



## **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD ON 21st OCTOBER 2021**

**PRESENT:** Councillor J Oates (Chair), Councillors R Pritchard (Vice-Chair), M Bailey, D Cook, S Doyle and A Farrell

The following officers were present: Anica Goodwin (Executive Director Organisation), Joanne Sands (Assistant Director Partnerships) and Tracey Pointon (Legal Admin & Democratic Services Manager)

### **58 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies were received

### **59 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 were approved and signed as a correct record.

*(Moved by Councillor R Pritchard and seconded by Councillor A Farrell)*

### **60 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

### **61 QUESTION TIME:**

**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC NO. 1** Under Schedule 4, 13, Mr H Loxton will ask the Leader of the Council Councillor Jeremy Oates, the following question:-

The new markets in Tamworth are a great idea and it's clear the food festival at the weekend was a success.

One thing that has been mentioned is the difficulties those in wheelchairs/mobility scooters have in accessing the stalls when they are situated on the grass, especially when the grass is wet. Could alternative hard standing areas be looked at for future events to ensure it is accessible for all?

**Councillor Oates gave the following reply:**

Thank you for your kind comments recognising the success of the recent Food and Drink festival in the Castle Grounds that was delivered by LSD Promotions our market operator.

The ambition of the Council is to support new activity that extends and complements the market in order to specifically benefit wider Town Centre businesses. The location chosen in this instance has been purposefully done so to try and achieve this aim, in a picturesque and attractive setting.

Where possible, matting was put down to make sure that access and egress onto the main lower lawn was a smooth transition and seated areas were kept well separated to allow free flow and movement in-between.

The Council will always try and ensure all events put on in the Borough are as accessible and inclusive as possible for everyone and at a meeting last week we were considering how we grow the markets not only in the Castle Grounds but in the Town Centre and we will take on board Mr Loxton's comments when we roll that in future.

**62 MATTERS REFERRED TO THE CABINET IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULES**

None

**63 MODERN SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING STATEMENT 2020/21**

Report of the Portfolio Holder Regulatory and Community Safety to approve the Council's Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement 2020/21

**RESOLVED:** That Cabinet

Approved the Council's Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement 2020/21 which as been endorsed by the Audit and Governance Committee

*(Moved by Councillor S Doyle and seconded by Councillor R Pritchard)*

**64 COUNCIL HOUSING ANNUAL REPORT 2020/2021**

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Social Housing and Homelessness Prevention to set out the detail informing the production of the Councils Annual Report for council housing tenants' (2020/21) and continue to highlight to Cabinet the Regulatory Social Housing's requirements in relation to the Council's stock retained service, the implementation of the social housing white paper and the findings of the Regulator of Social Housing's Consumer Regulation Review 2020/21. And update Cabinet on the Council's existing plans to undertake an independent review of the Council's compliance with the regulatory standards and the social housing white paper, across the range of responsible corporate teams.

**RESOLVED:** That Cabinet

1. Approved the draft `Council Housing Tenants Annual Report

2020/21` for circulation to all Council's tenants via the Council's website as required by the Regulator for Social Housing, to support effective scrutiny by tenants of their landlord's performance.

2. agreed to delegate authority to the Portfolio Holder for Social Housing & Homelessness Prevention to make the necessary amendments to the draft Council Housing Tenants Annual Report 2020/21, prior to digital circulation to Council's tenants.
3. Agreed to support the Regulator for Social Housing's requirement for registered providers of social housing including local authorities in England to meet the relevant regulatory standards, social housing white paper and the summary findings of the Consumer Regulation Review 2020/21; and
4. noted that the Housing & Homeless Sub Committee received a presentation on the Social Housing white paper & consumer standard compliance on 22nd September and, Cabinet also agreed to support, a targeted and independent self-assessment to ensure compliance with the Regulator Social Housing standards
5. agreed to receive a further report in 2022/2023 (ahead of next year's annual report) on the self-assessment and proposed improvement plan; and
6. Approved the release of £20k from the HRA General Contingency Budget in funding the Independent Self-Assessment & action plan.

*(Moved by Councillor A Farrell and seconded by Councillor R Pritchard)*

Councillor Cook asked the Leader of the Council to send a letter of thanks to Mr Barnes & Ms Mustafa to pass on thanks to all the staff in housing.

## **65 SOUTH STAFFS LEGAL SERVICE**

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Customer Services to seek approval for increased resources and changes to staffing within the Shared Legal Service.

**RESOLVED:** That Cabinet

Approved the proposal to expand the current staffing resources within the Shared Legal Service as set out in paragraph entitled 'Resource Implications' of this report, pending Lichfield's City Council's agreement.

*(Moved by Councillor M Bailey and seconded by Councillor D Cook)*

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Leader