

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
C V Trowbridge	Leisure Portfolio

Also present Councillor M Phillips.

Officers in attendance:-

Mr T Clegg	Chief Executive
Mr A Bailey	Scrutiny Officer

CAB55 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2019 were submitted and signed.

CAB56 General Fund Revenue Budget 2019-20 to 2022-23 and Capital Programme 2019-20 to 2022-23

Considered a report setting out the current position of the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2019-20 to 2022-23 and the updated capital programme 2019-20 to 2022-23, as set out in Section 2 of Digest No 262 of 6 December 2019.

The Deputy Leader introduced the report drawing attention to a technical adjustment, which would be amended by the Head of Finance. The Deputy Leader concluded his comments by setting out the proposals in paragraph 2.

The Cabinet then moved directly to voting on the recommendations.

RESOLVED:- that the proposal of the Deputy Leader be approved (subject to the above amendment) as follows:-

- (a) that the following be submitted to the Resources Scrutiny Committee for consultation:-
 - (i) the level of net spending for the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2020-21 be set at £17.063

million; with indicative net spending for 2021-22 and 2022-23 of £14.224 million and £14.405 million respectively;

- (ii) that Government Grants of £3.202 million be used in 2020-21;
 - (iii) that council tax is recommended to increase by 1.9% (to £159.27) for 2020-2021, with similar indicative increases for 2021-22 and 2022-23 respectively;
 - (iv) the revised capital programme as set out in Appendix 2 of the report;
 - (v) that the Revised Outturn Forecast for 2019-20 of £17.190 million be approved;
- (b) it be noted that, as a result of the 12 December General Election no date was currently available for the announcement of the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement;
 - (c) it be noted that although indicative figures existed for the use of Governments Grants for 2021-22 and 2022-23 they could not be accurately determined at this stage with each element of Government funding being subject to review;
 - (d) it be noted that details would not be known until the provisional settlement for 2021-22 nevertheless the level of Working Balances maintained by the Council would enable a Balanced Budget to be set for the duration of the Financial Plan.

THIS ITEM IS NOT SUBJECT TO CALL IN AND WILL BE REFERRED TO THE RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ON 7 JANUARY 2020.

CAB57 Resources Portfolio - General Fund Revenue Budget 2019/2020 - 2022/2023 and Capital Programme 2019/2020 - 2022/2023

Considered a report setting out the draft detailed Resources Portfolio Revenue Budget for 2019/2020 - 2022/2023 and the draft Resources Portfolio Capital Programme for 2019/2020 - 2022/2023, as set out in Section 2 of Digest No 262 of 6 December 2019.

The Deputy Leader introduced the report and concluded his comments by setting out the proposal contained within paragraph 2.

The Leader drew attention to the findings from the Corporate Peer Challenge undertaken during July 2018, highlighting the positive comments in relation to Financial Planning and Viability.

The Cabinet then moved directly to voting on the recommendation.

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

that the detailed draft portfolio revenue budget for 2019/2020 - 2022/2023 and the draft Capital Programme 2019/2020 - 2022/2023 be approved for submission to the Resources Scrutiny Committee for consultation.

THIS ITEM IS NOT SUBJECT TO CALL IN AND WILL BE REFERRED TO THE RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ON 7 JANUARY 2020.

CAB58 Treasury Management Strategy, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy, Annual Investment Strategy 2020/21

Considered a report seeking approval by Council of:-

- Prudential and Treasury indicators - setting of indicators to ensure that the capital investment plans of the Council were affordable, prudent and sustainable;
- The Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy;
- Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2020/21 - to set treasury limits for 2020/21 to 2022/23 and to provide a background to the latest economic forecasts of interest rates;
- Annual Investment Strategy 2020/21 - to set out the strategy of investment of surplus funds.

as set out in Section 2 of Digest No 262 of 6 December 2019.

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 proposal of the Deputy Leader be approved as follows:-

(a) the following be approved:-

- (i) The Prudential and Treasury indicators;
- (ii) The MRP Policy Statement;
- (iii) The Treasury Management Policy;
- (iv) The Annual Investment Strategy for 2020/21;

- (b) it be noted that indicators could change in accordance with the final recommendations from Cabinet to Council in relation to both the General Fund Revenue Budget and the Capital Programme.

