

Executive Scrutiny Board	
Recommendations from the meeting held on 14 January 2020	
Council Cabinet Agenda – 15 January 2020	
Item 8	Council Tax Base for 2020/21
<p>The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Corporate Resources on approval of the Council Tax Base for 2020/21.</p> <p>It was reported that the Council had a legal requirement to calculate a Council Tax base for each financial year and to notify its Council Tax base to both The Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire and Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Authority. It was also reported that the Council Tax base must be calculated between 1 December and 31 January in the preceding financial year and notified to The Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire and Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Authority by 31 January of the preceding financial year.</p> <p>Members noted that the Council Tax base was an estimated figure of the number of domestic properties expressed in terms of 'band D' equivalents in the Council's area during the financial year concerned. It was also noted that this was used to determine a headline charge for band D properties in the city and that charges for other bands were calculated as defined fractions of the headline charge.</p> <p>It was reported that the proposed Council Tax base for 2020/21 was 69,592.06 band D equivalent properties compared with the 2019/20 Council Tax base of 68,679.00. It was also reported that the increase in the tax base would result in more Council Tax being collectable for the 2020/21 financial year.</p> <p>Members noted the review of single person discount awards and the increase in Council Tax chargeable on some empty properties from 1 April 2020.</p> <p>The Executive Scrutiny Board resolved to note the report.</p>	
Item 9	Approval of the Single Discretionary Award Policy for 2020/21
The item was withdrawn.	
Item 10	Draft Air Quality Action Plan
<p>The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Communities and Place on approval of the Draft Air Quality Action Plan.</p> <p>It was reported that a draft Air Quality Action Plan (dAQAP) had been produced in accordance with Derby City Council's statutory requirements under the Environment Act</p>	

1995 and the associated Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) assessment and reporting regime.

It was also reported that the dAQAP provided a list of proposed measures designed to address the main sources of air pollution within Derby City Council's designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs).

Members noted that the dAQAP measures were distinct from, but complementary to, the measures already proposed under the Local Plan for Roadside NO₂, which focussed solely on Stafford Street. It was also noted that the measures in the dAQAP covered a much wider area.

It was reported that Internal and external stakeholder engagement as well as cross-party political involvement had taken place as part of the AQAP development process.

It was also reported that the dAQAP now needed to go out to public consultation and then, once agreed and finalised, would be submitted to DEFRA for approval.

It was noted that once finalised, Departmental ownership of each measure would be required in order to progress delivery of the AQAP. However, many of the measures were already contained within relevant work programmes.

The Executive Scrutiny Board resolved:

- 1. to note the report;**
- 2. to recommend to Council Cabinet that the draft plan be amended to take into account the possible implications of the A38 works on air quality;**
- 3. to recommend to Council Cabinet that the consultation be delayed until the report has been amended to take full account of the Taxi Licensing situation, the A38 works and the bus fleet status;**
- 4. to recommend to Council Cabinet that the plan includes an additional section/paragraph covering reduction in travel as another way of reducing pollution; and**
- 5. to recommend to Council Cabinet that it prioritises the actions, wherever possible, to achieve Council targets in other areas as well as air quality. For example, modal shift will reduce congestion and improve exercise levels, whereas electric cars will not.**

Item 11	Derby Enterprise Growth Fund Loan
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The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Communities and Place on approval of the Derby Enterprise Growth Fund Loan.

It was reported that the DEGF Investment Panel on 26 November 2019 recommended the advance of a £313,000 loan to a company, subject to the completion of satisfactory due diligence.

Members noted that the revised Terms of Reference for the Derby Enterprise Growth Fund (DEGF) Investment Panel were approved by Cabinet on 12 September 2018. It was

also noted that as a result of this revision, DEGF Panel recommendations with a value above £250k required formal ratification by Cabinet and Financial Procedure Rules required all loans to external bodies to be approved by Cabinet.

It was reported that this recommendation made by Panel was subject to due diligence and contracting. It was also reported that if approved by Cabinet, the loan would be offered under commercial terms at market rates. It was noted that the actual interest rates would be determined as part of the due diligence process based on an assessment of risk as advised by the independent Due Diligence Report. It was also noted that the loan term was expected to be over 3 years to achieve full repayment, and that this would be confirmed as part of the loan terms after the due diligence process.

It was reported that the project should create 25 full time jobs which would be used to support the delivery of DEGF contracted outputs required by the Regional Growth Fund (which funded the creation of the DEGF). It was also reported that these were conservative outputs and were likely to be higher.

The Executive Scrutiny Board resolved to note the report.

Item 12	Compliance with Contract and Financial Procedure Rules
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The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Corporate Resources seeking approval under Contract and Financial Procedure Rules for the following:

- Acceptance of a grant from Public Health England to deliver the Preventing Violent Behaviour programme in Newton’s Walk Pupil Referral Unit.
- Addition of £0.920m to the capital programme for the DE-Carbonise scheme.

The Executive Scrutiny Board resolved:

1. to note the report; and
2. to recommend to Council Cabinet that the additional DE-Carbonise funding be used as a way of giving further publicity to this scheme.

Item 13	Exclusion of Press and Public
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A resolution to exclude the press and public was put to the vote and carried.

The Board resolved that under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during discussion of the following items on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Item 14	Derby Enterprise Growth Fund Loan
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The Board considered exempt detail in the report of the Strategic Director for

Communities and Place seeking approval of the Derby Enterprise Growth Fund Loan.

The Executive Scrutiny Board resolved to note the report.