



Civic Centre,
Arnot Hill Park,
Arnold,
Nottinghamshire,
NG5 6LU

Agenda

Cabinet

Date: **Wednesday 15 January 2014**

Time: **12.30 pm**

Place: **Reception Room**

For any further information please contact:

Alec Dubberley

Service Manager Elections and Members' Services

0115 901 3910

Cabinet

Membership

Chair Councillor John Clarke

Vice-Chair Councillor Michael Payne

Councillor Peter Barnes
Councillor Kathryn Fox
Councillor Jenny Hollingsworth
Councillor Darrell Pulk

Observers: Councillor Chris Barnfather
Councillor Paul Hughes

AGENDA

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MINUTES CABINET

Thursday 19 December 2013

Councillor John Clarke (Chair)

Present: Councillor Michael Payne Councillor Kathryn Fox
 Councillor Peter Barnes Councillor Jenny Hollingsworth

Observers: Councillor Paul Hughes

Absent: Councillor Darrell Pulk and Councillor Chris
 Barnfather

Officers in Attendance: H Barrington, P Darlington, M Kimberley, J Robinson,
 D Wakelin, S Bray and A Dubberley

65 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Pulk and Councillor Barnfather (observer).

66 TO APPROVE, AS A CORRECT RECORD, THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14 NOVEMBER 2013.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the above meeting, having been circulated, be approved as a correct record.

67 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.

None.

68 PRESENTATION ON CYCLE SAFETY

The Leader advised that the presentation would not be taking place due to illness and that it was hoped to rearrange this for a future meeting.

69 ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CITY OF NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ECONOMIC PROSPERITY COMMITTEE

The Chief Executive presented a report, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, seeking to establish a joint Economic Prosperity Committee with other Nottinghamshire Authorities.

RESOLVED to:

- 1) Agree the establishment of the Economic Prosperity Committee (EPC) as a joint committee of the following local authorities: Ashfield District Council, Bassetlaw District Council, Broxtowe Borough Council, Gedling Borough Council, Mansfield District Council, Newark and Sherwood District Council, Nottingham City Council, Nottinghamshire County Council and Rushcliffe Borough Council (“constituent authorities”);
- 2) Agree the Constitution (Terms of Reference, Membership and procedures) of the Economic Prosperity Committee as set out at Appendix A to the report;
- 3) Note that any relevant powers previously delegated by the Leader/Executive to individuals or bodies are not expressly withdrawn and will be held concurrently;
- 4) Appoint Councillor John Clarke, the Leader of the Council, as the Council’s representative on the EPC and Councillor Michael Payne, the Deputy Leader, to act as substitute;
- 5) Agree to Nottingham City Council hosting the Committee and providing all necessary secretarial, legal and financial support services, (including S151 and Monitoring Officer roles) and the annual costs involved (estimated to be around £30,000), to be met in equal share by the constituent authorities, until such time as that this can be recovered in part or in whole from external funding streams;
- 6) Agree this Council’s annual contribution to the cost of servicing the Committee in the estimated sum of £3,300 for inclusion in the 2014/15 base budget proposals with any sums due in 2013/14 to be accommodated within the current approved budget and that any expenses for subsistence or travel in relation to the attendance of councillors at meetings on EPC business be met by the individual authorities from existing budget provision for members’ allowances;
- 7) Note that, in accordance with Section 9F of the Local Government Act 2000, constituent authorities who operate executive governance will need to make formal scrutiny arrangements to review or scrutinise decisions made in connection with the exercise of functions of the EPC and that the Council’s existing scrutiny arrangements will apply; and
- 8) Note that, for the reasons set out in the report, the Committee will have no powers to co-opt.

70 COLLABORATION AGREEMENT WITH NEWARK AND SHERWOOD AND RUSHCLIFFE BOROUGH COUNCILS

The Chief Executive presented a report, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, recommending approval of an agreement to develop collaborative working between Gedling Borough Council, Newark and Sherwood District Council and Rushcliffe Borough Council.

RESOLVED:

To approve the Collaboration Agreement with Newark and Sherwood District Council and Rushcliffe Borough Council set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

71 JOINT MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR CAR PARKS

Corporate Director, Mark Kimberley, presented a report, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, seeking in principle support to enter into an agreement with Broxtowe and Rushcliffe Borough Councils for the joint management of car parking across the three authorities.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To give in principle support to the development of joint car parking management arrangements with Broxtowe and Rushcliffe Borough Councils;
- 2) To require a further report to Cabinet highlighting the operational, staffing and budget implications of a transfer of Car Parking management to a joint arrangement; and
- 3) To note that if there are staffing implications for the Council, then appropriate consultation would need to be carried out with affected employees before the final decision was made.

72 GEDLING COUNTRY PARK - VARIATION TO CAPITAL PROGRAMME

Corporate Director, David Wakelin, presented a report, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, requesting that Cabinet endorse and refer to Council for approval, an addition to the Capital Programme to enable stage 1 works to be undertaken for Gedling Country Park.

RESOLVED:

To endorse and refer onto Council for approval an addition to the capital programme for the works to Gedling Country Park as described in the report, for the Stage 1 work, for the amount of £270,100 financed by S106 Contributions.

73 CHANGES TO OUTSIDE BODY REPRESENTATION

Consideration was given to a report of the Service Manager, Elections and Members' Services, nominating representatives to the Nottinghamshire Health and Well-being Board.

RESOLVED:

To nominate Councillor Jenny Hollingsworth as Gedling Borough Council's representative on the Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board with Councillor John Clarke to act as substitute member.

74 FORWARD PLAN

Consideration was given to a report of the Service Manager, Elections and Members' Services, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, detailing the Executive's draft Forward Plan for the next four month period.

RESOLVED:

To note the report.

75 ANY OTHER ITEMS THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT.

The Leader invited Paula Darlington, Corporate Director, to update Cabinet on the latest position regarding the Planning Inspectorate's examination of the Council's Aligned Core Strategy (ACS) – the Council's response to which was required to be made before the Christmas break.

It was explained that while the overall number of dwellings proposed to be built throughout the Borough was considered to be suitable, the inspector suggested that the distribution of proposed housing between urban and rural areas needed to be considered further in an attempt to ensure that a greater number of homes were built in the urban area in order to mitigate the impact on Hucknall and on certain villages within Gedling.

The Inspector asked the Council to

- a) Consider the balance of houses proposed around the urban area and proposed in the rural area.
- b) Look at impact of proposed houses around Hucknall.
- c) Consider, given that the Colliery/Gedling Access Road and Teal Close proposals have moved on since the submission of the original ACS, whether it is possible to review numbers around Hucknall and at Calverton and Ravenshead.

Cabinet was advised of the proposed response to the Inspector which included the following revised set of figures for the construction of new homes in the Borough.

Officers had undertaken extensive investigation of the potential options available in response to the issues highlighted by the inspector, the following comments would be submitted to the Inspector on Monday in line with the following distribution of housing:

Original Number of new Houses proposed in the ACS	Site	Proposed Number of new houses for consideration.
Up to 1000	Top Wighay	1000
600	N. Papplewick Lane	300
500	Bestwood	200
Up to 1300	Calverton	753
330	Ravenshead	227

This re-distribution has been possible due to a proposed allocation at Teal Close of an additional 430 homes.

In addition, and more importantly, recent significant progress in securing funding for the Gedling Access Road has enabled 600 homes to be provisionally allocated to the former Colliery site.

The additional 1030 new houses proposed at Teal Close and the Colliery have enabled the Council to consider proposing a reduction in the rural areas in effect reducing numbers around Hucknall by 600; Calverton by 547 and Ravenshead by 103.

RESOLVED to:

- 1) Note the verbal update given by the Corporate Director regarding the approach to the re-distribution of housing numbers in the Core Strategy and support the proposals to be put forward for consideration by the Inspector; and
- 2) Request that the Corporate Director informs all Members of the response to the Inspector.

PROGRESS REPORTS FROM PORTFOLIO HOLDERS.**Councillor Peter Barnes (Environment)**

- Congratulations to the Parks and Street Care Team who were named the Most Improved Team at the APSE National Awards.
- Winter weather preparations were on schedule and the teams involved were confident that service would be good.
- As members had heard in the meeting work on the Country Park was progressing well and new opportunities to involve local residents were being looked into.

Councillor Jenny Hollingsworth (Health and Wellbeing)

- A Cold weather policy relevant to homeless people was now in operation and the council was now working with Framework in order to verify rough sleepers.
- Safeguarding training had recently been delivered and the number of referrals had risen as a result. Thanks to staff involved.
- An obesity Strategy for Gedling was currently being worked on and progressing well.
- It was hoped that an ambition to start a “men in sheds” project would be realised soon.

Councillor Kathryn Fox (Community Development)

- Staff and visitors to the civic centre were congratulated for donating one tonne of food towards the Arnold Food bank in the past year.
- The Tracks in Time project was held recently with nearly 2000 visitors over the weekend that it ran.
- Thanks were given to all involved in the Netherfield Christmas event held on 6 December and the Newstead event on 20 November.

Councillor Michael Payne (Public Protection and Communication)

- A slim reduction in reported crime was recently noted
- An overwhelming response to the customer survey included in the recent contacts magazine was pleasing with over 2,500 returns.

Councillor John Clarke (Finance and Performance)

- A document summarising the proposed cuts by the County Council, and how they may affect the Borough, was circulated for information.

- An update was also circulated on behalf of Councillor Henry Wheeler (Policy Advisor for Young People) who was unable to attend the meeting. This would be appended to the minutes.
- On behalf of Councillor Pulk Councillor Clarke reported that the first 8 weeks of operation at the new Bonnington Theatre had been very successful.
- A recent meeting with Nottingham Playhouse was very useful it was hoped more partnership working could follow in future.