THIS ITEM IS NOT SUBJECT TO CALL IN AND WILL BE REFERRED TO THE AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE ON 14 JANUARY 2020 AND COUNCIL ON 28 JANUARY 2020.

CAB59 Risk Management Report

Considered a report that set out the Council's Strategic Risk Register as at 30 September 2019, as set out in Section 2 of Digest No 262 of 6 December 2019.

The Deputy Leader introduced the report and concluded his comments by setting out the proposal contained with paragraph 2.

The Leader highlighted the progress made towards the management of the strategic risks.

The Cabinet then moved directly to voting on the recommendation.

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

that the Strategic Risk Register be approved and the progress made in the identification and management of the strategic risks be noted.

THIS ITEM IS NOT SUBJECT TO CALL IN AND WILL BE REFERRED TO THE AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE ON 14 JANUARY 2020.

The Cabinet Member - Leisure Portfolio left the meeting at this point.

CAB60 Permission to Spend Capital for Agile Working

Considered a report that sought permission to spend the approved capital for the First Floor project and Transformation project to support smart and agile working. The report also sought approval for funding from the General Fund Capital Programme to undertake the project to replace the desktop computers with laptops and docking stations, as set out in Section 2 of Digest No 262 of 6 December 2019.

The Deputy Leader set out the proposal in paragraph 2 of the report, to which the Cabinet moved directly to voting on the recommendations.

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

- (a) that the project to provide the staff with the appropriate tools to work in a more agile way be supported;
- (b) permission be given to spend £40,000 from the General Fund Capital Programme in the financial year 19/20 and £42,000 in the financial year 20/21. This element of the Accommodation, Transformation and Rationalisation project needed to be addressed early to allow the staff to commence work on their process redesigns and the adoption of new ways of working.

CAB61 Committee Cycle 2020/21

Considered a report setting out the proposed Committee Cycle for 2020/21, as set out in Section 2 of Digest No 262 of 6 December 2019.

The Deputy Leader highlighted the proposal as set out in paragraph 2, to which the Cabinet moved directly to voting on the recommendation.

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

that the Committee Cycle for 2020/21 as submitted be approved.

CAB62 Revenues and Benefits Collection Report - Quarter 2 - Part Confidential

Considered a report that informed the performance of the Revenues and Benefits Service regarding:-

- collection of Council Tax during the first quarter of the financial year;
- collection of Business Rates during the first quarter of the financial year;
- the recovery of overpaid Housing Benefit during the first quarter of the 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 262 of 6 December 2019.

The Deputy Leader highlighted the proposal as set out in paragraph 2, to which the Cabinet moved directly to voting 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 appendices to the report be written off.

CAB63 Planning Portfolio - General Fund Revenue Budget 2019/2020 - 2022/2023 and Capital Programme 2019/2020 - 2022/2023

Considered a report setting out the draft detailed Economic Development and Planning Portfolio Revenue Budget for 2019/2020 - 2022/2023 and the draft Economic Development and Planning Portfolio Capital Programme for 2019/2020 - 2022/2023, as set out in Section 2 of Digest No 262 of 6 December 2019.

The Cabinet Member - Economic Development and Planning Portfolio set out the proposal 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 the detailed draft portfolio revenue budget for 2019/2020 - 2022/2023 and the draft Capital Programme 2019/2020 - 2022/2023 be approved for submission to the Economic Development and Planning Scrutiny Committee for consultation.

THIS ITEM IS NOT SUBJECT TO CALL IN AND WILL BE REFERRED TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ON 14 JANUARY 2020.

CAB64 Great Crested Newts - Naturespace Partnership

Considered a report that sought approval to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with the NatureSpace Partnership, as set out in Section 2 of Digest No 262 of 6 December 2019.

The Cabinet Member - Economic Development and Planning Portfolio introduced the report and set out the proposals contained within paragraph 2, to which the Cabinet moved directly to voting on the recommendation.

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

that the Memorandum of Understanding be signed by Stafford Borough Council as detailed in the Appendix to the report.

CAB65 Brownfield Land Register - Part 1 - Update

Considered a report to approve the sites on the update to Part 1 of the Brownfield Land Register and agreement for the publication on the Borough Council's web site, as set out in Section 2 of Digest No 262 of 6 December 2019.

