



## **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD ON 8th AUGUST 2024**

PRESENT: Councillors C Dean, D Foster, N Arkney, B Clarke and L Smith

The following officers were present: Stephen Gabriel (Chief Executive), Anica Goodwin (Executive Director Organisation), Paul Weston (Assistant Director Assets), Tracey Pointon (Legal Admin & Democratic Services Manager) and Laura Sandland (Democratic and Executive Support Officer)

### **18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor S Daniels.

The Chair made the following statement: I feel we need to start this meeting by just a small reflection on what happened in Tamworth on Sunday evening, and just to reiterate to everyone how saddened we are, and how much we condemn the actions of the people that were there. It is not something we want to see in Tamworth and the whole Council will be working to do what it can to make sure that this kind of thing isn't welcomed in Tamworth and doesn't happen again.

### **19 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2024 were approved as a correct record.

*(Moved by Councillor N Arkey and seconded by Councillor B Clarke)*

### **20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

### **21 QUESTION TIME:**

There were no questions

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

Councillor Couchman attended to present recommendations from Infrastructure Safety & Growth as this item is to be discussed at item 7 on the agenda the item was discussed later on the agenda.

## **23 DISABLED ADAPTATIONS POLICY**

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Homelessness and Planning asked for Cabinet to approve and formally adopt the Housing Assistance Policy (Appendix A) for the delivery of mandatory and discretionary Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) for private sector residents, and in the interim period of not having a Council Adaptations Policy, adopt the same Policy position and foundations for Council delivery.

In addition, approve and formally adopt the Interim Policy Position Statement (IPPS) for Council adaptations in scenarios where the Council can reject, refuse, or pend permission for an adaptation request, for example where tenants are intending to purchase their property, are in arrears or facing eviction action, or are looking to move home, and the exceptional circumstances that will be used for applying discretion in these scenarios (Appendix B).

Resolved that Cabinet:

1. Approved and adopts the assistance provided by the Council under the draft Housing Assistance Policy (Appendix A)
2. Approved and adopts the inclusion of the various 'Discretionary Schemes'.
3. Approved and adopts the utilisation of the Policy to cover Council adaptations until such a time as a separate Policy can be submitted.
4. Approved and adopts the Interim Policy Position Statement for Council adaptations (Appendix B) for adoption.

*(Moved by Councillor B Clarke and seconded by Councillor L Smith)*

## **24 ANNUAL GARDEN WASTE SUBSCRIPTION CHARGE**

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Sustainability, Recycling and Waste sought the approval of Cabinet to increase the garden waste subscription fees for 2024/25. This report was discussed at the Infrastructure, Safety and Growth Committee on 7th August 2024.

Councillor Couchman Chair of the Infrastructure Safety & Growth Committee agreed to bring the following recommendations to Cabinet

1. Ask Cabinet to defer the increase until a full breakdown of costs has been provided and discussed at the next Infrastructure, Safety & Growth

Committee at its 22nd August meeting and then make a decision at the next Cabinet meeting; and

2. Agreed that each year, under delegated powers, the Cabinet member responsible for waste services will approve the price increase in consultation with the Executive Director Organisation and the Council's S151 Officer before being ratified by Cabinet. Furthermore, that the variations in pricing can be agreed through the same delegation to support promotions (for example to encourage take-up of direct debits), provided these can be funded from within the service without placing additional pressure on the MTFS

*(Moved by Councillor B Price and seconded by Councillor L Clarke)*

Following a discussion, it was

Resolved that Cabinet:

1. deferred the increase until a full breakdown of costs has been provided and discussed at the next Infrastructure, Safety & Growth Committee at its 22nd August meeting and then make a decision at the next Cabinet meeting; and
2. Agreed that each year, under delegated powers, the Cabinet member responsible for waste services will approve the price increase in consultation with the Executive Director Organisation and the Council's S151 Officer before being ratified by Cabinet. Furthermore, that the variations in pricing can be agreed through the same delegation to support promotions (for example to encourage take-up of direct debits), provided these can be funded from within the service without placing additional pressure on the MTFS

*(Moved by Councillor L Smith and seconded by Councillor B Clarke)*

## **25 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 L Smith and seconded by Councillor N Arkney)*

## **26 JOINT WASTE SERVICE UPDATE AND FLEET PROCUREMENT**

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Sustainability, Recycling and Waste, sought Cabinet approval for the following recommendations to award the contract for the renewal of the Joint Waste Service fleet. This report was discussed at Infrastructure, Safety and Growth Committee on Wednesday 7th August 2024.

RESOLVED:

That the Cabinet approved all the recommendations in the report

*(Moved by Councillor B Clarke and seconded by Councillor N Arkney)*

## **27 DISABLED ADAPTATIONS SERVICE DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Homelessness and Planning, presented several key proposals that collectively lead towards the development of the adaptations service.

The Portfolio Holder for Housing, Homelessness and Planning passed on his thanks to the DFG team on behalf of the Cabinet and themselves, taking note on how much progress has been made in a short time.

Resolved that Cabinet approved all recommendations in the report

*(Moved by Councillor B Clarke and seconded by Councillor L Smith)*

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Leader