

Councillor J M Pert - Deputy Leader in the Chair

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

Councillors:

F Beatty	Economic Development and Planning Portfolio
R M Smith	Resources Portfolio
C V Trowbridge	Leisure Portfolio
M J Winnington	Environment Portfolio

Also Present                      Councillors I D Fordham, J Hood and R Kenney

Officers in attendance:-

Mr T Clegg	Chief Executive
Mr N Clifton	Interim Head of Operations
Mr C Jordan	Interim Head of Development
Dr T Redpath	Interim Head of Corporate Business and Partnerships
Mr W Conaghan	Press and Communication Manager
Mr A Yendole	Strategic Planning and Placemaking Manager
Mr J Dean	Democratic Services Officer

Prior to commencing proceedings the Deputy Leader was pleased to welcome Councillor R M Smith to his first meeting following a period of illness. Councillor Pert also noted that this was the first meeting of the Cabinet held during the reign of the new Monarch, King Charles III.

Continuing, the Deputy Leader thanked Councillor R P Cooke for Chairing the recent special meeting of the Economic Development and Planning Scrutiny Committee during the absence of Councillor W J Kemp to whom Councillor Pert passed on his best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Finally Councillor Pert declared a Personal Interest by noting that he was a Non-Executive Director of Eccleshall Eagles Football Club.

### **CAB23 Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2022 as published on 9 September 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

### **CAB24 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P M M Farrington and J K Price.

## **CAB25 Freedom Leisure Annual Report 2021/22**

Prior to presenting her item, Councillor Trowbridge paid tribute to Mr Peter Taunton who had sadly passed away earlier this week. Mr Taunton had served the Borough for over 25 years acting as Town Crier. The Cabinet joined Councillor Trowbridge in sending their condolences to Mr Taunton's family and friends.

Cabinet subsequently considered a report presenting the Freedom Leisure Annual Report relating to the period from April 2021 to March 2022 in respect of the Leisure and Cultural Services contract managed by Freedom Leisure on behalf of the Council.

Councillor C V Trowbridge introduced the report and highlighted the detail contained within Paragraphs 3 and 5 before concluding her comments by recommending that the proposal as set out in Paragraph 2 be approved.

The Cabinet Member referred to the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on the leisure industry as a whole and was please to detail the programme of events as developed by Freedom Leisure, thanking Council Officers, the staff of Freedom Leisure and the local Member of Parliament for their efforts associated with the refurbishment and subsequent reopening of the Gatehouse Theatre, Stafford.

The Cabinet acknowledged the important role played by Leisure Services for the residents of the Borough.

The Cabinet subsequently voted on the recommendation, which was declared to be carried.

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

That the report be noted.

## **CAB26 Yarnfield and Cold Meece Parish – Re-allocation of Monies to Support an Open Space Scheme**

Considered a report requesting the release of £10,000 from the Westbridge Park, Stone contingency project budget to go towards a S106 project at Yarnfield and Cold Meece Parish Council.

The Cabinet Member, Leisure Portfolio introduced the report by detailing the content of Paragraphs 3 and 5 before concluding her comments by recommending that the proposal as set out in Paragraph 2 be approved.

Cabinet subsequently voted on the recommendation, which was declared to be carried.

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

That the reallocation of £10,000 from the £265,980 Westbridge Park, Stone contingency budget towards an active S106 project being undertaken at Yarnfield and Cold Meece Parish Council be agreed.

**CAB27 Meadow Road Play Area, Barlaston**

Considered a report proposing leasing a play area located off Meadow Road, Barlaston to Barlaston Parish Council as shown in the plan attached as an appendix to the report.

The Cabinet Member, Leisure Portfolio introduced the report by detailing the content of Paragraphs 3 and 5 before concluding her comments by recommending that the proposals as set out in Paragraph 2 be approved.

Cabinet subsequently voted on the recommendation, which was declared to be carried.

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

That:-

- (a) the play area off Meadow Road, Barlaston be leased to Barlaston Parish Council to enable the Parish Council to invest in and maintain the facility for the benefit of local residents;
- (b) the 'disposal' of this open space be advertised in accordance with Section 123(2A) of the Local Government Act 1973.

