

Minutes of the Cabinet held at the Civic Centre, Riverside, Stafford on Thursday 3 August 2023

Chair - Councillor A T A Godfrey

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

Councillors:

R Kenney - Deputy Leader
R P Cooke - Resources Portfolio
J Hood - Community Portfolio
G P K Pardesi - Leisure Portfolio

A F Reid - Economic Development and Planning Portfolio

A N Pearce - Climate Change Portfolio

Officers in attendance:

T Clegg - Chief Executive

C Forrester - Deputy Chief Executive - Resources

J Wallace - Licensing and Enviro Crime Group Manager

J Dean - Democratic Services Officer

CAB12 Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2023 as published on 7 July 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

CAB13 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor I D Fordham.

CAB14 Staffordshire Sustainability Board Update

Considered a report:

- Updating Cabinet on the work of the Staffordshire Sustainability Board (SSB) following its first-year anniversary;
- seeking Cabinet acknowledgement of the County Council's sustainability related strategies and plans, that have been taken to the Staffordshire Sustainability Board over the last 12-months;
- acknowledging the Council's 2021/22 carbon footprint and agreeing to its publication, in alignment with the Staffordshire Sustainability Board Baseline Pledge;
- seeking agreement to the inclusion of climate change implications to all Cabinet/Council reports going forward, again, in accordance with the Staffordshire Sustainability Board Baseline Pledge.

The Cabinet Member, Climate Change Portfolio introduced the report and referred colleagues to the detail contained within paragraphs 3 and 5. Councillor Pearce concluded his comments by recommending that the proposals as set out in Paragraph 2 be approved.

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

RESOLVED: that the proposal of the Cabinet Member, Climate Change Portfolio, be approved as follows:

That:-

- (a) the work of the Staffordshire Sustainability Board and the County Council's sustainability strategies and plans (as set out in appendices 1-3 of the report) be acknowledged;
- (b) the Council's 2021/22 carbon footprint be acknowledged and its publication be agreed, in alignment with the Staffordshire Sustainability Board Baseline Pledge;
- (c) the formal inclusion of climate change implications to all Cabinet/Council reports going forward, in accordance with the Staffordshire Sustainability Board Baseline Pledge, be agreed.

CAB15 Government Grant Funding Stafford Borough Garden Community Proposals

Considered a report seeking extensions to the previously approved delegation arrangements associated with the grant funding secured for 2019/20, 2021/22 and 2022/23 to cover the financial year 2023/24 and providing spend information in relation to each round of funding received.

The Cabinet Member, Economic Development and Planning Portfolio introduced the report and referred colleagues to the detail contained within paragraphs 3 and 5. Councillor Reid concluded his comments by recommending that the proposal as set out in Paragraph 2 be approved.

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

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

That:-

(a) authority to spend the remainder of the Ministry of Homes Community and Local Government (MHCLG)

Garden Communities grant of £750,000, received in 2019 be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Meecebrook Programme Board;

- (b) authority to spend the remainder of the Ministry of Homes Community and Local Government (MHCLG) Garden Communities grant of £360,000, received in 2021 be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Meecebrook Programme Board;
- (c) authority to spend the reminder of the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) Garden Communities grant of £330,000, received in 2022 be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Meecebrook Programme Board.

CAB16 Draft Sex Establishment Policy

Considered a report enabling Members to consider making any amendments to the draft Sex Establishment Policy taking account of representations received during the public consultation exercise (noting that adoption of the Policy would be a decision of full Council).

The Deputy Leader introduced the report on behalf of the Cabinet Member and referred colleagues to the detail contained within paragraphs 3 and 5. Councillor Kenney concluded his comments by recommending that the proposals as set out in Paragraph 2 be approved.

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

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

That:-

- (a) the draft Policy be updated/amended in light of the consultation responses received by the Council;
- (b) the updated version of the Policy be reported to the next available meeting of Council, with a recommendation from Cabinet to approve it.

THIS ITEM IS NOT SUBJECT TO CALL IN AND WILL BE REFERRED TO COUNCIL ON 12 SEPTEMBER 2023.

CAB17 Replacement Parking Ticket Machines

Considered a report seeking approval to purchase replacement pay and display car park ticket machines.

The Leader of the Council recommended that the proposals as set out in Paragraph 2 be approved.

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

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

That:-

- (a) Officers be authorised to pursue Option 2 as set out in the report: i.e. to purchase 10 new car parking ticket machines with a combination of credit card only and cash and card payment options;
- (b) budgetary provision be made from a reserve fund, for the sum of up to £60,000 to facilitate the above recommendation;
- (c) £60,000 be placed into the Council's capital programme and permission to spend be granted.

CAB18 Planning Obligations Allocation - Baswich

RESOLVED: that consideration of the item be deferred to a future meeting of the Cabinet.

CAB19 Freedom Leisure Annual Report 2022/23 - Part Confidential

Considered a report providing Members with the Freedom Leisure Annual Report received by the Council and related to the period from April 2022 to March 2023 in respect of the Leisure and Cultural Services contract that Freedom Leisure managed on behalf of the Council. Freedom Leisure had written the Annual Report.

The Cabinet Member, Leisure Portfolio introduced the report and referred colleagues to the detail contained within paragraphs 3 and 5. Councillor Pardesi concluded her comments by recommending that the proposals as set out in Paragraph 2 be approved.

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.

CAB20 Revenues and Benefits Collection Report - Quarter 1 - Part Confidential

Considered a report:

- informing Cabinet of the performance of the Revenues and Benefits Service as regards:
 - collection of Council Tax during the first quarter of the 2023/2024 financial year
 - collection of Business Rates during the first quarter of the 2023/2024 financial year;
- and seeking approval to the write off of the arrears listed in the confidential appendices to the report.

The Cabinet Member, Resources Portfolio introduced the report before highlighting the detail contained within Paragraphs 3 and 5, together with the associated appendices and concluded his comments by recommending that the proposals as set out in Paragraph 2 be approved.

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

RESOLVED: that the proposal of the Cabinet Member, Resources Portfolio, 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.

CHAIR