77 MEMBER'S QUESTIONS TO PORTFOLIO HOLDERS.

None.

The meeting finished at 1.40 pm

Signed by Chair:
Date:

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Policy Advisor for Young People Report for Cabinet Meeting 19th December 2013

Since the last Cabinet meeting held on 14th November the following work has been undertaken.

- Met with Hillary from WE R HERE voluntary sector organisation which works with Young People and provides a Counselling mentoring service, WE R HERE are hopefully looking to make use of the Gedling Youth Centre.
- Attended the Evolution Dance festival at the Carlton Academy with Gedling Leisure Services.
- Held a very successful In Conversation with Young People event at the Bonnington Theatre Arnold, the event discussed how the Council communicates with Young People and how this could be improved. Also involved the Budget conversation and the use of the Lego Blocks this session led by Stephen Bray and Rob McCleary.
- Attended the Gedling Sports Awards at the Carlton Academy.
- Continue to develop the Gedling Youth Council, meetings continue at schools with Stephen Bray and the County Councils Youth Engagement Team. Elections will be held in the spring and an election pack for schools has now been produced by the Communications Team.
- On behalf of the Deputy Mayor attended two Young People's Civic events these being Nottingham's Got Talent at Colwick Social Club and a DARE Graduation at The Sacred Heart Primary School in Carlton.
- Arranged for 5 Arnold Primary Schools to sing carols at the Arnold Christmas Lights Switch on event.

Henry Wheeler
Policy Advisor for Young People

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Report to Cabinet

Subject: Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2014/15

Date: Wednesday 15 January 2014

Author: Corporate Director and Chief Financial Officer

Wards Affected

Borough-wide

Purpose

The report provides details of the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement and New Homes Bonus income for 2014/15. The report also seeks approval of an increase in Fees and Charges of 3% to be applied in 2014/15.

Once expenditure estimates have been set the Council will then need to determine its Council Tax increase, if any, at the Budget Council meeting on 3 March 2014.

Key Decision

This is not a key decision.

Background

- 1.1 The Local Government Finance Settlement determines how much grant funding Central Government provides to each local authority in England.
- 1.2 Comprehensive Spending Review Period 2011/12-2014/15

The 2010 Comprehensive Spending Review, which covers the 4 year period 2011/12 to 2014/15, determined the Local Government Spending Control Totals which form the basis of funding allocations. This indicated the level of anticipated spending reductions for the period. The Settlement announcements which followed provided grant figures for 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14, equating to cash reductions of £2.2m. The forward projections included in the announcements initially suggested a 6.5% funding reduction

in 2014/15. A further 1% reduction in funding for 2014/15 was announced by the Chancellor in his 2011 Autumn Statement.

In the 2012 Autumn Statement the Chancellor confirmed his commitment to the previously announced spending reductions together with the addition of a further 2% reduction in 2014/15 bringing the total projected reduction to 9.5% for 2014/15. The Government also gave its first indication of public expenditure for 2015/16-2018/19. Totally Managed Expenditure is set to fall at the same rate as over the Spending Review 2010 period, equivalent to 30% in real terms.

In the 2013 Autumn Statement the Chancellor protected local government from any further cuts in Central Government grant in 2014/15. In addition Business Rates increases were limited to 2% with additional reduction schemes announced targeted at small businesses. It has subsequently been confirmed by the Secretary of State for Local Government that these changes will be fully funded by Government and will not impact upon resources available to local government.

1.3 Local Government Resource Review

During 2012/13 a number of changes were made affecting the way local government was to be funded from 2013/14 onward, namely being Business Rates Retention and Council Tax Reduction Scheme, both of which have been the subject of previous reports to Cabinet.

Business Rate Retention

Business Rates income has previously been paid into a national pool which the Government has then reallocated to Local Government on a needs based formula through Formula grant as part of the Local Govt Finance Settlement. The Business Rates Retention scheme has replaced the centralised funding system with 50% of income being retained locally whilst the remaining 50% continues to be distributed on the needs based formula system.

From April 2013 the portion of local authorities' income that comes from retained business rates will change according to movement in local business rates income, which could move up or down, to provide an incentive for economic development activity. The initial Business Rates Baseline was set in 2013/14 as part of the Local Government Finance Settlement 2013/14.

The future level of funding will be protected by Gedling's agreement to enter into a pooling arrangement with the other Nottinghamshire authorities, excluding the City, which will ensure the risk of reduction in funding from future business rate contraction is minimised. Overall, entering into a pooled arrangement should generate additional funding for the

Nottinghamshire area.

Council Tax Reduction Scheme

The Council Tax Benefit system was replaced on 1 April 2013 with the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) which provides a discount on the council tax bill for eligible applicants. Gedling's scheme, which was approved by Council on 19 December 2012, was devised to ensure the most vulnerable are protected by making the discount receivable equivalent to the benefit which would have been payable under the previous system.

The new system is being funded partly by Government Grant, at a rate 10% less than previously available as benefit subsidy, and the remainder by introducing new tax charges for empty properties.

The impact of the new discount scheme is to reduce the Council Taxbase which therefore reduces the ability to raise additional revenue from Council Tax increases. For example a 1% increase in Council Tax based on the new Taxbase will generate approx £51,500 compared to £58,000 under the previous system.

It is the Council's intention to continue with the same Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2014/15, although the element of transitional support to benefit claimants is subject to additional funding from Central Government. To date no announcement on the availability of this funding has been made.

Proposal

2.1 Local Government Finance Settlement Announcement 2014/15

2.1.1 2014/15 Settlement

The annual local government finance settlement is concerned with the distribution of revenue raised from business rates and other funding streams through Revenue Support Grant and Business Rates Retention.

The 2014/15 Settlement determines how much Revenue Support Grant Central Government will give to each local authority in England in 2014/15 and provides indicative information on the allocation for 2015/16. A full analysis of the Settlement has been completed by the Local Government Association and is attached at **Appendix A** for information.

For Gedling Borough Council the provisional settlement figure for 2014/15, now known as the **Settlement Funding Assessment**, totals £5,803,262. This represents the aggregate of Revenue Support Grant of £3,063,375 and estimated retained Business Rates of £2,739,887 (the actual amount of

business rates funding will be determined by the actual amount of rates collected and movements in the business rates base). The Settlement Funding Assessment of £5,803,262, which includes non-ringfenced specific grants, represents a cash reduction of £924,017 or 13.7% from the comparative 2013/14 figure.

Non-ringfenced specific grants are detailed below:

- the Council Tax Freeze grant of £138,280 was to be received for a period of 4 years to finance the Council Tax freeze implemented in 2011/12, this will now continue in baseline funding;
- Homelessness grant of £76,860 (a small reduction of 1.5% compared to 2013/14);
- Council Tax Reduction Scheme grant previously specified at £706,325 for 2013/14 (10% less than the previous benefit subsidy amount), has now been incorporated into the base settlement funding assessment.

The consultation period on the Settlement closes on 15 January 2014.

2.1.2 2015/16 Provisional Settlement

On 26 June 2013 the Chancellor published the Government's Spending Round 2013, setting out their public expenditure plans for 2015/16. The announcement indicated a headline 10% reduction in funding for local government which translated to an estimated 15.7% reduction for Gedling in the June 2013 published technical consultation documentation.

Provisional settlement figures for the 2015/16 **Settlement Funding Assessment** have now been announced which indicate that Gedling's funding will be £4,885,526, a reduction of £917,736 or 15.8% on the 2014/15 provisional figures. This is represented by the aggregate of Revenue Support Grant of £2,070,016 and estimated retained Business Rates of £2,815,510.

2.1.3 Future Spending Review Period

As detailed in paragraph 1.2 real terms reductions equating to 30% were initially anticipated over the next four year spending review period i.e. 2015/16-2018/19, with further reductions indicated in June 2013 as detailed in 2.1.2 above. The Settlement allocates a significantly higher proportion of Revenue Support Grant compared to Business Rates than in previous years and so the Council remains heavily reliant upon Central Government Funding and is therefore at significant risk of future funding reductions.

Reductions equivalent to 22.5% are now projected for Gedling for the period 2016/17 to 2018/19.

2.1.4 Council Tax Freeze Grant

The Government have announced that further funding will be available to local authorities which freeze council tax for 2014/15 and 2015/16, which will be built into the baseline for subsequent years. Councils that do so will get a grant equivalent to raising their council tax by 1% in each year.

2.1.5 Council Tax Reduction Scheme Grant

The Settlement Funding Assessment includes the non-ringfenced CTRS grant, referred to in paragraph 2.1.1 above, which includes an amount to fund the impact of taxbase reductions on local parish precepts. The impact of the scheme on 2013/14 taxbase figures, when adjusted for our own technical changes, resulted in a precept reduction of £28,400 for Parish Councils as a whole. It is anticipated that this Council will continue to make this equivalent grant payment to the Parish Councils in 2014/15 to ensure no loss is suffered.

As detailed under the 2014/15 Settlement the CTRS grant is not protected from future funding reductions therefore the amount of grant to be paid to Parish Councils will need to be determined on an annual basis.

2.1.6 Council Tax Increase Referendum Trigger

The Localism Act 2011 gives powers to the local community to either endorse or veto Council Tax rises that are above a limit which is to be set annually by the House of Commons. If a local authority decides to implement a council tax increase above the government set limit this will trigger a referendum so that local voters can either support or reject the proposed rise.

The referendum limit for 2014/15 has **not yet been set**. In previous years it has been set at 2.0%. Any Council which sets an increase greater than the referendum limit and does not get support from the electorate via the referendum will have to revert to a council tax level that is compliant.

