



## **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD ON 7th APRIL 2022**

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

The following officers were present: Andrew Barratt (Chief Executive), Tina Mustafa (Assistant Director Neighbourhoods), Tracey Pointon (Legal Admin & Democratic Services Manager) and Joanne Sands (Assistant Director Partnerships) Gary Jones (Support Staffordshire), Claire Jolly (Support Staffordshire)

Councillor D Maycock Vice Chair of Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny was in attendance

### **131 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence

### **132 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held in the 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022 were approved as correct record

*(Moved by Councillor M Summers and seconded by Councillor R Pritchard)*

### **133 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

### **134 QUESTION TIME:**

**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC NO. 1 Under Schedule 4, 13, Mr H Loxton asked the Leader of the Council Councillor Jeremy Oates the following Question**

Will the leader of the council commit to ensuring the public toilets in the Castle Pleasure Grounds are open every day throughout the year from Easter 2022 onwards, and that when the summer opening hours come to an end any winter hours do not include any days when the toilets are closed completely, and instead are open for a minimum of 6 hours daily?

**The Leader Councillor J Oates gave the following answer**

The Castle grounds toilets were closed in line with Government restrictions during the pandemic and then reopened with reduced hours to accommodate the cleaning regimes required by ongoing Government guidelines. The final restrictions were relaxed on the 1st April and officers are currently investigating the impact of the changes together with the Councils Health and Safety advisor who is recommending ongoing robust regular cleaning to the facilities.

Therefore, additional cleansing staff may be required to facilitate this which will be in place shortly. Unfortunately, whilst the Council remains committed to providing increased toilet facilities during the summer months, those toilets can on occasions be rendered inoperable through vandalism or misuse. I can confirm that every effort is being made to return the opening hours to those available pre pandemic and we look forward to welcoming visitors to the Castle Pleasure Grounds for what we hope, will be a summer packed full of activities for everyone

**Mr Loxton asked the following Supplementary Question**

When the Castle grounds toilets were re furnished in 2019 including the towns first changing places facility it was promised that the seasonal hours would be done away with. It would provide longer opening hours all year round accessed all day every day at all times of the year and rather than fixed opening hours the toilets would be available remotely controllable to ensure availability meets demand including opening into the evening hours. You spent a lot of money on the facility and it's not being used in that way. I would ask that you put it on your future work plan, commit to discussing at a Council meeting before the summer opening hours comes to an end. I would like you to clarify that you will discuss it a Council meeting and debate as a full council.

**The Leader Councillor Jeremy Oates gave the following response**

In answer to your question the way policy works is through the budget and the policy framework and all councillors are engaged in building this framework and comes to full Council in February each year. Outside that policy framework we do have some latitude to change things as and when we require. In terms of the specifics around the toilets we are committed to increasing the provision of toilet facilities, we have had some significant problems with the toilets in the Castle grounds due to vandalism and misuse and to deal with that we have had to change the way we operate. Our commitment to deliver and what was said at the time will have change based on circumstances, unfortunately we have had to close them during the pandemic and unfortunately we have had to close them due to vandalism and misuse and have to get them repaired. We are committed to increasing the provision of toilets, we are committed to doing the right thing where we can and we are committed to get over the issues we have to. In terms of all Councillors being involved in the policy framework that happens and that will feed back in February next year.

**135 MATTERS REFERRED TO THE CABINET IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULES**

Report of the Vice-Chair of the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee To update Cabinet and to make recommendations to it following consideration of matters by the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.

A recommendation to Cabinet was made following consideration of the Reset & Recovery item at this Committee's meeting on 25th January 2022, which was:

The Committee recommends to Cabinet to consider another location other than that of the Assembly Rooms for interim, front of house customer services as quickly as possible.

Cllr Claymore attended the 17th February 2022 Cabinet meeting to present this recommendation and Cabinet agreed that it would look at the options and Cabinet resolved to:

“ensure that this is discussed as an agenda item at the next Reset & Recovery Board meeting on 23rd February and feed back to Health & Wellbeing Chair.”

Following the response from the Reset & Recovery Board meeting the committee were still concerned

The Committee moved that the following recommendation was taken back to Cabinet and asked that the Chair and Vice Chair highlight the recommendation personally to the Leader.

**Recommendation**

The Committee recommends to Cabinet to consider another location other than that of the Assembly Rooms for interim, front of house customer services as quickly as possible.

*(Moved by Councillor D Cook and seconded by Councillor Dr. S Peaple)*

Councillor Oates updated that he has authorised improved signage to the front to Marmion House to sign post to the different routes to get in touch with the council including face to face

RESOLVED That Cabinet responds to this recommendation with reference to Agenda item 13 recommendation 3 part 2

*(Moved by Councillor J Oates and seconded by Councillor M Bailey)*

**136 ADOPTION OF VOLUNTARY SECTOR PLEDGE**

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Voluntary Sector, Town Centre, Evening Economy & Community Safety to seek approval for the Borough Council to adopt and sign the Staffordshire Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Pledge for Local Authorities

RESOLVED: That Cabinet

1. Adopted the Staffordshire Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Pledge (VCSE)
2. Agreed to promote and implement the VCSE Pledge and;
3. Delegated authority to the Portfolio Holder for Voluntary Sector, Town Centre, Evening Economy & Community Safety to review the pledge annually in conjunction with the Assistant Director Partnerships

*(Moved by Councillor M Summers and seconded by Councillor S Doyle)*

**137 TAMWORTH COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2020-2023 (2022 REFRESH)**

Report of the Portfolio Holder Voluntary Sector, Town Centre, Evening Economy and Community Safety to endorse the 2022 annual refresh of the Tamworth Community Safety Partnership Plan 2020-2023

