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Date: 12th September 2023

Our Ref: KB

Dear Sir/Madam,

Addendum (2) Council – 13th September 2023

I refer to **Item 9 – Cabinet report to Council**, on the agenda for the meeting of Council on Wednesday, 13th September 2023 and attach the report that was marked to follow.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brent Davis'.

BRENT DAVIS

Chief Executive

To: Members of the Council

Cabinet Report to Council September 2023

1. Introduction

This report deals with the Cabinet meetings held on 26th July 2023 and 6th September 2023.

It also references any reports from the West Midlands Combined Authority [WMCA] Board, which have, or may have in the future, a direct impact on NBBC, namely the WMCA Board meeting held on 21st July 2023.

2. 26th July 2023 - Cabinet Meeting

a) Bedworth Civic Hall – Update – Public Services – (Councillor S. Markham) KEY DECISION

Cabinet received a report setting out the recommendations from the OSP meeting on 28th June 2023, following an accepted 'Call In' on the area/definition of 'Third Sector Model' articulated in Council Minute CL40 on 6th December 2022.

Cabinet agreed that the Council Minute of CL40 be not amended at this time, and that Delegated Authority be given to the Strategic Directors – Finance & Governance and Economy & Transformation in consultation with the Assistant Director Recreation & Culture and Portfolio Holder for Public Services, to undertake the selection exercise to award a lease agreement in accordance with the timetable as set out at Appendix 2 from 27th July 2023.

b) Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy (PPOSS) 2023 – Health and Environment – (Councillor J. Gutteridge) - KEY DECISION.

The Cabinet received a report recommending the adoption of the NBBC Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy 2023. Cabinet agreed that both the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy 2023 and the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy Action Plan 2023 be adopted.

c) Lease and Licence Agreement – Bulkington Sports and Social Club - Health and Environment – (Councillor J. Gutteridge) KEY DECISION.

A report to Cabinet sought approval for Bulkington Sports and Social Club to enter a renewed lease for the self-management of the pavilion and a licence of use for the sports facilities within Bulkington Recreation Ground.

Cabinet approved a renewed lease agreement with revised terms for the pavilion for a period of 35 years, and a new licence agreement for sports pitches.

d) Leisure Operator Procurement Update - Public Services – (Councillor S. Markham) - KEY DECISION

An update was provided to Cabinet on the progress of the Leisure Operator Procurement for the operation of Council Leisure facilities within the Borough. Cabinet agreed that the Leisure Operator Procurement update be noted and that a 12 month extension to the current Leisure Contract be approved.

e) Statement of Community Involvement – Planning and Regulation – (Councillor R. Smith) - KEY DECISION

Cabinet resolved that it should be recommended to Council that the Statement of Community involvement be adopted, to comply with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

f) Borough Plan Review - Planning and Regulation – (Councillor R. Smith) KEY DECISION

Cabinet received an update on the Borough Plan Review and associated draft documents forming the new Local Plan, and a recommendation that Cabinet approve the review process so that it can continue to Regulation 19 (Publication) Stage. In addition, the report included recommendations to Cabinet on the Main modifications to the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD) and addendum to the DPD's Sustainability Appraisal required by the Planning Inspector which can be consulted upon.

Cabinet gave approval to the Regulation 19 public consultation stage for the Borough Plan Review being progressed including the draft DPD, draft appendices and other evidence base documents over a period of 6 weeks in September/October 2023. Cabinet also agreed that the Assistant Director for Planning be given Delegated Authority to make any amendments necessary to the documentation in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning & Regulation up to the public consultation stage.

The Main Modifications required to the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD were approved by Cabinet and progressing to public consultation on the Main Modifications and Sustainability Appraisal Addendum as required by the Planning Inspector.

g) General Fund Revenue Outturn 2022/23 – Finance and Corporate – (Councillor S. Croft) - KEY DECISION

Cabinet received an update report on the final revenue outturn position on the General Fund for 2022/23. The Council is required to achieve a balanced budget each year and Cabinet noted the forecast outturn position and key variances, and approved the earmarked reserve balances.

h) HRA Revenue Outturn 2022/23 - Finance and Corporate – (Councillor S. Croft) - KEY DECISION

The Council is required to achieve a balanced budget each year, and Cabinet received a report providing detail with regards to the Housing Revenue Account outturn position for 2022/23.

