

Minutes of the Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee held at the Civic Centre, Riverside, Stafford on Thursday 17 November 2022

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

Councillors:

R J Barron B Mckeown
A G Cooper J A Nixon
A P Edgeller A D Hobbs M Phillips

A M Loughran R M Sutherland

Cabinet Member - Councillor J M Pert - Community Portfolio Cabinet Member - Councillor J K Price - Climate Change Portfolio Cabinet member - Councillor C V Trowbridge - Leisure Portfolio

Officers in attendance:-

Mr C Jordan - Interim Head of Development

Dr T Redpath - Interim Head of Corporate Business and Partnerships

Mrs E Fullagar - Chief Accountant

Mrs A Nevin - Health and Housing Manager

Mr L Booth - Interim Neighbourhood Services Group Manager

Mrs V Cooper - Community Safety Lead

Mr A Bailey - Scrutiny Officer

CWB15 Appointment of Chairman for the Meeting

It was moved by Councillor A M Loughran and seconded by Councillor A D Hobbs that Councillor A N Pearce be appointed as Chairman for the meeting.

On being put to the vote the proposal was declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that Councillor A N Pearce be appointed as Chairman for the meeting.

Chairman - Councillor A N Pearce - In the Chair

CWB16 Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 22 September 2022, as previously published on the Council's website, were submitted.

CWB17 Apologies

An Apology for absence was received from the Chair, Councillor J Hood (Substitute Councillor B McKeown).

CWB18 Stafford Borough Council Climate Adaptation Strategy - Called-In Item

The following matter was published on 9 September 2022 and has been "Called in" to this Committee by Councillors A D Hobbs, D McNaughton and A M Loughran for the following reason:-

"To further discuss the issues raised by this Strategy."

Considered the report of the Interim Head of Corporate Business and Partnerships (V1 6/09/22) that considered the updated Stafford Borough Council Climate Adaptation Strategy and proposed that the document be adopted. The report also proposed that a week-long communications campaign was delivered alongside the adoption of the Adaptation Strategy.

Councillors A D Hobbs and A M Loughran explained their reasons for calling in the matter.

The Committee discussed the following aspects of the report with the Cabinet Member (Climate Change Portfolio) and the Interim Head of Corporate Business and Partnerships:-

- The consultation exercise
- Partnership Working
- Flooding
- Communications Plan

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the decision of the Cabinet in relation to the Stafford Borough Climate adaptation Strategy (Minute No CAB19/22 refers), be noted.

CWB19 Fees and Charges Review 2023

This matter had been considered by Cabinet at its meeting held on 3 November 2022 and was submitted to this Committee for consultation.

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Finance (**V1** 26/10/22) in relation to proposed Fees and Charges for 2023.

The Committee discussed the following aspects of the report with the Cabinet Member (Leisure Portfolio) and the Chief Accountant:-

- The sport and recreation charges that were proposed to increase above 12.3%, which reflected significantly higher costs (particularly energy), the desire to achieve greater cost recovery and in keeping with the contract with Freedom Leisure
- The Increased costs in the hire of pitches
- The increased concessionary rates for football pitches

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the decision of the Cabinet as set out in Minute No CAB34/22, regarding the proposed Fees and Charges for 2023 be noted.

CWB20 Quarter 2 Performance Reporting

The Committee considered the performance and financial management details for those areas within the remit of the Committee for the quarter 2 period up to 30 September 2022 (V1 08/11/22).

The Committee discussed the following aspects of the report with the Cabinet Member (Community Portfolio), the Interim Head of Corporate Business and Partnerships, the Chief Accountant, the Health and Housing Manager and the Interim Neighbourhood Services Group Manager:-

- LI6 % of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting
- LI11 Empty Homes brought back into use following officer interventions
- LI13 Days taken to process new Housing Benefit/Council Tax Claims
- Staffing Variations across the Portfolios
- Reduced dry recycling gate fess £152,000
- Additional waste income £87,000
- Reduced crematorium income (£85,000)
- Reduced cemeteries income (£17,000)
- Glover Street
- Miscellaneous Highway Functions
- Dog Warden Service
- Pest Control
- Allotments
- Broadeye Windmill
- Victoria Park Refurbishment

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the performance management data relating to areas of activity within this Committee's remit be noted.

CWB21 Work Programme - Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

Considered the report of the Head of Law and Administration (V1 6/09/22), which presented the Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme for the forthcoming meeting in March 2023.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the Work Programme be noted, subject to the amendments made at the meeting.