

Report from the Leader of the Council on the work of the Cabinet

Meeting held on 20 February 2019

This is my report as the Leader of the Council on the work of the Cabinet. It is an overview of the main business considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 20 February 2019. However, it should be noted that seven items of business; the Capital Strategy, detailed Revenue Budget for 2019/20, Capital Programme 2019/20 to 2022/23, Pay Award 2019/20, Pay Policy Statement 2019/20, Members' Allowances 2019 and Laleham Park Pavilion were recommendations to Council and therefore these have already been considered earlier on this agenda.

1. Recommendation from Members' Development Steering Group – Induction Programme

- 1.1 We considered a recommendation from the Members' Development Steering Group outlining an induction programme for new and re-elected councillors. The comprehensive programme included internal and external training sessions, e-learning opportunities and meetings with key officers.
- 1.2 We approved the induction programme and noted that further workshops and seminars are to be arranged later in the year.

2. Annual Grants Awards 2019/20

- 2.1 We considered a report on the proposed grants to organisations in the voluntary and community sectors for 2019/20 and other support for charities and community organisations.
- 2.2 We agreed grants of £195,300 to the organisations set out in the report. A further £4,000 has been carried forward from 2018/19 leaving £18,300 available which is being ring-fenced for projects which arise during the course of the year.

3. Fees and Charges 2019/2020

- 3.1 We considered a report and schedule of proposed fees and charges to be introduced with effect from 1 April 2019. The proposals took into account the inflation rate (RPI) of 2.7% at December 2018, comparisons with other authorities, and market forces. Car park charges will remain at the 2018/19 rates, reflecting the Council's desire to support local retailers and the business community.
- 3.2 We agreed the fees and charges for 2019/20 as set out in the report.

4. Members' ICT 2019

- 4.1 We considered a report recommending the provision of a Council owned tablet computer to all councillors following the local elections in May 2019. It was estimated that this would result in savings over a 4 year period of approximately £30,000 when taking into account the reduced members ICT allowance and printing costs.

- 4.2 We approved the provision of a Council owned tablet to councillors after the elections in May 2019 and an ICT allowance of £250 per member for the four year term of office.

5. Food and Health and Safety Service Plans

- 5.1 We agreed to adopt the proposed food and health and safety service plans for 2019/20, which outline the aims and objectives for the year ahead and evaluate the achievements of the previous year.

6. Acquisition of Property U – Key Decision

- 6.1 We considered an urgent exempt report on the proposed acquisition of a residential property in the borough which presented the opportunity to provide much-needed emergency accommodation for vulnerable homeless households. This would also assist in avoiding costly emergency placements outside of Spelthorne.
- 6.2 We agreed to approve the acquisition of the property by Knowle Green Estates Ltd as set out in the report.

Councillor Ian Harvey
Leader of the Council

21 February 2019