**CAB28 St Marys Road Play Area, Little Haywood - Land Transfer**

Considered a report proposing transferring responsibility for the St Marys Road play area in Little Haywood to Colwich Parish Council as shown in the plan attached as an appendix to the report.

The Cabinet Member, Leisure Portfolio introduced the report by detailing the content of Paragraphs 3 and 5 before concluding her comments by recommending that the proposals as set out in Paragraph 2 be approved.

Cabinet subsequently voted on the recommendation, which was declared to be carried.

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

That:-

- (a) responsibility (including maintenance) for the play area located off St Marys Road, Little Haywood be transferred to Colwich Parish Council;
- (b) the 'disposal' of this open space be advertised in accordance with Section 123(2A) of the Local Government Act 1973.

### **CAB29 Yarnfield Land Transfer**

Considered a report proposing the transfer of management responsibility for two parcels of land in Yarnfield owned by the Council to Yarnfield and Cold Meece Parish Council.

The Cabinet Member, Leisure Portfolio introduced the report by detailing the content of Paragraphs 3 and 5 before concluding her comments by recommending that the proposals as set out in Paragraph 2 be approved.

Cabinet subsequently voted on the recommendation, which was declared to be carried.

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

That:-

- (a) the management and maintenance responsibilities of the specified land at Yarnfield be transferred to Yarnfield and Cold Meece Parish Council via an appropriate lease;
- (b) the 'disposal' of this open space be advertised in accordance with Section 123(2A) of the Local Government Act 1973.

### **CAB30 Riverway Nursery Works: Permission to Spend**

Considered a report providing details of proposed capital improvement works to the Council's Riverway Nursery site and seeking approval of funding from the Capital Programme to undertake the project.

The Cabinet Member, Environment Portfolio introduced the report by detailing the content of Paragraphs 3 and 5 before concluding his comments by recommending that the proposals as set out in Paragraph 2 be approved.

Councillor Winnington reiterated the Council's commitment to investing in the welfare of its staff; the most important asset held by the Council.

Cabinet subsequently voted on the recommendation, which was declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that the proposals of the Cabinet Member, Environment Portfolio be approved as follows:-

That:-

(a) the project be supported;

(b) the expenditure of up to £101,000 (including 15% contingency) from the Capital programme be authorised to enable a section of the site's made-up roadway to be resurfaced and for a shower unit to be installed.

### **CAB31 New Local Plan - Preferred Options Report**

Considered a report recommending approval of the 'New Local Plan - Preferred Options Report' and associated documentation for consultation and that the New Local Plan programme be updated, with the latest revision of the Local Development Scheme brought into effect from 19 October 2022, replacing the existing Scheme published in November 2021.

The Cabinet Member, Economic Development and Planning Portfolio introduced the report by detailing the content of Paragraphs 3 and 5 before recommending that the proposals as set out in Paragraph 2 be approved.

Councillor Beatty detailed the widespread consultation programme associated with this matter and encouraged all interested parties to contribute as the proposals would set the blueprint for development in the Borough for the next 25 years. Councillor Beatty paid tribute to Officers of the Planning Department for their efforts in this area of work and in bringing the proposals to fruition. Finally Councillor Beatty thanked the Members of the Economic Development and Planning Scrutiny Committee who had met earlier this week to consider the proposals.

The Cabinet noted the need for development, where appropriate, in the smaller settlements of the Borough whilst reiterating the Council's commitment to protecting the rural environment.

The Deputy Leader was pleased to welcome the report which set the aspirations for local communities throughout the Borough and demonstrated that the Council was the leading local authority in the County in terms of climate change proposals relating to new developments. Councillor Pert encouraged contributions to the consultation which would influence how people live and work moving forward.

Cabinet subsequently voted on the recommendation, which was declared to be carried.

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

That:-

- (a) the New Local Plan - 'Preferred Options Report', together with the supporting evidence based documentation referenced in the appendix to this item be approved for public consultation;
- (b) the revised Local Development Scheme be brought into effect from 19 October 2022;
- (c) the Head of Development, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Planning, be authorised to make appropriate typographical and minor presentational amendments to the Preferred Options Document as may be required.

CHAIR