Cabinet noted the outturn position and key variances and approved the earmarked reserves balances.

i) Capital Outturn 2022/23 - Finance and Corporate – (Councillor S. Croft) KEY DECISION.

Cabinet received a report on the final Capital Outturn position on the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for 2022/23. The Council has to have an accurate capital budget, and Cabinet noted the final capital outturn position for 2022/23 for the General Fund and HRA.

Cabinet also agreed that the updated capital budget for 2023/24 be recommended for Council approval and approved the Capital reserve position at the end of 2022/23.

j) Collection Fund 2022/23 - Finance and Corporate – (Councillor S. Croft) - KEY DECISION.

Cabinet approved the above report detailing the outturn position on the Collection Fund for 2022/23, detail of which has been shared with Warwickshire Preceptors.

k) Annual Treasury Management Report 2022/23 - Finance and Corporate – (Councillor S. Croft) - KEY DECISION.

Cabinet reviewed a report which detailed the results of the Council's Treasury Management activities for 2022/23 as required by the Prudential Code.

Cabinet agreed the recommendation to Council that the actual 2022/23 Treasury and Prudential Indicators be approved and the Annual Treasury Management Report for 2022/23 be noted.

l) Local Levelling Up Plan Update – Business and Regeneration – (Councillor K. Wilson) - KEY DECISION.

Cabinet noted the report which detailed the Local Levelling Up Plan for the Borough of Nuneaton and Bedworth, which the Council is developing in partnership with Warwickshire County Council.

Following the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill 2022, Warwickshire County Council has begun work on a County Wide Levelling Up plan. The key focus of the work is to improve the lives, health and outcomes of the residents of the County. The work is done in partnership with NBBC and is at a pre-engagement stage.

m) Corporate Building Maintenance Framework 2023 - 2027 - Business and Regeneration – (Councillor K. Wilson) - KEY DECISION.

A report to seek approval for the creation of a Corporate Building Maintenance Framework for works on Corporate, Civic and Commercial (Non HRA) buildings was presented to Cabinet, to ensure ongoing compliance with Contract Procedure Rules, Financial Standing Orders and to contribute to the discharge of NBBC's duty to comply with Health & Safety legislation.

Cabinet agreed that a procurement exercise for a Corporate Building Maintenance Framework for works on Corporate, Civic and Commercial (Non HRA) buildings be undertaken.

3. 6th September 2023 Cabinet Meeting

a) Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities – Simplification Pathfinder Pilot – Business and Regeneration (Councillor K. Wilson) - KEY DECISION

Cabinet approved a report seeking approval for Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council to be a part of Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) Simplification Pathfinder Pilot. By approving this decision it will enable the opportunity to have greater flexibility, reducing bureaucracy and inefficiency within the delivery process and ensure that funding continues to deliver good value for money by allowing funding to be moved between projects.

b) Customer Experience and Digital Strategy – Finance and Corporate (Councillor S. Croft) - KEY DECISION

Cabinet approved the Customer Experience and Digital Strategy which sets out the need to increase digital provision, with the aim of delivering 'digital by default' services. By encouraging digital provision it will enable services to become more efficient, benefitting both the council and customers.

c) Procurement of Aids and Adaptations Framework Agreement for Private Sector Grants Housing and Communities (Councillor C. Golby) - KEY DECISION

Cabinet approved the creation of a framework of contractors to deliver aids and adaptations and assist with delivering disabled facilities grants and home improvements on behalf of the HEART partnership.

d) Cultural Strategy – Public Services (Councillor S. Markham) - KEY DECISION

Cabinet approved the Cultural Strategy as this could drive forward the Culture's role in Building a Better Borough, therefore creating a potential increase the opportunities for additional external funding.