The Government intend to announce the Council Tax referendum threshold principles separately in the New Year. They have stated that they 'are particularly open to representations suggesting that some lower threshold be applied to all or some categories of authorities, given the strong need to protect taxpayers wherever possible from unreasonable increases in bills, and given next year's elections on 22 May across the country allow for referendums to be held at minimal cost'.

The final referendum principles will be subject to the approval of the House of Commons.

2.2 **New Homes Bonus**

During 2011/12 Central Government introduced the New Homes Bonus (NHB) which is now a significant and permanent feature of future local government funding. The Government have committed to funding NHB from the centrally retained share Business Rates income which will continue to be paid as a separate non-ringfenced grant.

The principles of the grant are to reward local authorities for each new property completed within their boundary. The value of the reward is linked to the average council tax band D property and each individual award will be for a six year period.

Gedling has provisionally been awarded £448,054 for 2014/15 which is in addition to the £1,115,730 awarded for 2011/12-2013/14, giving a total cumulative New Homes bonus of £1,563,784. The Council's Medium Term Financial Plan assumes future increases in grant of £350,000 per annum after 2014/15 reaching a cumulative total of £2,263,784 by 2016/17 which is the end of the six year period after which it is expected to stabilise at this level.

The receipt of the New Homes Bonus has enabled the Council to protect core services and to respond to local priorities by investing in its Economic Development activities through the introduction of free town centre car parking, investment in Arnold leisure centre and theatre facilities and the establishment of an increased and permanent staffing resource for general economic development work.

2.3 **Income Inflation**

The Medium Term Financial Plan currently being developed includes income inflation at 3% on discretionary income, (excluding leisure DNA and Trade Waste, Building Control), which equates to £75,600, and the increase per Portfolio is shown in the table below. Each additional 1% increase will raise a further £25,200.

It is suggested that the Portfolio Holder agrees individual charges with the relevant Corporate Director, with discretion to vary the percentage increase, as long as the overall cash amount for that Portfolio is raised.

Portfolio	Discretionary Income £	1% increase £	3% increase £
Community Development	(70,300)	(700)	(2,100)
Health and Housing	(0)	(0)	(0)
Public Protection & Communication	(219,800)	(2,200)	(6,600)
Environment	(483,400)	(4,800)	(14,400)
Leisure & Development	(1,463,600)	(14,600)	(43,800)
Finance & Performance	(292,300)	(2,900)	(8,700)
Total	(2,529,400)	(25,200)	(75,600)

Some of the services operated by the Council are not included in the general fee inflation increase due either to: the sensitivity of demand to price changes e.g. Leisure DNA or; being operated on a commercial basis and therefore required to breakeven e.g. Trade Waste Services and Building Control. The levels of fees which are set in these areas are considered separately and the base budget amended to ensure appropriate fees are set.

2.4 **Consultation with Business Ratepayers**

As major providers of the resources which fund Local Government services there is a statutory duty to consult Business Ratepayers. To fulfil that requirement it is proposed that the draft letter attached at Appendix B be sent on behalf of the Leader to a broad selection of local business ratepayers. Any feedback received will be reported to Budget Cabinet on 20 February 2014.

Alternative Options

- 3 Members could choose a different percentage increase in fees and charges. However, 3% is considered to be the optimum figure in terms of producing a balanced medium term financial plan and is a rate that is in line with the current CPI inflation measure. The financial impact of alternative fee increases is detailed at paragraph 2.3.

Financial Implications

- 4 As detailed in the report

Appendices

- 5 Appendix A – Local Government Association, Local Government Finance Settlement Briefing
- Appendix B – Draft Letter Business Ratepayer Consultation

Background Papers

- 6 None identified.

Recommendation(s)

THAT Cabinet:

- (a) Note the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement;
- (b) Approve in principle the payment of £28,400 grant funding to the Parish Councils to offset the taxbase reductions following implementation of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme as detailed in paragraph 2.1.5;
- (c) Approve a 3% income inflation increase for the individual portfolios shown in the table at paragraph 2.3;
- (d) Approve the draft letter attached at Appendix B for circulation to a selection of Business Ratepayers.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 7 To contribute to the delivery of a balanced budget both in 2014/15 and in the medium term and to satisfy statutory requirements.

Local Government Association (LGA) briefing: *Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2014-15 and 2015-16*

18th December 2013



LGA KEY MESSAGES

- Today's Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement confirms that councils will continue to face significant spending reductions up to 2016. The Government has however started to listen to local authorities and made some important concessions without which local services would have suffered more.
- Central government grant to run local services will fall by 8.5 per cent over the next two years, when including NHS support for social care. However, without including NHS support for social care which is not available for shire district councils, the reduction is 15.9 per cent.
- As a result of the Autumn Statement there will not be an additional reduction in 2014-2015. This is a positive development as it will aid financial planning in local government.
- At a time when local authorities are contending with the biggest cuts in living memory, the introduction of the Better Care Fund and Government's decision to reverse potentially costly changes to the New Homes Bonus will help the efforts of some local authorities in protecting vital everyday services.
- The reduction of the money held back from councils for initiatives such as the New Homes Bonus reverses the position announced in the summer technical consultation on local government finance. It demonstrates that the concerns of the LGA and councils were listened to.
- The next two years will be the toughest yet for local public services. By the end of this Parliament, local government will have to have made £20 billion worth of savings. Councils have so far largely restricted the impact of the cuts on their residents. They have worked hard to save those services that people most value and have protected spending on social care for children and the elderly, but even these areas are now facing reductions. 2015/16 will be a crunch year for councils and local public services.
- It is unacceptable that for a second consecutive year, councils have had to wait until a week before Christmas to find out their funding for the next year. This prevents local authorities from being able to properly consult with residents and deprives local areas of the long-term certainty needed to run important local services to a high standard. No business would be run in this way. We look forward to the Chancellor delivering on his commitment to provide a longer-term funding settlement for local authorities.

KEY FACTS

- The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has announced the provisional [local government finance settlement for 2014-15](#). The Department has also announced an illustrative settlement for 2015-16.
- The closing date for responses to DCLG is 15 January 2014.

Briefing

Lee Bruce, Public Affairs and Campaigns Adviser

Email: lee.bruce@local.gov.uk

Tel 020 7664 3097

Information centre 020 7664 3131 www.local.gov.uk

- There is a reduction in net Aggregate External Finance of 9.4 per cent in 2014-15 and 13.2 per cent in 2015-16. Compared with the summer consultation, there is £123 million more in the Settlement Funding Assessment (SFA) for 2014-15 and £131 million more for 2015-16 which has been found by reducing holdbacks for New Homes Bonus (£100m in each year) and capitalisation (£50million). The balance is explained by the resources for Efficiency Support Grant and sparse authorities.
- There is an overall reduction of revenue spending power of 2.9 per cent in 2014-15 and 1.8 per cent in 2015-16 (these figures exclude the Greater London Authority). This includes new resources for social care through the Better Care Fund. Excluding council tax income this is a reduction of 5.3 per cent in 2014-15 and 3.5 per cent in 2015-16, or 8.5 per cent over the two years.
- Confirmation that the Government will pay in full for the business rates changes announced in the Autumn Statement. The Government is doing this by increasing revenue support to compensate for the lower increase in the local share by a section 31 grant.
- Referendum limits have not been announced. The Government will make a further announcement in the New Year.
- The Government has announced an additional £2.35 billion of basic needs funding for councils to plan and create new school places that will be needed by 2017.

THE SETTLEMENT IN DETAIL

This is a two year settlement consisting of a provisional settlement for 2014-15 and illustrative figures for 2015-16. The Government have announced the following:

- Settlement Funding Assessment (SFA) figures for 2014-15 and 2015-16. This is a cut of 9.4 per cent in 2014-15 and 13.2 per cent in 2015-16.
- Compared with the summer technical consultation the holdbacks for New Homes Bonus and capitalisation have been reduced; putting a net £123 million back into SFA in 2014-15 and £131 million in 2015-16.
- Revenue spending power (RSP) figures for 2014-15 and 2015-16 for each council. These show an overall reduction in revenue spending power of 2.9 per cent in 2014-15 and 1.8 per cent in 2015-16 (excluding the Greater London Authority). These figures include council tax income. If you leave council tax out, this is a cut of 5.3 per cent in 2014-15 and 3.5 per cent in 2015-16, or 8.5 per cent over the two years.
- The main difference between the two figures is explained by:
 - Top slice for New Homes Bonus. The Revenue Spending Power figures include the New Homes Bonus grant for both years.
 - NHS money to support social care of £1.1 billion in 2014-15 and £3.46 billion in 2015-16 as well as set-up costs of £285 million revenue and £50 million capital for set-up costs for deferred costs for social care. This money will go to social care authorities.

- The effects of changes to business rates announced in the Autumn Statement, including the two per cent cap. These have been adjusted for in the SFA figures, but not in the Revenue Spending Power figures.
- The Government has confirmed that it will pay Efficiency Support Grant to councils which would otherwise have a revenue spending power reduction of more than 6.9 per cent. Nine councils are eligible in 2014-15 and 14 councils are eligible in 2015-16. They £40.5 million in each of 2014-15 and 2015-16 has been set aside to pay for this.
- They will also continue to pay a grant to the most sparsely populated authorities; this is estimated at £9.5 million in 2013-14. It will be incorporated into the Settlement Funding Assessment from 2014-15.

