

Minutes of the Cabinet held at the Civic Centre, Riverside, Stafford on Thursday 3 March 2022

Chairman - Councillor P M M Farrington

Present (for all or part of the meeting):-

Councillors:

J K Price Environment Portfolio

R M Smith Deputy Leader and Resources Portfolio

C V Trowbridge Leisure Portfolio

Also present Councillor M Phillips

Officers in attendance:-

Mr T Clegg Chief Executive

Dr T Redpath Corporate Business and Partnerships Manager

Mr W Conaghan Press and Communication Manager

Mr J Dean Democratic Services Officer

CAB45 Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2022 as published on 14 January 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

CAB46 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors F Beatty and J M Pert.

CAB47 Progress on Bringing Empty Homes Back Into Use and Future Proposals

Considered a report detailing progress to date in bringing empty homes back into use and requesting an amendment to the capital programme to make best use of funding available.

Councillor R M Smith, on behalf of Councillor J M Pert, noted the considerable success of the Council in bringing empty homes back into use before highlighting the proposals as set out in paragraph 2 of the report. The Cabinet subsequently voted on the recommendations, which were declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that the proposals of the Cabinet Member, Community and Health Portfolio be approved as follows:-

That:-

- (a) the contents of the Empty Homes Officer Evaluation attached as an appendix to the report be noted;
- (b) approval to convert £75,780 of capital from the empty homes budget into revenue to fund a full time Empty Homes Officer on a fixed term contract for 3 years be granted.

CAB48 Revenues and Benefits Collection Report - Quarter 3 - Part Confidential

Considered a report informing Cabinet of the performance of the Revenues and Benefits Service as regards:

- collections of Council Tax during the first three quarters of the financial year;
- collections of Business Rates during the first three quarters of the financial year;
- the recovery of overpaid Housing Benefit during the first three quarters of the financial year;

and seeking approval to the write off of the arrears listed in the confidential appendices to the report.

Councillor R M Smith detailed the collection rates as set out in paragraph 3 of the report before highlighting the proposals as set out in paragraph 2. The Cabinet then voted on the recommendations, which were subsequently declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that the proposals of the Deputy Leader be approved as follows:-

That:-

- (a) the information regarding collections be noted;
- (b) the arrears listed in the confidential appendices to the report be written off.

CHAIR