Minutes of the virtual Cabinet held on 2 April 2020

Chairman - Councillor P M M Farrington

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

Councillors:
F Beatty           Economic Development and Planning Portfolio
J M Pert           Community and Health Portfolio
J K Price          Environment Portfolio
R M Smith          Deputy Leader and Resources Portfolio
C V Trowbridge    Leisure Portfolio

Also present Councillors A T A Godfrey, R Kenney and M Phillips

Officers in attendance:-

Mr T Clegg       Chief Executive
Dr T Redpath     Corporate Business and Partnerships Manager
Mr J Dean        Democratic Services Officer

Prior to commencement of the meeting, the Leader of the Council confirmed that this was the first meeting of the Cabinet to be held ‘virtually’, and asked those present to introduce themselves before speaking, for the benefit of the recording. Councillors Godfrey and Kenney were invited to speak on each agenda item, as appropriate.

Continuing, Councillor Farrington asked all present to pause for a moment of reflection in respect of the recent passing of former Councillor Amyas Stafford-Northcote.

Finally, the Leader of the Council commended the efforts of the Chief Executive and the Officers of the Council for their efforts in dealing with the ongoing Coronavirus crisis.

CAB96 Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 5 March 2020 were submitted and signed.
**Future High Streets Fund**

Considered a report seeking approval to submit the Future High Street Fund (FHSF) bid to Government, and to seek a capital budget as co-funding for viable development schemes should a FHSF award be made.

The Cabinet Member, Economic Development and Planning Portfolio highlighted the proposals as set out in paragraph 2 of the report, to which the Cabinet moved directly to voting on the recommendations.

**RESOLVED:-** that the proposals of the Cabinet Member, Economic and Planning Portfolio be approved as follows:-

That:-

(a) authority be delegated to the Head of Development (in consultation with the Chief Executive, the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Planning) to:

(i) Submit the full business case to the Future High Streets Fund by no later than 30 April 2020 (or extended deadline if applicable);

(ii) Enter into negotiations with relevant land owners and parties over the potential acquisition of properties and land;

(b) borrowing to co-fund proposed regeneration projects to enable land redevelopment be agreed in principal to act as the catalyst for delivery of the Northern Town Centre Masterplan (on the basis that an award be made in the first instance from the Future High Streets Fund in respect of land acquisition costs and then is subject to full Council approval).

**Stafford Station Gateway**

Considered a report seeking to agree appropriate delegations to enable the delivery of the Stafford Station Gateway Masterplan Vision.

The Cabinet Member, Economic Development and Planning Portfolio highlighted the proposal as set out in paragraph 2 of the report, to which the Cabinet moved directly to voting on the recommendation.
RESOLVED:- that the proposal of the Cabinet Member, Economic Development and Planning Portfolio be approved as follows:-

That authority be delegated to the Head of Development (in consultation with the Chief Executive, the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Planning) to enter into negotiations with relevant land owners and parties over the potential acquisition of properties and land.

The Leader of the Council noted that this was an exiting opportunity for the Borough, and thanked all involved for their efforts in respect of this work.

CAB99  Land Adjoining Highfields Social Club, Barnes Road, Stafford

Considered a report seeking approval to sell Council owned land to provide a garden area for the proposed new clubhouse, as detailed in the appendix to the report.

The Cabinet Member, Leisure Portfolio highlighted the proposal as set out in paragraph 2 of the report, and confirmed that the land in question would remain as garden land. The Cabinet subsequently voted on the recommendation.

RESOLVED:- that the proposal of the Cabinet Member, Leisure Portfolio be approved as follows:-

That the land at Barnes Road, Stafford (as detailed in the appendix to the report) be sold to Hodgkinson Builders Limited.

CAB100  Community Safety and Wellbeing Strategy 2020 – 2024

Considered a report providing an update on the consultation undertaken for the Stafford Borough Community Safety and Wellbeing Strategy 2020 - 2024 and to agree to implementation of the strategy.

The Cabinet Member, Community and Heath Portfolio highlighted the proposals as set out in paragraph 2 of the report, to which the Cabinet moved directly to voting on the recommendations.

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

That the strategy be:

(a) approved and submitted to Council for ratification;
(b) published on the Council’s website, as per the requirements of the Staffordshire Commissioner.

Prior to closing the meeting, the Leader of the Council reiterated the Council's commitment to supporting local residents, and encouraged anyone needing assistance to access the Council via its Contact Centre or website, or by contacting their local Ward Member(s).

CHAIR