New Homes Bonus

The provisional amounts for the New Homes Bonus (NHB) for 2014-15 and 2015-16 have been announced by DCLG. This includes a total of £916 million in 2014-15 and £1150 million in 2015-16. This will continue to be funded through £250 million in specific grant with the rest in top-sliced funding. These figures are £100 million less for both 2014-15 and 2015-16 than the amount included in the summer technical consultation. This funding will be used to increase Settlement Funding Assessment (SFA) in each of these years.

Any unallocated money will be returned to local government in proportion to the SFA as a supplementary NHB amount, as was the case in 2013-14.

As previously announced the Government will not be going ahead with the transfer of £330 million of NHB to Local Enterprise Partnerships in 2015-16. However, £70 million will be transferred from London Boroughs and the City to the Greater London Authority.

Business rates

There are no changes to the business rates retention scheme which is now in its second year, other than an announcement on pooling. DCLG is consulting on 13 proposals for pools in 2014-15, the same number as in 2013-14.

The income from business rates will be affected by the measures announced in the 2013 Autumn Statement. These are:

- The 3.2 per cent RPI increase for 2014-15 will be reduced to 2 per cent.
- A £1,000 discount for all retail, pubs, cafes (excluding banks and betting offices) with rateable values below £50,000 for 2 years.
- The doubling of Small Business Rate Relief will continue for a further year.
- Ratepayers will continue to keep their Small Business Rate Relief entitlement for a year where they take on a second property. New occupiers of former retail premises which have been unoccupied for a year will receive a 50 per cent discount for 18 months.

The Government has said that they these will be paid for through the section 31 grant

so that councils are fully compensated. Figures reflected in the settlement aggregate this grant into local business rates

The multiplier will therefore be 48.0 pence, with the small business multiplier being 47.1 pence. Top-ups and tariffs will be uprated by 1.95 per cent; rather than the September Retail Price Index of 3.2 per cent.

The Government has also issued proposals for reforming the system of challenging and appeals for business rates. A [consultation](#) will close on 3 March 2014.

LGA view

- **It is good news that councils will be fully compensated for the loss of income from the business rate measures.** The Autumn Statement puts this at a total of £1.1 billion.
- The extension of the small business rates relief extension and other measures to help small businesses is good news as is the Government's commitment to paying for this through the New Burdens Doctrine.
- **However, councils have yet to see the payment to cover the extension announced in last year's Autumn Statement and need strong assurances that they will receive both payments as soon as possible.** Unless it is fully funded it will further undermine council finances at a time when councils need every penny for vital services.
- The amount of holdbacks for the safety net has not changed since the proposals in the summer technical consultation. The Government should set all appeals up to 31st March 2013 against the old business rates pool, thus reducing the need for a safety net top-slice.

Council tax

The Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement announces the following on council tax:

- The freeze grant will be extended for both 2014-15 and 2015-16. This grant is equivalent to a one per cent increase in council tax.
- Referendum limits have not been announced. DCLG says they will be announced separately in the New Year. The written ministerial statement says that ministers are "particularly open to representations suggesting that some lower threshold be applied to all or some categories of authorities, given the strong need to protect taxpayers wherever possible from unreasonable increases in bills, and given next year's elections on 22 May across the country allow for referendums to be held at minimal cost."

LGA view

- **Referendums on council tax are an unnecessary and a costly burden that will put growth generating investment at risk.**

Local Council Tax Support

Funding for local council tax support schemes is now included in the Settlement Funding Assessment.

- As foreshadowed in the technical consultation document, the funding for council tax support in 2014-15 will not be separately identified. The total amount of council tax support, according to the DCLG information, is £3.305 billion for 2014-15. If councils decrease funding to their local council tax support schemes in line with the reduction in SFA over £1 billion will be taken out of external funding by the end of 2015-16.
- DCLG has also announced additional New Burdens funding of £34.8 million and this will go to billing authorities. However, no account has been taken of increased costs of enforcement. As previously announced, DCLG will not be paying a transitional grant in 2014-15.

LGA view

- The National Audit Office has said that councils have implemented local council tax support schemes well. However, the way in which the support figures have not been identified at individual authority level in 2014-15 means that it is not clear how much of local schemes are being externally funded. **The Government should be more transparent about the level of external funding.**
- DCLG are paying for the changes to local council tax support through the New Burdens money which is something the LGA has called for. **However, we do not agree with the decision not to make an allowance for the increased costs of enforcement.**

Better Care Fund and funding for the Care Bill

The Better Care Fund (BCF) – formerly the ‘Integration Transformation Fund’ – was announced in the June 2013 Spending Round as a ‘pooled budget for health and social care services, shared between the NHS and local authorities, to deliver better outcomes and greater efficiencies through more integrated services for older and disabled people’. The local government elements of the BCF (including the £1.1 billion transfer from health to social care) are based on local government formula and the health elements on Clinical Commissioning Group formula.

The Autumn Statement in December committed the Government to ‘making sure pooled funding is an enduring part of the framework for the health and social care system beyond 2015/16’.

The fund does not address the financial challenges facing councils and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) in 2015/16 and instead brings together local government and NHS resources that are already committed to existing activity.

The June 2013 Spending Round set out the following:

2014/15	2015/16
An additional £200 million transfer from the NHS to social care, in addition to the £900 million transfer already planned (as set out in the 2010 Spending Review)	£3.8 billion pooled budget to be deployed locally on health and social care through pooled budget arrangements

In 2015/16 the BCF will be created from the following:

£1.9 billion NHS funding

£1.9 billion based on existing funding in 2014/15 that is allocated across the health and wider care system, composed of:

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• £135 million Carers' Breaks funding• £300 million CCG reablement funding• £354 million capital funding (including £220 million of Disabled Facilities Grant)• £1.1 billion existing transfer from health to social care |
|--|

In the June Spending Round the Government announced £335 million in 2015/16 'so that councils can prepare for reforms to the system of social care funding, including the introduction of a cap on people's care costs from April 2016 and a universal offer of deferred payment agreements from April 2015.' The Department of Health has also identified other costs relating to care and support totalling £130 million that are to be met through the BCF.

LGA view

- The LGA's *Rewiring Public Services* campaign has called for further integration of social care and health services. Integrated services are more likely to improve outcomes in ways which treat people with dignity and respect and it makes sense to get rid of duplication and waste. **The BCF therefore fits well with our aspirations for integrated health and care and is an opportunity to improve joint working between health and social care for the benefit of the individual and the public purse.** Health and Wellbeing Boards will need to be at the centre of this work.
- We also welcome the Autumn Statement announcement that the pooling of resource between health and social care will be a permanent feature of our health and social care system. **However, the BCF does not of itself address the financial challenges facing councils and clinical commissioning groups and is included within NHS Departmental Expenditure Limits, so it could be regarded as double counting.** We need sustainable funding for adult social care both for now and in the longer-term in order to make the most of the Better Care Fund.
- The reforms being implemented through the Care Bill need to be **fully costed and funded as new burdens.** This means funding both implementation in 2015/16 (the £335 million referenced above) and supporting on-going running costs (money for which will be allocated through future Spending Reviews). The additional 'other costs' of £130 million that the Department of Health has identified should be counted as new burdens and therefore funded from new money.

Schools and Children's Services Funding

Schools funding is through ring-fenced resources – the Dedicated Schools Grant and the Pupil Premium. Most Children's Services Funding is included within the Settlement Funding Assessment. Today's announcements concern both revenue and capital funding.

- The Government has announced an additional £2.35 billion of basic needs funding for councils to plan and create new school places that will be needed by 2017. This

is additional to the £5 billion allocated between 2011-15 and represents an additional two-year allocation, drawing on the £21 billion of extra schools capital between 2015 and 2020 announced in this summer's Spending Review.

- Provisional figures for Dedicated Schools Grant and pupil premium for 2014-15 have been published. This includes funding for 2 year old nursery education for 2014-15 – a total of £775m. The allocation to councils of Education Services Grant of £750 million has also been published. The figures can be found on [the Department's website](#).
- The Government has announced that £70 million of the £150 million which was paid for adoption in 2013-14 will be used for Special Educational Needs costs in 2014-15. There is as yet no news on how the £80 million balance will be used.
- The expected consultations on the National Funding Formula and the cuts to Education Services Grant in 2015-16 have not been published. The LGA understands that they are likely to be published early in the New Year.

LGA View

- The LGA has been pressing the Government make three year capital funding allocations to councils to allow them to plan properly provide the sharply rising demand for primary school places and deliver the most cost-effective long term solutions. **So the announcement of an additional two year allocation to give councils certainty over central funding between 2014 and 2017 is very welcome and something the LGA called for.**
- We are very concerned at the continuing delay to the announcements about the introduction of a new National Funding Formula for schools in April 2015 and the cuts to Education Services Grant in 2015/16, which is causing great uncertainty for councils and schools.
- Continuing reductions to early intervention funding risk under-resourcing local authorities in their delivery of early support to children, young people and families. Cutting core funding is counter-productive and will lead to significant cost pressures in the longer term, due to increased demand for more costly longer-term/lifelong interventions. **Local authorities will be less able to provide support for children and families affected by disabilities or existing / potential development delays.**

Police Funding

The police grant will decrease by 4.8 per cent in 2014-15. This year the police grant incorporates the Community Safety Fund, which was provided to local policing bodies in 2013-14 to commission services that help tackle drugs and crime, reduce re-offending and improve community safety. The Home Office has also confirmed there will be a £50 million Police Innovation Fund available in 2014-15 to assist police and crime commissioners establish initiatives that promote collaboration, including with the emergency services and councils.

LGA View

- These reductions in police funding will continue to leave Police and Crime Commissioners with difficult decisions about how they deliver their manifesto

commitments, sustain frontline policing and also look to make the efficiencies and savings needed.

