

Report of the Cabinet

The CABINET reports and recommends as follows:-

1. Honorary Freedom of the City

That at its meeting held on 14 October, Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Chief Executive (copy attached) recommending that the Council consider formally conferring the Honorary Freedom of the City upon

- Gary Bennett MBE

In recognition of the example of commitment and achievement he sets in combatting racism in football and as an ambassador of Sunderland and role model for young people.

- Stephanie Darby MBE (Steph Houghton)

In recognition of the example of commitment and achievement she sets in women's sport and as a role model for young people in Sunderland.

- Jill Scott MBE

In recognition of the example of commitment and achievement she sets in women's sport and as an ambassador of Sunderland and role model for young people.

Accordingly, the Cabinet recommended to Council that:-

- (i) in accordance with the provisions of Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972,

- Gary Bennett MBE
- Stephanie Darby MBE (Steph Houghton); and
- Jill Scott MBE

as persons of distinction who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the City, be admitted to be Honorary Freemen of the City; and

- (ii) authority be given for the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to agree all appropriate arrangements for the formal ceremony at an extraordinary meeting of the Council to be held at the earliest opportunity.

2. Budget Planning Framework and Medium Term Financial Plan 2023/2024 – 2026/2027

That at its meeting held on 13 October, Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Assistant Director of Finance which:

- Identified the key factors influencing the development of the Council's financial plans into the medium term and set out the budget planning framework for the Council for 2023/2024;
- Set out the headlines and context for the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2023/2024 to 2026/2027; and
- Set out the consultation / communication strategy for the budget 2023/2024.
- Sought a recommendation to Council for the approval of the updated Capital Strategy.

In accordance with the Council's Budget and Policy Framework Council, approval is required for changes to the Council Capital Strategy and an extract from the report on the Capital Strategy Update – 2022/2023 is attached.

The report was also considered by the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee on 13 October 2022. The comments of the Committee will be considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 10 November 2022.

The comments of the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee and the Cabinet's recommendations to Council will be set out in a supplementary report.

3. Review of Council Size and Ward Boundaries

That at its meeting to be held on 10 November, Cabinet will give consideration to a report of the Chief Executive (copy attached) advising that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (the Commission) has contacted the Council to indicate that it intends to carry out a review of the overall composition of the Council and Ward arrangements. The previous review was undertaken in 2002, with the final recommendations being published in October 2003, and whole-Council elections taking place in 2004.

This report recommends to Council the process to be adopted in relation to the completion of the Council's submission in relation to Council Size. Further reports to Council in relation to ward arrangements will be submitted in due course at the appropriate time.

Cabinet is to consider recommending to Council that:-

- i) it notes the commencement of the review of the overall composition of the Council and its Ward arrangements by the Commission;

- ii) the timetable for the review process and the date for the submission of the Council size proposal, in particular, be noted;
- iii) a politically balanced Boundary Review Working Group be established of seven members of the Council (4 Labour, 2 Conservative and 1 Liberal Democrat) to assist in the process of developing initially the Council Size Proposal document;
- iv) the terms of reference for the Boundary Review Working Group as set out in Appendix 1 be approved;
- v) the Chief Executive be authorised to draft the Council Size Proposal document in consultation with the Working Group and submit it for approval to the Council Meeting on 25 January 2023 prior to its submission to the Commission by 28 February 2023; and
- vi) it notes that further reports will be submitted to Council as the review by the Commission progresses to consider the Ward arrangements.

Cabinet's recommendations to Council will be set out in a supplementary report.