The Cabinet Member - Economic Development and Planning Portfolio introduced the report and set out the proposals contained within paragraph 2, to which the Cabinet moved directly to voting on the recommendation.

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

that the updated Part 1 of the Brownfield Land Register be published by the end of December 2019.

The Cabinet Member - Leisure Portfolio re-joined the meeting at this point.

CAB66 Government Grant Funding – Future High Streets Fund

Considered a report that sought approval to spend a Government grant of up to £150,000 during the financial year 2019/20 from the Government's Future High Streets Fund to develop a full business case for proposals for transformational change within Stafford Town Centre, as set out in Section 2 of Digest No 262 of 6 December 2019.

The Cabinet Member - Economic Development and Planning Portfolio introduced the report and set out the proposals contained within paragraph 2

The Cabinet Member - Environment Portfolio welcomed the report and drew attention to the Council's proactive approach towards Stafford Town Centre.

The Cabinet then 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 to spend the MHCLG Future High Streets Fund grant of £150,000 be delegated to the Head of Development.

CAB67 Community Portfolio - General Fund Revenue Budget 2019/2020 - 2022/2023 and Capital Programme 2019/2020 - 2022/2023

Considered a report setting out the draft detailed Community Portfolio Revenue Budget for 2019/2020 - 2022/2023 and the draft Community Portfolio Capital Programme for 2019/2020 - 2022/2023, as set out in Section 2 of Digest No 262 of 6 December 2019.

The Cabinet Member - Community and Health Portfolio introduced the report and concluded his comments by setting out the proposal contained within paragraph 2.

The Leader drew attention to the Gold Standard Housing Team that had successfully reduced the numbers homeless people in the Borough and their expertise in this area was nationally recognised.

The Cabinet then moved directly to voting on the recommendation.

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

that the detailed draft portfolio revenue budget for 2019/2020 - 2022/2023 and the draft Capital Programme 2019/2020 - 2022/2023 be approved for submission to the Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee for consultation.

THIS ITEM IS NOT SUBJECT TO CALL IN AND WILL BE REFERRED TO THE COMMUNITY WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ON 13 JANUARY 2020.

CAB68 Environment Portfolio - General Fund Revenue Budget 2019/2020 - 2022/2023 and Capital Programme 2019/2020 - 2022/2023

Considered a report setting out the draft detailed Environment Portfolio Revenue Budget for 2019/2020 - 2022/2023 and the draft Environment Portfolio Capital Programme for 2019/2020 - 2022/2023, as set out in Section 2 of Digest No 262 of 6 December 2019.

The Cabinet Member - Environment Portfolio set out the proposal 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 - Environment Portfolio be approved as follows:-

that the detailed draft portfolio revenue budget for 2019/2020 - 2022/2023 and the draft Capital Programme 2019/2020 - 2022/2023 be approved for submission to the Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee for consultation.

THIS ITEM IS NOT SUBJECT TO CALL IN AND WILL BE REFERRED TO THE COMMUNITY WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 13 JANUARY 2020.

CAB69 Leisure Portfolio - General Fund Revenue Budget 2019/2020 - 2022/2023 and Capital Programme 2019/2020 - 2022/2023

Considered a report setting out the draft detailed Leisure Portfolio Revenue Budget for 2019/2020 - 2022/2023 and the draft Leisure Portfolio Capital Programme for 2019/2020 - 2022/2023, as set out in Section 2 of Digest No 262 of 6 December 2019.

The Cabinet Member - Leisure Portfolio introduced the report and concluded her comments by setting out the proposal contained within paragraph 2.

The Leader of the Council highlighted the fact that the Council's total expenditure on parks and open spaces equated to just less than £1m.

The Cabinet then moved directly to voting on the recommendation.

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

that the detailed draft portfolio revenue budget for 2019/2020 - 2022/2023 and the draft Capital Programme 2019/2020 - 2022/2023 be approved for submission to the Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee for consultation.

THIS ITEM IS NOT SUBJECT TO CALL IN AND WILL BE REFERRED TO THE COMMUNITY AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ON 13 JANUARY 2020.

CHAIR