- **Working with partners, especially councils, on programmes like those assisting troubled families or improving public health will therefore be crucial in reducing the demands on police time and resources going forward**, and the pooling of budgets and co-commissioning of services will be vital in the future funding of community safety activity.

Fire Funding

The decrease to fire Settlement Funding Assessments is 6.5 per cent in 2014-15 and 8.7 per cent in 2015-16. This reflects decisions taken as part of the Spending Round.

LGA view

- **The reduction in funding for fire authorities continues to put pressure on the delivery of fire services.** This will only be heightened by the additional reductions in 2014-15 and 2015-16 and the expectation that this trend will continue into subsequent years.

Further Information

For further information on this briefing paper please contact Mike Heiser, Senior Adviser (Finance) (mike.heiser@local.gov.uk/ 020 7664 3265); or Lee Bruce, Public Affairs and Campaigns Adviser (020 7664 3097 / lee.bruce@local.gov.uk)

The LGA will continue analysing settlement figures in order to develop a deeper understanding of the effect on councils before replying to the consultation. We would welcome sight of responses from individual members councils and groupings. Please send to lqfinance@local.gov.uk

A dedicated workshop session in the LGA's *Rewiring Local Government Finance* conference on 8 January 2014 will provide an in-depth analysis of the figures announced today. You can find out more about the event and book your place by [following this link](#).

Annex: Tables showing key numbers

Annex: Tables with key information

Table 1. Overall reduction in revenue spending power (RSP)

Authority type	Change in RSP, 2013/14 to 2014/15	Change in RSP, 2014/15 to 2015/16	Total change in RSP over the settlement period
England average*	-2.9%	-1.8%	-4.5%
Shire districts	-2.5%	-3.0%	-5.5%
Shire counties	-1.4%	0.9%	-0.5%
Met districts	-4.2%	-3.7%	-7.8%
London boroughs*	-3.9%	-3.3%	-7.0%
English unitaries**	-2.9%	-1.7%	-4.6%

*Excludes the GLA

**Excludes the Isles of Scilly

Table 2. Composition of revenue spending power

	Adjusted 2013/14, £m	2014/15, £m	Adjusted 2014/15, £m	2015/16, £m
Council tax (net of council tax support)	20,087	20,221	20,221	20,356
Settlement funding assessment (see table 2)	25,092	22,627	22,627	19,498
plus Adjustment to reflect Section 31 grants for business rates cap	0	108	108	108
minus Council Tax Support Funding to Parishes	-40	-40	-40	-40
New Homes Bonus - prior year adjustment	82	34	34	86
New Homes Bonus - current year	668	916	916	1,164
Public health grant	2,662	2,794	2,794	2,794
NHS support to social care	859	1,100		-
Efficiency Support Grant	9	9	9	10
Adult Social Care New Burdens			285	285
Pooled NHS and LA Better Care Fund			1,645	3,460
Other grants, <i>composed of:</i>	718	925	552	567
<i>Commons Pioneer Authorities</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authorities</i>	3	3	3	3
<i>Lead Local Flood Authorities</i>	15	15	15	10
<i>Social Fund Admin Grant</i>				
<i>Fire Revenue Grant (FireLink and New Dimension elements)</i>	27	28	28	29
<i>Community Right to Challenge</i>	3	3	3	0
<i>Local Welfare Provision (Admin + Programme funding) 2014-15</i>	175	172	172	0
<i>Housing Benefit Subsidy Admin</i>	402	0		
<i>Local Council Tax Support and Housing Benefit Administration Subsidy</i>	0	373		
<i>Council Tax Support New Burdens Funding</i>	33	35	35	0
<i>LA Social Housing Fraud</i>	5	5	5	0
<i>City of London Offset</i>	11	11	11	11
<i>Community Right to Bid</i>	3	3	3	0
<i>Council Tax Freeze Grant 2014/15</i>	-	235	235	235
<i>Council Tax Freeze Grant 2015/16</i>	-		0	236
<i>Local Reform and Community Voices</i>	42	43	43	43
Total revenue spending power	50,137	48,693	49,150	48,287
Change in spending power		-2.9%		-1.8%
Change in spending power less council tax		-5.3%		-3.5%

Annex B – Glossary of Local Government Finance Technical Terms

Aggregate External Finance	Government grant (including specific grants) and business rates together.
Better Care Fund	Previously known as the integration and transformation fund, this is a single pooled budget for health and social care services to work more closely together in local areas, based on a plan agreed between the NHS and local authorities
Central Share	The percentage share of locally collected business rates that will be paid to central government by billing authorities. This will be set at 50 per cent. The central share will be re-distributed to local government through grants including the Revenue Support Grant.
Dedicated Schools Grant	The Dedicated Schools Grant was introduced in 2006-07, and is the principal source of funding for schools and related activities in England. The grant was introduced in place of funding previously allocated via the Formula Grant and a number of smaller specific grants.
Education Services Grant	From 2013-14, new funding arrangements for education services apply for local authorities and academies. LA Block LACSEG for academies, and the corresponding element of local government revenue funding, was replaced by the new Education Services Grant (ESG). The ESG is allocated on a simple per-pupil basis to local authorities and academies according to the number of pupils for whom they are responsible.
Efficiency Support Grant	A revenue grant which will help those authorities most affected by reductions in spending power to support long term changes to bring costs down whilst continuing to deliver the services that their citizens expect.
Local Council Tax Support	In April 2013 the national system of Council Tax Benefit was replaced by local support schemes in each billing authority. Authorities receive a fixed amount of funding and are free to design schemes as they wish, as long as pensioners' entitlement is protected
Local share	The percentage share of locally collected business rates that will be retained by local government. This will be set at 50 per cent. The local share of the estimated business rates aggregate is divided between billing authorities on the basis of their proportionate shares (This is the percentage of the national business rates yield which a billing authority has collected - on the basis of the average rates collected by authorities over the two years

2010-11 and 2011-12)

New Burdens Doctrine	The Cabinet agreed that all new burdens on local authorities must be properly assessed and fully funded by the relevant department.
New Homes Bonus	A grant paid to local councils for increasing the number of homes and their use, paid each year for 6 years. It's based on the amount of extra Council Tax revenue raised for new-build homes, conversions and long-term empty homes brought back into use. There is also an extra payment for providing affordable homes.
Pupil Premium	The pupil premium was introduced in April 2011 and is allocated to schools to work with pupils who have been registered for free school meals at any point in the last six years (known as 'Ever 6 FSM'). Schools also receive funding for children who have been looked after continuously for more than six months, and children of service personnel
Revenue Spending Power	Broadly speaking, spending power from council tax, Government revenue grants and NHS funding for social care.
Safety Net	A mechanism to protect any authority which sees its business rates income drop, in any year, by more than 7.5 per cent below their baseline funding level.
Section 31 Grant	A grant paid to local councils under Section 31 of the Local Government Finance Act 2003, under such conditions as the minister may determine
Settlement Funding Assessment	Previously known as start-up funding assessment, this is a local authority's share of the local government spending control total which will comprise its Revenue Support Grant for the year in question and its baseline funding level - it is also the sum of formula funding and grants rolled in from 2013.
Small Business Rate Relief	Until 31 March 2015 businesses receive 100% relief (doubled from the usual rate of 50%) for properties with a rateable value of £6,000 or less. This means business rates are not payable on properties with a rateable value of £6,000 or less. The rate of relief gradually decreases from 100% to 0% for properties with a rateable value between £6,001 and £12,000.
The (business rates) multiplier	The business rates multiplier when multiplied by the rateable value of a property determines a ratepayer's business rate bill. There are two multipliers – one for small businesses and one for larger businesses. These are set nationally. The

small business multiplier is updated annually by the retail prices index (although exceptionally a lesser increase may be imposed) and the other multiplier adjusted accordingly.

Top-ups and Tariffs

The difference between an authority's business rates baseline (the amount expected to be collected through the local share of business rates) and its baseline funding level (the amount of SFA provided through the local share). Tariff authorities make a payment and top-up authorities receive a payment. Tariffs and top-ups are self funding at the outset of the scheme and updated by inflation each year.

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Our Ref: MK/SMH/Ratepayers
Your Ref:

Date:

Dear

Consultation with Non Domestic Ratepayers 2014/15

Each year, the Council consults with its Non Domestic Ratepayers with regard to its overall financial position, and on its plans for the year ahead. Consultation is made in writing with organisations representing businesses within the Borough.

Gedling Borough Council is facing a further cut of 13.7% in its funding from Central Government in 2014/15, as announced on 18 December 2013. An additional cut of 15.8% for 2015/16 is indicated by the current settlement, and it is anticipated that further substantial reductions can then be expected each year until at least 2018/19. This is in addition to the significant cuts experienced over the last few years, meaning that the Council will need to make significant reductions in its net expenditure over the medium term.

Councillor John Clarke, Leader of the Council, has again outlined the Council's intention to maintain top quality services, despite continued budgetary pressures. Spending on front-line services including waste and recycling, street cleaning and parks will be protected, and the Council is again committed to retaining two hour's free car parking across the borough in 2014/15 in recognition of the importance placed on its impact on local shopping centres. It is intended to roll out super-fast broadband in the Borough's rural communities, and to increase support to businesses in order to promote job creation, especially for young people. Investment approaching £1.5m in the Bonington Theatre and Arnold Leisure Centre is now almost complete, and this will help to maintain Arnold Town Centre as a vibrant place for work, shopping and recreation.

Over the last year, further efficiencies in back-office operations have been introduced, including a reduction in the number of staff employed. Savings of over £300,000 on employee expenses were achieved in 2012/13 and further savings are being delivered during 2013/14, both as a result of positive vacancy management and delivery of efficiencies earlier than planned.

