



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD ON 26th OCTOBER 2023

PRESENT: Councillor P Turner (Chair), Councillors S Smith, P Thompson and M Summers

The following officers were present: Andrew Barratt (Chief Executive), Rob Barnes (Executive Director Communities), Tina Mustafa (Assistant Director Neighbourhoods), Paul Weston (Assistant Director Assets), Leanne Costello (Senior Scrutiny and Democratic Services Officer) and Tracey Smith (Democratic Services Assistant)

57 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor T Jay and Councillor A Cooper.

58 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meetings held on 31st August 2023 and 28th September 2023 were approved as a correct record.

(Moved by Councillor S Smith and seconded by Councillor P Thompson)

59 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

60 QUESTION TIME:

None.

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

Report of the Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee notified Cabinet of the report and recommendations from the Financial Strategy item that was discussed at the meeting of Corporate Scrutiny on the 4th October 2023.

No recommendations were moved however in respect of recommendation one: the Leader of the Council agreed that he supported the first recommendation for Cross party write to Government to lobby for a better position for long term strategic planning.

In respect of recommendation two the Leader of the Council agreed that he would diarise regular updates with the three Scrutiny Chairs to Feedback on the budget process.

62 LOCAL PLAN ISSUES AND OPTIONS CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning sought Cabinet approval to publish the Local Plan Issues and Options Consultation Responses.

Resolved That Cabinet

1. Approved the publication of the Local Plan Issues and Options Consultation Responses, as included in Appendix A
2. Delegated authority to the Assistant Director – Growth and Regeneration to make any final typographical and formatting amendments to the document prior to publication.

(Moved by Councillor S Smith and seconded by Councillor M Summers)

63 VIREMENT OF FUNDS WITHIN HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMMES.

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning to agree the virement of funds from within existing budgets to enable payment for the Soil Ventilation Pipe works project which has overspent budget by £215,000.00 due to unforeseen additional works identified as the project has progressed. Virements of budgets of a value greater than £100,000.00 requires Cabinet approval.

Resolved That Cabinet

1. Agreed the virement of funds from existing underspent budgets within the 2023/2024 Capital programme as set out below:
 - £124,250 from CR4028 (High Rise Refuse Chute Renewals).
 - £90,750 from CR4024 (High Rise Ventilation).

(Moved by Councillor S Smith and seconded by Councillor P Thompson)

64 UPDATE ON LEASEHOLD SERVICE CHARGES

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning updated on the current position in relation to Leaseholder Service Charges and set out the details and programme for the Strategic Review of Leasehold Service Charges.

Resolved That Cabinet

1. Endorsed the actions to date.
2. Endorsed the Strategic Review procurement brief, procurement process and project timetable.
3. Delegated authority to the Portfolio Holder of Housing and Planning, along with the Assistant Director of Assets, to initiate Stage 3 consultations and apply service charges for works that pertain to urgent matters, health and safety, or compliance. This action requires the approval of the Portfolio Holder of Housing and Planning.

(Moved by Councillor S Smith and seconded by Councillor M Summers)

65 COUNCIL HOUSING - ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning. Set out the detail informing the production of the Councils Annual Report for council housing tenants' (2022/23). Highlighted to Cabinet the Regulatory Social Housing's requirements in relation to the Council's stock retained service and the findings of the Regulator of Social Housing's Consumer Regulation Review 2022/23.

Resolved that Cabinet

1. Approved the draft `Council Housing Tenants Annual Report 2022/23` for circulation to all Council 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. Appendix A.
2. Delegated authority to the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning to make the final amendments to the draft Council Housing Tenants Annual Report 2022/23, prior to digital circulation to Council tenants.
3. Acknowledged findings contained within the Consumer Regulation Review 2022/23. Appendix B.

(Moved by Councillor S Smith and seconded by Councillor P Thompson)

66 SOCIAL HOUSING REGULATORY PROGRAMME

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning. Updated Cabinet on the comprehensive preparations for the Council's compliance with the Social Housing (regulation) Act 2023. Specifically, the; Programme Launch and associated Project(s) management infrastructure, Terms of Reference and assurance sought via the Housing & Homelessness Advisory Board ,collection of required Tenant Satisfaction Measures in readiness for submission to the Regulator Social Housing by April 2024 and procurement of external resources to collate and prepare for submission by April 2024, required tenant perception measures and associated improvement planning.

Resolved That Cabinet

1. Approved the Social Housing Programme detailed in Annex one. Detailing the Programme Highlight Summary, Eight (8) associated Projects and internal work-shop presentation held 04/10/23
2. Approved the Terms of Reference for the Housing & Homelessness Advisory Board, agreed on the 060923 with Portfolio Holder Housing & Planning in consultation with the Labour & independent Leaders / members and the Tenant Consultative Group
3. Endorsed the current Performance set out in the Tenant Satisfaction Measures, shown at annex four. And note the Housing & Homelessness Advisory Board will receive these Tenant Satisfaction Measures at each meeting to ensure observations are referred to the relevant Scrutiny Committee(s) for recommendations to Cabinet where performance assurances are sought
4. Endorsed the Specification to procure specialist resource to undertake, compile and report on the required Tenant Perception Measures, forming part of the Tenant Satisfaction measures required for the Regulator of Social Housing by April 2024.
5. Endorsed a 3 monthly review of the programme by the Executive Leadership Team with specific regard to both the work plans and resourcing requirements.

(Moved by Councillor S Smith and seconded by Councillor P Thompson)

67 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 P Turner and seconded by Councillor S Smith)

68 FHSF UPDATE

Report of the Leader of the Council. To provide an update on the Future High Streets Fund (FHSF) programme of works.

Resolved That Cabinet

1. Endorsed the report.

(Moved by Councillor M Summer and seconded by Councillor P Thompson)

69 UPDATE ON COMMERCIAL LEASE

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Town Centre and Commercial Property to provide a further update on a commercial lease in Tamworth.

Resolved That Cabinet:

1. Approved the three recommendations within the report.

(Moved by Councillor P turner and seconded by Councillor P Thompson)

Leader