RESOLVED: That Cabinet

1. Endorsed the Tamworth Community Safety Plan 2022 Refresh as recommended by Infrastructure Safety and Growth Scrutiny Committee;
2. approved the recommendation from the Scrutiny Committee that Cabinet continue to endorse the main three year overarching plan ONLY from 2023 following review by Scrutiny and;
3. approved delegation to the Infrastructure Safety and Growth Scrutiny Committee to review and endorse the annual refresh of the Community Safety plan from 2024 with the Assistant Director Partnerships

*(Moved by Councillor M Summers and seconded by Councillor )*

**138 ASB, CRIME AND POLICING ACT 2014 - PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER CONSIDERATION**

Report of the Portfolio Holder Town Centre, Voluntary Sector and Community Safety to consider proposals for new Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO's) at Mercia Close, Tamworth

RESOLVED: That Cabinet

approved the progression to public consultation and submission to Infrastructure, Safety and Growth Scrutiny Committee, thereafter for a PSPO at:

- Land running behind 1 to 35 Mercia Close, specifically the Public Right Of Way (Tamworth 25) that runs from No. 11 to No. 35

*(Moved by Councillor M Summers and seconded by Councillor M Bailey)*

### **139 FUTURE HIGH STREETS FUND UPDATE**

Report of the Leader of the Council to update the Committee on the progress of the Future High Streets Fund programme

RESOLVED: That Cabinet

Noted the report

*(Moved by Councillor J Oates and seconded by Councillor R Pritchard)*

### **140 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED:** That members of the press and public be now excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item on the grounds that the business involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

*(Moved by Councillor J Oates and seconded by Councillor R Pritchard)*

### **141 AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET REPORT**

Report of the Vice-Chair of the Audit & Governance Committee to update Cabinet and to make recommendations to it following consideration of matters by the Audit & Governance Committee.

Following consideration of the recommendations which the Sub-Committee had made to the Audit & Governance Committee, and the further update from

members of the Sub-Committee following a visit to key sites associated with the project, the Committee:

RESOLVED: That it recommend to Cabinet that:

1. no decision to bridge the gap in college funding be taken without being considered at full Council
2. Cabinet to ensure adequate support for strategic management of the project at all stages was available; and
3. Over reliance on individual staff was a risk that needed to be managed going forward and recorded in the risk register.

Councillor J Oates gave the following responses to the recommendations

1. Under the framework any decision to gap fund would have to go through full council for a decision.
2. Capacity in the team has been looked at and a report agreed at Appointments & Staffing on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2022 approved the post of a Regeneration Officer to free up officer time.
3. The FHSF is controlled by a Board who oversees the project team. The reliance spoken of in the recommendation relates to the fact that the project falls under the Assistant Director- Growth & Regeneration, should we lose that member of staff the role would be replaced.

The response was moved by Councillor J Oates and seconded by Councillor S Doyle to be taken back to the next Audit & Governance Committee

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

Report of the Chair of the Infrastructure Safety & Growth Scrutiny Committee to update Cabinet and to make recommendations to it following consideration of matters by the Infrastructure Safety & Growth Scrutiny Committee (the "IS&G Committee").

The committee RESOLVED to recommend to Cabinet that it market the Marmion House site for residential development, with options both with or without demolition of the existing buildings.

*(Moved by Councillor Dr S Peple and seconded by Councillor S Goodall)*

RESOLVED: That Cabinet

Include consolidation of the recommendation in recommendation 1 of the Recovery & Reset report.

(Moved by *Councillor J Oates and seconded by Councillor R Pritchard*)

## 143 RECOVERY & RESET PROGRAMME UPDATE

Report of the Leader of the Council to update Cabinet on progress of the Recovery & Reset Programme specifically

- Regenerative & Place Shaping considerations for Marmion House
- Review of Options for relocation of the Councils back-office operations & Town centre reception arrangements for a period up to 5 years (2023-2028)
- Options and update on Customer Service Reception offer & arrangements
- Tailored support for those identifying as vulnerable

RESOLVED: That Cabinet

### **Marmion House & Building Utilisation**

1. Agreed the proposals for Marmion House set out in the report; including the marketing testing of the site for residential development via an appointed agent. Annex One & Two – Marmion House Studies;
2. Agreed the proposals for the re-location of the Councils back-office functions and town centre reception as detailed in the report. **Annex Three – Options for Council Premises**

And

Delegated authority to the Chief Executive, in conjunction with the Leader of the Council & Recovery & Reset Board, to agree the final location based on detailed surveys, design and financial assessments as contained within the original financial assumptions built into the approved Medium Term Financial Strategy. **Part Redacted**

### **Customer reception arrangements & Vulnerability Offer**

3. Approved the provision of continued face-to-face reception

and signposting arrangements from Tamworth Information Centre until new Council premises are opened in 2023 and

Delegated authority to the Deputy Chief Executive, in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder Finance, Risk & Customer Services, to keep the above under review & where necessary agree revised customer service and reception arrangements should evidence and customer engagement results change

4. Delegated authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council & Recovery & Reset Board, the final arrangements for its customer service and reception offer from April 2023-March 2028, based on community impact assessment and a review of all available customer engagement feedback. **Annex Four – Customer Service Intelligence & Engagement Update**
5. Agreed the Vulnerability Plan, including Equality Impact Assessment methodology, prepared in conjunction with the voluntary sector. Annex Five – Vulnerability Map and Annex Six Community Equality Impact Assessment

#### **Delivery & implementation**

6. **Redacted**
7. **Redacted**

*(Moved by Councillor J Oates and seconded by Councillor R Pritchard)*

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Leader