During 2013/14 the Council has completed the acquisition of land that will permit the development of Gedling Country Park. Almost £300,000 has been spent to date on engineering and safety work, and it is anticipated that a further £1m will be invested during 2014 on infrastructure that will develop the park for public use. This exciting development is one that the Council is proud to be associated with. Funding has been secured from partners including Gedling Homes, Growth Point and private developers, and this is allowing the project to be undertaken at no direct cost to the borough's taxpayers. The project is a clear example of the many ways in which the Council is working with other agencies to deliver services as efficiently and effectively as possible.

In 2014/15 the Council intends to work hard to deliver growth in the provision of new homes, and to attract new businesses to the borough and is considering the creation of a business development fund to further assist businesses to grow in the Borough. It also intends to continue with the protection of vulnerable groups by making available reductions in Council Tax to those on low incomes.

To help pay for the aspirations referred to above, other plans for the year ahead include:

- further significant management restructuring
- reducing the cost of mayoral activities
- attracting more users to the popular garden waste scheme; whilst maintaining charges at the current levels
- creation of more natural environments in parks and open spaces allowing greater bio diversity whilst at the same time reducing maintenance costs
- transferring assets, such as Community Centres, into direct community ownership and management
- placing greater emphasis on the commercial sale of surplus landholdings

As part of the budget consultation, your views on the following questions are sought:

1. Would you support the Council establishing an "Economic Development Fund" in order to support local businesses and apprenticeship schemes, and to invest in businesses to help with the creation of jobs?

Yes / No / Other Comments (please specify)

2. If you have answered "Yes" to question 1, what are your views on a Fund of £250,000?

About right / Should be More – how much? / Should be Less – how much?

3. Should the Council continue to support economic development activity in the Borough by its provision of two hours free car parking?

Yes / No / Other Comments (please specify)

4. The Council intends to collaborate more closely with several of its neighbouring authorities in order to develop more efficient ways of working, and to offer resilience in the delivery of our services. Do you agree that we should do this?

Yes / No / Other Comments (please specify)

5. Following the introduction of the local Council Tax Reduction Scheme in 2013/14, the Council intends to continue its support to parish councils to protect them from the initial loss of income they suffered due to the implementation of the change. The cost of this will be in the region of £28,500 per year. Do you agree that we should do this?

Yes / No / Other Comments (please specify)

6. For 2014/15, the Council is trying to balance the burden on taxpayers with the need to make savings as a result of cuts in its funding, by proposing a zero Council Tax increase. Do you agree that the Council should do this?

Yes / No / Other Comments (please specify)

7. Do you have any other comments on the financial management of Gedling Borough Council?

Cabinet is expected to agree its budget recommendations to Council at its meeting on Thursday 20 February 2014, with Council meeting to decide the budget on Monday 3 March 2014. It would therefore be helpful to receive any responses by Tuesday 18 February 2014. Please address your replies to Mr Mark Kimberley, Corporate Director and Chief Financial Officer, at the above address or email him at mark.kimberley@gedling.gov.uk.

Mark Kimberley
Corporate Director and Chief Financial Officer

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Report to Cabinet

Subject: Approach to Affordable Housing

Date: 15 January 2014

Author: Service Manager: Housing & Localities

Wards Affected

Borough wide.

Purpose

To advise Cabinet of the two main options for delivering affordable housing, and gain support for the preferred approach.

Key Decision

This is not a key decision.

Background

- 1.1 The Housing Strategy 2010 – 2014 and the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) both identified the need for a significant number of affordable homes to be provided to meet both current and emerging housing need. The Housing Strategy identified the need for 139 affordable homes per year for the next 10 years, and the Affordable Housing SPD identified the need for 301 affordable homes per year. The 2013/14 service plan for Housing and Localities also includes a performance indicator NI 155, which is a measure of the number of affordable homes provided. The current year's figure is 50, increasing to 55 next year. This figure is considerably lower than the required figures, but is based on the potential number of units which the current developments in the borough have the capacity to deliver.
- 1.2 This disparity between the figures demonstrated the need for the Service Manager to become actively involved in encouraging and delivering more affordable homes. There is also the wider desire of the Council to:
 - Provide more homes of the right type in the right place
 - Implement the Get Gedling Building project for unused sites

- Be an efficient council that is responsible with its resources, avoids waste and makes the most of what it has.

1.3 The tools available to the Council to directly contribute to the development of affordable housing are:

- Land
- Funds including attracting in external funding e.g. from the Homes & Communities Agency

1.4 This report sets out the options available to deliver affordable housing utilising these tools within the available resources.

1.5 Land

There has been an appraisal of some of the small sites of land owned by the Council in partnership with the Development Management and Estates departments. These pieces of land are predominantly former garage sites and small sites across the borough. This process has only identified two possible sites for affordable housing development. The recommendation for the other sites would be determined on a case by case basis to ensure value for money is secured for the Council – i.e. to sell them with planning permission to generate the best return for the Council. The usage of any capital receipts would be determined by the Council in its consideration of the proposed capital programme and the impact on the revenue budget.

1.6 The two sites with potential for development for affordable housing are:

Rutland Road, Gedling – a development in partnership with Nottingham Community Housing Association is progressing as they have been granted funding from the HCA's Care & Support Specialised Housing Fund to build six units of supported accommodation for adults with learning difficulties.

A separate report will be presented to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment in due course to seek specific approval to progress this.

Dunstan Street, Netherfield – a de-commissioned play area currently under Leisure's remit, but with the possibility to be brought forward for housing.

In addition there is **the former Grove Hotel public house site** which was purchased in March 2013 specifically for development of affordable housing.

1.7 Funds

The Council does not have a capital fund for affordable housing, but has negotiated with developers on certain sites and agreed to take a commuted sum in lieu of onsite provision of affordable housing. The Council currently holds £458,700 for this purpose.

- 1.8 The commuted sums have a limited time period for the Council to spend them on affordable housing. If they are not spent by this time, they must be returned to the developers concerned. The first commuted sum would fall due for repayment in 2020. Although this is still some time away, three of the ten years have already been used, and a development process is likely to take considerable time to reach the point of paying invoices.

Site	Original value	Expended	Remaining	Deadline for spending
Parry Court, Mapperley	£180,000	£174,035 (on The Grove)	£5,965	January 2020
Parry Court, Mapperley	£84,735	Nil	£84,735	May 2021
Chapel Lane, Ravenshead	£50,000	Nil	£50,000	May 2021
Spring Lane, Mapperley	£318,000	Nil	£318,000	May 2023
Total	£632,500	£174,035	£458,700	

- 1.9 There are two options for how the commuted sums could be used:

- a) The Council uses its commuted sum to directly purchase land or properties;
- b) The Council tenders its commuted sum to fund housing associations to build properties and, through the appraisal process, prioritises those proposals which include derelict sites, hence delivering against the Get Gedling Building agenda.

- 1.10 To date, the Council has used a portion of its commuted sum to purchase the former Grove Hotel public house in Daybrook, and is currently considering how best to progress its development. This process has required considerable input from several sections of the council, and has exposed the council to a number of risks.

Proposal

- 2.1 In considering the above options it is proposed that the delivery of affordable housing is approached in the following way:

Land

The Service Manager for Housing & Localities will continue to progress options for the three identified sites; (The Grove, Rutland Road and Dunstan Street).

The Estates Section will progress the sale of those sites identified as having the potential to be sold, and will take steps to acquire planning permission prior to sale to ensure the best receipt for the council.

Funds

That, in view of the Council's capacity, and to reduce the amount of risk the council is exposed to, that option b) in paragraph 1.9 is progressed once the decision has been reached on The Grove, and that the Service Manager for Housing & Localities consults with Legal Services and the Procurement Officer to design and implement a process to procure a development partner to expend the commuted sums that the Council holds at present. This could be linked to stalled sites across the borough.

Alternative Options

3. Not to adopt a standard approach to managing the Council's assets in terms of how they support the delivery of affordable housing and to manage both the land and funds on a more ad hoc basis. This option would be led by the housing market and whilst it would still deliver affordable homes through Section 106 arrangements, it would lack the drive and focus which the actions proposed in the report could deliver.

Financial Implications

- 4.1 The proposal to provide funding to housing associations to build affordable housing would be fully financed by the commuted sums currently held which are restricted by legal agreements for this purpose only. Any proposed capital schemes will require formal Member approval for inclusion in the Capital Programme.
- 4.2 Any decision to dispose of the Council's land holdings which are not currently in operational use are determined on a case by case basis to ensure value for money is secured for the Council. The usage of any capital receipts is determined by Council in its consideration of the proposed capital programme and the impact on the revenue budget

Appendices

5. None

Background Papers

6. None

Recommendations

THAT:

Cabinet notes and supports the approach for the delivery of affordable housing set out in the report.

Reasons for Recommendations

To inform Cabinet of the approach to be taken by officers in the delivery of affordable housing.

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Report to Cabinet

Subject: Gedling Borough Council Travel Plan

Date: 15 January 2014

Author: Corporate Director (Stephen Bray)

Wards affected

Borough wide

Purpose

- To seek agreement to the draft Gedling Borough Council Travel Plan

Key decision

This is not a key decision.

Background

- 1 The Council has committed to significant reductions to the Borough's carbon footprint over the next four years in its Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan.
- 2 Transport is a significant contributor to carbon emissions and employee travel habits in turn contribute to those emissions. One of the actions in the Action Plan is to review and improve the Council's Travel Plan, and then ensure its implementation.
- 3 The previous Travel Plan dated from 2006 and had become significantly out of date. Research into current employee travel habits and future options has been carried out in partnership with the Big Wheel organisation to inform an updated plan.
- 4 As a result, a fully updated draft Travel Plan has been developed, a copy of which is attached at **Appendix A**.
- 5 The Plan has been the subject of consultation through both JCSC and the STEPS group. Where appropriate, the Plan has been amended to reflect comments received.

