item 6 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

Councillor Rattray, Chair of the Scrutiny Commission, presented a report setting out the Commission's pre-decision scrutiny of the matter and recommendation (copy filed with these minutes). The Commission was thanked for its scrutiny of the matter.

RESOLVED

1. that the new Corporate Strategy 2024-2028, attached at the annex to the report, be approved and **recommended to Council**;
2. that delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, to make minor amendments to the Strategy;
3. that delegated authority is given to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, to design the final document for publication.

Reasons

1. To enable the draft Corporate Strategy to set out the direction for the Council for the period 2024-2028.
2. To allow minor corrections and amendments to be made in a timely manner prior to publication.
3. To ensure that the designed version of the Corporate Strategy can be developed for public circulation.

61. COSSINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Considered, a report of the Head of Planning and Growth: Cossington Neighbourhood Plan (item 7 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

The Leader thanked the people of Cossington for the work they had undertaken.

RESOLVED that the Cossington Parish Neighbourhood Plan is 'made' to confirm its status as part of the statutory development plan for Charnwood, in accordance with the provisions of Section 38(A) (4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

Reason

To fulfil the legal duty to make the Cossington Parish Neighbourhood Plan part of the development plan for Charnwood.

62. CHARNWOOD GRANTS – STRATEGIC PARTNERS (2024/25-2025/26)

Considered, a report of the Director Housing and Wellbeing: Charnwood Grants - Strategic Partners (2024/25-2025/26) (item 8 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

Councillor Rattray, Chair of the Scrutiny Commission, presented a report setting out the Commission's pre-decision scrutiny of the matter and recommendation (copy filed with these minutes). The Commission was thanked for its scrutiny of the matter.

RESOLVED

1. that the following Strategic Partner Grants be approved, subject to budget approval:

Organisation	Amount Awarded 2024/25 (Year 1)	Provisional amount subject to budget review 2025/26 (Year 2)
Citizens Advice Charnwood	£86,705	£86,705
Equality Action	£20,454	£20,454
Fearon Hall Community Association	£29,727	£29,727
Gorse Covert Community Association	£19,922	£19,922
John Storer Charnwood	£84,490	£84,490
Shepshed Volunteer Centre (John Storer Charnwood)	£9,537	£9,537

Living Without Abuse	£27,050*	£17,513
		£9537 allocation TBC
TOTAL	£277,885	£277,885

2. that the Director of Housing and Wellbeing be given delegated authority to finalise the terms and conditions of the Strategic Partner Grants awarded and Service Level Agreements;
3. that it be noted that Syston & District Volunteer Centre did not apply for a Strategic Partner Grant for 2024/25 and 2025/26 and that the amounts set out in resolution 1 include the redistribution of the £9,537 previously ringfenced for Syston & District Volunteer Centre. The Grants Panel recommended that this amount be awarded to *Living Without Abuse to help to reduce the waiting time for their clients to access support.

Reasons

1. To provide appropriate levels of financial support to those organisations that have submitted applications and been assessed by Grants Panel, as meeting the criteria for the Strategic Partner Grant Scheme.
2. To enable the grants awarded to be finalised with an approved Service Level Agreement and appropriate information to be supplied to the Council about the outcomes of the projects/services and determine final grant award amounts.
3. To clarify the way in which the funding previously provided to Syston Volunteer Centre will be used.

63. DECLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTIES DESIGNATED FOR ALLOCATION TO PEOPLE AGED OVER 45 YEARS

Considered, a report of the Director Housing and Wellbeing: Declassification of Properties Designated for Allocation to People Aged Over 45 Years (item 9 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

Councillor Rattray, Chair of the Scrutiny Commission, presented a report setting out the Commission's pre-decision scrutiny of the matter and recommendation (copy filed with these minutes). The Commission was thanked for its scrutiny of the matter.

RESOLVED

1. that the Director of Housing and Wellbeing be authorised to remove the 45+ age classification from the 1071 properties at Appendix 1 to the report, and that:

2. this be completed in four phases at broadly six-month intervals, with the first phase of properties being declassified in the Summer of 2024;
3. the declassification of properties in each phase progress in consultation with the Executive Member for Public and Private Sector Housing, and subject to the successful management of demand on services arising because of declassification;
4. that targeted communication with affected tenants take place on a phased basis i.e., rather than writing to all affected tenants at once, communications will be issued to tenants in advance of each phase of declassification. Initial generic information will be placed in the tenant newsletter, including information relating to the phased nature of implementation;
5. that tenants be advised of the decision and the reasons for declassification, and provided with the opportunity to feed back any specific concerns so they may be responded to;
6. that the order of phases be based primarily on the meeting of housing need, with a particular focus on areas where there are more empty properties (voids). Tenancy management factors have also been considered including levels of ASB and tenancy support needs;
7. that one additional ASB Officer and one additional Tenancy and Estate Management Officer be recruited to, for a maximum period of three years, with the need for additional resource to be reviewed on an annual basis, and that the HRA revenue budget be increased to accommodate this.

Reasons

1. To support compliance with equalities legislation, and the meeting of housing need.
2. To enable additional capacity currently being put in place to manage voids and allocations to be mobilised, and to put further resources in place to mitigate any increase in demand on tenancy management services.
3. To allow for monitoring of the impact on services, performance, and any increased movement in the housing stock.
4. To reduce the risk of a significant increase in demand on services and movement in the housing stock creating more voids at a time when services are already under pressure.
5. To support effective communication, reassure and provide information to tenants, and provide the opportunity for any specific issues to be responded to.
6. To support the meeting of housing need and to mitigate against increases in demand on services.

7. To mitigate any increase in demand on tenancy management services and to provide capacity to respond to specific tenant concerns and provide support.

64. DECANT AND DISTURBANCE POLICY

Considered, a report of the Director Housing and Wellbeing: Decant and Disturbance Policy (item 10 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

Noted that it would be useful to circulate the policy once adopted to all councillors so that they were aware of it, particularly given the recent floods.

RESOLVED that the Decant and Disturbance Policy attached as appendix A to the report be approved.

Reason

To enable officers to provide a service that treats tenants equitably and consistently when they have to move to alternative accommodation for reasons not of their own choosing, primarily for the Council to carry out repairs in their home that cannot be carried out with the tenant remaining in occupation.

NOTES:

1. Councillor Rattray attended this meeting virtually. She was not taking decisions.
2. The following officers listed as present attended this meeting virtually: Director Commercial and Economic Development, Head of Planning and Growth, Head of Strategic Housing, Communities and Wellbeing Manager.
3. The Democratic Services Manager attended this meeting in her role as Deputy Monitoring Officer.
4. The decisions in these minutes not in the form of recommendations to Council will come into effect at noon on Friday, 19th January 2024 unless called in under Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rule 11.7. Decisions in the form of recommendations to Council are not subject to call in.
5. No reference may be made to these minutes at the next available Ordinary Council meeting unless notice to that effect is given to the Democratic Services Manager by five members of the Council by noon on Friday, 19th January 2024.
6. These minutes are subject to confirmation as a correct record at the next meeting of the Cabinet.