e) Bedworth Physical Activity Hub (BPAH) Update – Public Services (Councillor S. Markham) - KEY DECISION

Cabinet received an update on the BPAH following financial pressures in delivering this project. The report proposed a de-scoped design of the project which is supported by partners to help deliver the BPAH and to reduce the overall project cost, whilst still delivering the required outcomes and reducing the financial strain on the Council. Cabinet approved the recommendations within the report to move forward with delivery and undertake RIBA Stage 3 and 4.

f) Corporate Enforcement Policy and Corporate Debt Policy – Finance and Corporate (Councillor S. Croft) - KEY DECISION

Cabinet approved the above report to ensure the Council had robust policies in place to enable the effective recovery of debt. The Debt Recovery Policy sets out the action the council will take to encourage debtors to pay the amounts due and the Enforcement Policy sets out the more formal options available to the Council when debtors fail to make payment.

g) Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Annual Statement 2022/2023 – Finance and Corporate (Councillor S. Croft) – KEY DECISION

Cabinet approved the Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Annual Statement in pursuant to Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and now approved will publish the statement on the Borough Council's website and on the Central Government Registry.

h) Article 4 (1) Directions – Planning and Regulation (Councillor R. Smith) – KEY DECISION

Cabinet approved the recommendation to cancel and renew Article 4 (1) Directions in the Abbey and Bulkington Conservation Areas in preparation for full council approval. This will ensure the Council can meet the obligations of Planning and Infrastructure legislation.

i) General Fund Budget Monitoring Q1 – Finance and Corporate – (Councillor S. Croft) – KEY DECISION

Cabinet approved the forecast outturn position for the General Fund 2023/24 with consideration given to key variances. The Council is required to set a balanced budget, £1.3M was set aside as part of the budget round to ensure financial resilience plus to invest changes to services through transformation. The transformation programme is gathering pace and will be key to increasing efficiency and effectiveness across the Council which will in turn generate savings and income and is essential to ensuring the Council remains financially viable.

j) HRA Budget Monitoring Q1- Finance and Corporate – (Councillor S. Croft) Housing and Communities (Councillor C. Golby) – KEY DECISION

Cabinet approved the forecast outturn position for the HRA Budget Monitoring for 2023/24 with consideration given to key variances. Spend pressures because of the cost of inflation are affecting the day-to-day operation of the HRA. A full review of the HRA Business Plan is underway and will lay out the future plan for income generation and cost mitigation. With the changes to housing legislation and expectations on housing providers, the profile of expenditure is likely to alter. Once finalised the Business Plan will be present to Cabinet.

k) Capital Budget Monitoring Q1 – Finance and Corporate – (Councillor S. Croft) – KEY DECISION.

Cabinet approved the Council's Q1 forecasted outturn position on capital expenditure for both General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) with a

recommendation to Council to approve an update to the Capital Budget for 2023/24.

The Capital Programme is fully funded in its present form and there is expected to be slippage on projects in 2023/24. The biggest risk to the Council at this stage is the current economic landscape with inflation, price increases for building supplies plus continual rises in interest rates.

4. West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA)

In terms of items which have, or may have in the future, a direct impact on NBBC the WMCA Board meeting of 21st July 2023 considered:

- A Financial Monitoring Report for the year 2023/24 providing an update on the Combined Authority's finances as at 31 May 2023 and an update on the medium-term financial strategy and risks facing the WMCA. This report annex provided details of the 2022-23 treasury activities and highlighted compliance with policy and strategy previously approved in relation to treasury management.
- A report dealing with Levelling Up Zones and Investment Zones that updated the WMCA Board on recent discussions with Government and sought endorsement of the proposed direction of travel on West Midlands Levelling Up Zones and Investment Zone propositions.

5. Conclusion

This report is presented on behalf of Cabinet, and, as always, my colleagues and I are only too happy to take any questions in relation to this report.

Councillor K. Wilson
Leader of the Council on behalf of Cabinet