Proposal

- 6 The Travel Plan is underpinned by an emphasis on incentivising more sustainable travel habits, with particular emphasis on advice and information to inform more sustainable travel decisions.
 - 7 The objectives of the Travel Plan are: -
-

- To reduce transport-related emissions by promoting travel initiatives through behavioural change campaigns.
- To promote other transport means of getting to and from work to staff members.
- To reduce single occupancy vehicles for staff members coming to and from Arnot Hill Park.
- To promote the use of public transport for business related journeys and where possible to encourage walking or cycling for meetings within reasonable distance.
- To continue to promote the Council's pool bikes to members of staff.
- To promote more sustainable ways of working where practically possible to do so

8 The intended outcomes include: -

- Reduced Council emissions due to staff travel
- Raised awareness among staff members of sustainable transport options available to them
- Reduced single occupancy vehicles from 66% to 50%
- Increased the number of staff cycling to work from 2% to 5%
- Increased bus users from 7% to 15%
- Increased number of staff members walking to work from 27% to 30%

9 A range of recommendations are made for future action, many of which relate to promotion and encouragement of behaviour change. Discussions have been held with TravelRight, the organisation commissioned to run the Neighbourhood Sustainable Travel Hub for the Borough, who have considerable expertise and experience in this field. They have indicated in principle that they will be able to support delivery of some of these recommendations.

10 Though headed a Gedling Borough Council Travel Plan, steps will be taken to liaise with partners based at the Arnot Hill Park campus to widen the scope of the Plan wherever possible.

Alternative options

11 Alternatives include not having a plan or any actions to take forward more sustainable travel habits, or taking forward actions in an ad-hoc unplanned way. Neither are felt to be as effective as the more planned approach proposed.

Financial Implications

12 There are no specific resources allocated for delivery of the Travel Plan. Support with implementation is available from the Sustainability Officer and will be sought from other services where appropriate. It is hoped that external support, such as from TravelRight (see above) will also be secured. TravelRight may also be able to signpost to sources of external funding to deliver small scale capital works.

Appendices

Travel Plan.

Background Papers

- Gedling Employee Travel Survey – December 2012/January 2013
- Report to Joint Consultative and Safety Committee – 26 November 2013

Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended: -

- (a) To agree the Gedling Borough Council Travel Plan

Reasons for recommendations

To support and promote delivery of more sustainable travel habits amongst employees.

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Travel Plan (2013 -17)

What is a Travel Plan

A travel plan is a package of measures produced by employers to encourage staff to travel sustainably by seeking to maximise access to a site by use of alternative modes of transport.

A Travel Plan is site and organisation specific and includes both physical and behavioural measures designed to give travellers more choice and reduce reliance on the car with particular interest in reducing single occupancy vehicles. A travel plan is not meant to demonise or victimise car users but simply offers members of staff information on alternative means of getting to work with a view to attaining incremental gains in those getting to work via alternative means.

Typically, the plan will include initiatives such as car sharing, discounted public transport tickets, cycle parking or personalised journey plans.

Benefits of a Travel plan

A travel plan offers positive benefits to the organisation¹ and its employees as well as the local community and natural environment. Some of the benefits derived from a travel plan include;

- Improved environmental credentials for the organisation
- Reduce local parking problems.
- Offer employees the chance to reduce the need to travel by working from home.
- Raise awareness of the negative impacts of some travel choices and highlighting the benefits of choosing suitable alternatives.
- Minimise the impact of cars on the environment e.g. improving local air quality by reducing harmful emissions from too many cars on the road.
- Improve employees' health through either walking or cycling to work resulting in low levels of absence due to sickness
- Reduce the impact of stress caused by excessive rush hour congestion delays.
- Generally improving travel times for all users due to less cars on the road.

¹ This Travel Plan is specific to Gedling Borough Council but we are aware that some of our proposals have wider reaching consequences and affect members of our partner agencies as well as members of the public who visit Arnot Hill Park for business or leisure purposes. To a smaller extent some of the proposals might have knock on benefits in the locality immediately outside Arnot Hill Park such as the reduction of on-street parking by employees along Nottingham and Arnot Hill Roads.

- Reduce unnecessary business travel as employees turn to other means of conducting business such as video and tele-conferencing.
- A happier and more motivated workforce

Gedling Borough

The borough of Gedling is home to almost 112,000 people and covers an area of 46.3 sq. Miles. Attractions within the borough include a wide variety of shopping facilities and a growing restaurant scene, in addition to attractive parks, open countryside and a range of leisure facilities for those who enjoy an active lifestyle.

The borough is near to the A1 and M1, while mainline rail services and national bus routes are available in nearby Nottingham. An extensive network of bus routes covers the greater Nottingham area of which a large part of the borough's population resides in. There are also local railway stations within the borough at Gedling, Carlton and Netherfield.

Gedling Borough Council

Council offices are situated at Arnot Hill Park in Arnold. Arnold is within the greater Nottingham conurbation. The main offices are at the Civic Centre, Jubilee House and Arnot Hill House, all located in Arnot Hill Park. There is a good bus service that passes by Arnot Hill Park with a bus on average every 10 minutes. There are 5 staff car parks on site and 1 public car park which offers free parking for the first 2 hours. However not all staff members have access to a parking permit.

There's an electric vehicle charging point at Jubilee House which was installed in May 2013 to service the Council's electric van.

The Council employs about 500 employees, the majority of which are based at or operate out of Arnot Hill Park.

Council Services

Gedling is a borough within Nottinghamshire which means Gedling Borough Council and Nottinghamshire County Council share a range of services. A brief range of services include:

Gedling

- Car Parks
- Council Tax & Business Rates
- Electoral Registration
- Environmental Services
- Housing Services
- Leisure Centres

- Parks & Open Spaces
- Planning
- Waste & Recycling Collection
- Street Cleaning
- Taxi Licensing

Nottinghamshire County

- Births, Marriages and Deaths Registration
- Fire and Rescue Services
- Highways
- Libraries
- Schools & Education
- Social Care Services
- Trading Standards
- Waste Disposal
- Youth Services

Travel Plan Goal

This travel plan falls under the Council's Sustainability Strategy 2013-17 which sets out the Council's ambitions to reduce emission levels. Sustainable transport is a key component of the Strategy and this strategy is important in our attempt to reduce transport related emissions.

Overall, the strategy aims ***to reduce the borough's carbon footprint by 5% below 2010 levels by 2017.***

More specifically the strategy aims ***to promote a shift to a more sustainable mode of public and private transport system.*** This travel plan is one of many steps the Council is taking in order to achieve this aim.

Objectives of the Travel Plan

- To reduce transport-related emissions by promoting travel initiatives through behavioural change campaigns.
- To promote other transport means of getting to and from work to staff members.
- To reduce single occupancy vehicles for staff members coming to and from Arnot Hill Park.
- To promote the use of public transport for business related journeys and where possible to encourage walking or cycling for meetings within reasonable distance.
- To continue to promote the Council's pool bikes to members of staff.
- To promote more sustainable ways of working where practically possible to do so.

Key Outcomes

At the end of 2017, the Council hopes to have achieved the following;

1. Reduced Council emissions due to staff travel.
2. Raised awareness among staff members of sustainable transport options available to them.
3. Reduced single occupancy vehicles from 66% to 50%.
4. Increased the number of staff cycling to work from 2% to 5%.
5. Increased bus users from 7% to 15%.
6. Increased number of staff members walking to work from 27% to 30%.

Travel Survey – Key Findings and Proposals

A travel survey carried out in Dec 2012 produced the following results;

Employee Profile

- Participants approximately 50:50 male: female split
- 64:36 full time: part time split
- 59% would consider working from home
- 92% are office based
- 64% are not aware of any travel plan that the Council has/has ever had
- 31% are either essential car users or do the school run therefore cannot practically consider alternative travel methods

Recommendation

This presents an opportunity to promote better travel planning to mostly young and healthy regular workers, 69% of whom have no obvious barriers to considering alternative means of getting to work.

Current Habits (travel to work)

- 66% drive alone
- 27% walk (as a 1st or 2nd choice)
- 2% cycle (15% listed cycling as a second choice)
- 7% use the bus (28% use it as a second choice)
- Almost 40% travel less than 15 minutes to work

Recommendations

These figures show there is an opportunity to promote car sharing, cycling and public transport.

1. More than a quarter of the workforce lives within walking distance so **more and constant promotion of the benefits of walking should be sustained**. If the right messages are put across it is possible to increase this figure to 30% by the end of this travel planning period.
2. In order to increase from 2%, the number of cyclists to at least 10% and to turn the 'second choice' cyclists into first choice by 2017 more support needs to be available to those who wish to cycle as follows,
 - a. **Improve shower and changing facilities**.
 - b. **Continue with the cycle to work scheme offering** staff members an opportunity to lease a bike through the monthly salary sacrifice scheme, deducted from gross pay. This option is the cheapest and easiest way for employees to afford decent bikes and safety equipment at costs lower than open market value.
 - c. **Continue with the cycle mileage scheme** allowing staff members to claim mileage on business journeys they make on their bicycle.

Primary Motivators (for using the car)

- 31% are essential car users or do the school run so have no viable option
- 22% said the car is the most convenient
- 28% believe it's cheaper and there is no alternative

Recommendations

There is limited opportunity to influence those that use their cars for work purposes. The same goes for drivers who do the school run as they would struggle to use public transport to drop the kids at school and then make it to work in good time.

