Minutes of the Cabinet held at the Civic Centre, Riverside, Stafford on Thursday 4 July 2019

Chair - 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

Officers in attendance:-

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

CAB14 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2019 were submitted and signed.

CAB15 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C V Trowbridge

CAB16 Sports Facilities Strategy and Playing Pitch Strategy

Considered a report recommending adoption of the Playing Pitch Strategy and Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy, as set out in Section 2 of Digest No 257 of 5 July 2019.

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 Development and Planning Portfolio, be approved as follows:-

that:- (a) the evidence base and the recommendations contained within the Playing Pitch Strategy and
the Indoor Sport Facilities Strategy be approved and adopted;

(b) a working group with partners to oversee the development and monitoring of action plans in order to secure delivery of the strategies, (subject to availability of resources) be established;

(c) the information and recommendations within the Strategies be used to inform policies and allocations as part of the New Local Plan 2020-2040.

It was noted that the report would be amended to reference the Leisure Portfolio prior to its submission to Council.

THIS ITEM IS NOT SUBJECT TO CALL IN AND WILL BE REFERRED TO COUNCIL ON 23 JULY 2019

CAB17 Barlaston Neighbourhood Plan – Adoption

Considered a report seeking approval for the adoption of the Barlaston Local Plan as part of the statutory development plan for Stafford Borough, as set out in Section 2 of Digest No 257 of 5 July 2019.

The Cabinet Member, Economic Development and Planning Portfolio noted that it was pleasing to see this excellent plan reach the stage of formal adoption, before highlighting the proposals as set out in paragraph 2 of the report, to which the Cabinet voted on the recommendations.

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

that:- (a) the Barlaston Neighbourhood Plan be ‘made’ to form part of statutory development plan for Stafford Borough and used when determining planning applications in Barlaston Parish;

(b) the Decision Statement (as set out in the appendix to the report) be approved and published with the Barlaston Neighbourhood Plan.

THIS ITEM IS NOT SUBJECT TO CALL IN AND WILL BE REFERRED TO COUNCIL ON 23 JULY 2019
CAB18  Planning Obligations Update

Considered a report:-

- Outlining the current position and identifying future actions required to produce an overarching strategy and process for collecting, monitoring and allocating financial contributions from existing and future Planning Obligations;

- Providing clear definitions and future processes for Planning Obligations which demonstrated the complexities in adopting a comprehensive, robust approach to project delivery;

- Proposing new measures to enable a streamlined approach to allocating resources to projects below £50,000;

- Providing an update on projects currently in progress and identify the future priorities for project delivery.

as set out in Section 2 of Digest No 257 of 5 July 2019.

On behalf of the Cabinet Member, Leisure Portfolio, the Deputy Leader 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, Leisure Portfolio, be approved as follows:-

that:- (a) progress made to date be noted;

(b) delegated authority be given to Head of Development in conjunction with the Leisure Portfolio Holder and relevant Local Ward Members to approve the allocation of resources for schemes up to a value of £50,000.

The Leader of the Council noted that it was pleasing to see involvement of local Members in this issue which provided a solution to bring forward proposed projects.

CAB19  Revenues and Benefits Collection Report - Part Confidential

Considered a report informing Cabinet of the performance of the Revenues and Benefits Services regarding:-

- Collection of Council Tax during the 2018-2019 financial year;
- Collection of Business Rates during the 2018-2019 financial year;
- Recovery of overpaid Housing Benefit during the 2019-20 financial year;
together with seeking approval for the writing off of the arrears as detailed in the confidential appendix of the report, as set out in Section 2 of Digest No 257 of 5 July 2019.

The Deputy Leader highlighted the revised format of the report before referring to proposals as set out in paragraph 2 of the report, to which the Cabinet voted on the recommendations.

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 appendix be written off.

The Leader of the Council reiterated the Council commitment to recovering said arrears before noting that there were no benefit overpayment debts recommended for write off as most related to bankruptcy.

CHAIR