However the 28% who stated that the car is cheaper, more convenient and there's no alternative can be educated about costs and viable alternative methods of travel.

- a. A great **opportunity exists to promote car sharing**. More awareness raising around car sharing schemes in the region such as the Nottingham car share scheme is required and signposting staff members to www.nottinghamshare.com website to safely search for car share partners.
- b. **The Council should seek to limit and not increase the number of car parking bays in all the car parks** in order to restrict the number of cars driven into Arnot Hill Park.

Q4. Effecting Change (cycling/walking)

- 69% respondents said they would **NOT** be influenced by
 - Better routes/lighting
 - Cycle parking
 - Cost of bike
 - Training
 - Free incentives
 - Information
- 31 % would be influenced by availability of convenient and up to date changing facilities.

Recommendations

- a. **Main opportunity is to access grants for shower facilities supported by cycle mileage.**
- b. Whilst walking and cycling to work are highly desirable from a fitness and sustainability point of view, it has to be accepted that they are not for everyone. This is evidenced by nearly 70% saying they would not be influenced by any measures available. However, **constant reminders about alternative travel methods** should be given to help change people's attitudes and behaviour.
- c. An **opportunity exists to 'convert' the 31% into committed walkers/cyclists by offering convenient and modern changing facilities.** Many are put off by having to use toilets for changing and a high proportion eventually end up giving up altogether so it is of paramount importance to work this opportunity.

- d. Consideration should be given to *improving the security of existing cycle parking facilities*. Some employees fear their bikes will get stolen so end up parking their bikes in the Civic centre in stairways. Improving existing facilities so that they are lockable can go a long way in encouraging employees to bring in their bicycles

Q5. Effecting Change (public transport)

- Those who would/might change behaviour
 - 54% if they get discounted tickets
 - 55% if
 - § Routes are improved
 - § Bus frequency increases
 - § Availability of more convenient stops
- However 68% said they will **NOT** be influenced by better information

Recommendations

- a. Availability of discounted tickets would see 54% using public transport. This is a very significant number therefore requires concerted efforts by the Council to enquire with public transport operators about how best they can offer discounted tickets. *An opportunity therefore is available to investigate operating a salary sacrifice scheme that offers savings for employees through monthly deductions from their salaries before tax.*
- b. Another *opportunity exists for the newly appointed Smarter Travel Coordinator to offer route planning advice to employees to help them make informed decisions.*

Q6. Effecting Change (car chare)

- Almost 75% park at work
- 11% share with others
- 35% would consider sharing
- Almost 50% would be influenced by free taxi or work-pattern related sharing

Recommendations

75% of office based employees park at work. This is a very high figure which should not be allowed to increase.

- a. In order to avoid an increase in the number of vehicles that are parked on-site, there ***the Council should not create new parking bays, should the need arise but manage the existing ones more effectively.***
- b. In order to capture the 35% who would consider car sharing, ***the Council needs to promote the benefits of car sharing and also offer incentives for employees who car share.*** This can include a dedicated page on the intranet that links to local and regional car sharing scheme such as the nottinghamshare and carshare2derby schemes.

Q7. Business Travel

- 10% travel less than 1mile
 - § 9% of these walk
- 59% travel over 5miles for meeting
 - § 64% of these drive
 - § 36% use public transport

Business travel accounts for a considerable share of expenses that the Council meets annually in mileage related claims. This is an area in which a lot can be done to reduce the costs associated with travelling for work.

- a. 10% of employees travel less than a mile for meetings. It is entirely possible to avoid using cars for such journeys. Opportunities exists to
 - i. ***Encourage employees to walk such journeys and educate them on the health benefits of walking whenever possible.***
 - ii. The Council currently has 4 pool bikes (2 each at the Civic Centre and Jubilee House). ***The availability of these for short business trips has been publicised and promotion of these for use by employees should continue.***
- b. ***Encourage the use of public transport for meetings especially in Nottingham*** as driving into the city centre not only compounds the congestion problem but also comes with the added expense of car parking charges.

- c. **Encourage employees catching the train for meetings to use public transport** to get to the train station instead of driving and parking their cars for the whole day at the station incurring further parking expenses.
- d. For longer journeys, where it is more practical to drive, **opportunities exist to promote car sharing** for business trips with fellow Gedling employees or others from the local area attending the same meetings.
- e. An opportunity exists to **encourage and promote where possible web/video/telephone conference communications** instead of travelling.

The Way Forward

The key recommendations going forward centre around the Council doing the following;

- ∇ Promotion of the main aims of the corporate Travel Plan
 - This is important in order to accord the Travel Plan a high level of 'visibility' within the Council's many plans.
- ∇ Promotion of cheaper alternatives such as employee season tickets
 - Alternative travel methods are only acceptable to employees if they offer a financial incentive therefore it is important for the Council to keep looking out for schemes that can financially attract employees so they opt out of the car.
- ∇ Promotion of public transport through publicity of travel planning tools such as the Big Wheel's online journey planner or bus maps/timetables in canteen or reception areas.
 - The Council's intranet is a useful tool that can be used to effectively promote smarter travel schemes and canteen and breakout areas useful for displaying pamphlets and other informative materials.
- ∇ Promotion of car share for the large number of sole occupancy drivers
 - Car sharing has great potential for reducing the number of vehicles coming into Arnot Hill Park. A concerted publicity campaign is required to get employees to start thinking about sharing car journeys to work.
- ∇ Pursuing grant opportunities for small scale infrastructure to support cycling, combined with cycle training offer for employees

- Cycling has great potential for employees as many live within cycling distance of Arnot Hill Park. Supporting infrastructure such as secure storage facilities and modern shower and changing facilities are important in persuading employees to cycle to work.
 - Opportunities for accessing any cycling related grants should continually be pursued.
 - Council pool bikes should be actively promoted for short business trips as this has health and environmental benefits and sends out a positive message to the public.
- ∇ Promotion of new flexible ways of working including encouraging tele/web/video conferencing
- Web and telephone based conferencing is a good way of reducing the costs that the council has to bear for business mileage claims as well as bus and train tickets and accommodation in some cases.



Report to Cabinet

Subject: Forward Plan

Date: 15 January 2014

Author: Service Manager, Elections and Members' Services

Wards Affected

Borough-wide.

Purpose

To present the Executive's draft Forward Plan for the next four month period.

Key Decision

This is not a Key Decision.

Background

- 1 The Council is required by law to give to give notice of key decisions that are scheduled to be taken by the Executive.

A key decision is one which is financially significant, in terms of spending or savings, for the service or function concerned (more than £500,000), or which will have a significant impact on communities, in two or more wards in the Borough.

In the interests of effective coordination and public transparency, the plan includes any item that is likely to require an Executive decision of the Council, Cabinet or Cabinet Member (whether a key decision or not). The Forward Plan covers the following 4 months and must be updated on a rolling monthly basis. All items have been discussed and approved by the Senior Leadership Team.

Proposal

- 2 The Forward Plan is ultimately the responsibility of the Leader and Cabinet as it contains Executive business due for decision. The Plan is therefore presented at this meeting to give Cabinet the opportunity to discuss, amend or delete any item that is listed.

Alternative Options

- 3.1 Cabinet could decide not agree with any of the items are suggested for inclusion in the plan. This would then be referred back to the Senior Leadership Team.
- 3.2 Cabinet could decide to move the date for consideration of any item.

Financial Implications

- 4 There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

Appendices

- 5 Appendix 1 – Forward Plan

Background Papers

- 6 None identified.

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended THAT Cabinet note the contents of the draft Forward Plan making comments where appropriate.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 7 To promote the items that are due for decision by Gedling Borough Council's Executive over the following four month period.

Issue	Key Decision or Council Decision?	Who will decide and date of decision	Documents to be considered (only applicable to executive Key decisions)	Who will be consulted?	From whom can further information be obtained and representations made?
Public Realm Works - Project report	Not Key	Cabinet 13 February 2014	Public Realm Works - Project report	N/A	Alison Bennett, Service Manager, Housing and Localities alison.bennett@gedling.gov.uk
Quarterly Budget Monitoring, Performance Digest and Virement Report	Key	Cabinet 13 February 2014	Officer report	N/A	Alison Ball, Service Manager Finance alison.ball@gedling.gov.uk
Council Plan (Including Budget)	Key	Cabinet 20 February 2014	Officer report and Council Plan	TBA	Alison Ball, Service Manager Finance alison.ball@gedling.gov.uk
Prudential and Treasury Indicators and Treasury Strategy 2014/15	Not Key	Cabinet Council 20 February 2014 3 March 2014	Prudential and Treasury Indicators and Treasury Strategy 2014/15	Not applicable.	Alison Ball, Service Manager Finance alison.ball@gedling.gov.uk

Issue	Key Decision or Council Decision?	Who will decide and date of decision	Documents to be considered (only applicable to executive Key decisions)	Who will be consulted?	From whom can further information be obtained and representations made?
Capital Programme 2014/15	Key	Cabinet Council 20 February 2014 3 March 2014	Capital Programme 2014/15	Statutory consultation with Business Ratepayers.	Alison Ball, Service Manager Finance alison.ball@gedling.gov.uk
Community Centres Pricing Report	Not Key	Portfolio Holder for Community Development February 2014		N/A	Kate Morris, Leisure Business Strategy Manager kate.morris@gedling.gov.uk
Leisure Centre Pricing	Not Key	Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Development February 2014		N/A	Kate Morris, Leisure Business Strategy Manager kate.morris@gedling.gov.uk