



## **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 10th MARCH 2025**

**PRESENT:** Councillors C Bain, C Adams, M Bailey, B Clarke, L Clarke, M Clarke, R Claymore, T Clements, M Couchman, S Daniels, C Dean, S Doyle, D Foster, H Hadley, R Kingstone, K Norchi, J Oates, P Pallett, L Smith, S Smith, N Statham, M Summers, P Turner and A Wells

The following officers were present: Stephen Gabriel (Chief Executive), Rebecca Cooper (Legal Advisor), Anica Goodwin (Executive Director Organisation), Amerdip Kaur (Assistant Director – Policy and Performance) and Tracey Pointon (Legal Admin & Democratic Services Manager)

### **77 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor G Coates, N Arkeny, B Price, J Wadrup

Councillor H Hadley arrived at 18.26pm

### **78 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor N Statham, declared an interest as her employer is the MP.

### **79 TO RECEIVE ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, LEADER, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

The Deputy Mayor announced that over £800 was raised at the Mayor's Civic Dinner for the mayors chosen charities Changes Tamworth and Tamworth Hygiene Bank.

#### **The Leader of the Opposition made the following announcement**

Just wanted to take a minute to remember sitting in this very room 5 years ago with the then Mayor, Cllr Kingstone making us aware of the changes that were about to see take place on the dawn of the covid pandemic in the UK. I think we sat here, and Richard said that for the next few years life will not be the same again and I think none of us quite appreciated what Cllr Kingstone was saying at

the time but I think it's worth a mention that it has been 5 years since covid landed on our shores and we have gone through a huge amount of turmoil as individuals emotionally and as an authority in terms of structures and duties and I just wanted to put on the record that we remember 5 years ago a different world pre- covid.

The Deputy Mayor added that it's also a time to remember all those that lost their lives during the pandemic. There was a Remembrance Day at the weekend.

## **80 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION AND DEVOLUTION**

Report of the Leader of the Council to present the initial proposals for Tamworth Borough Council's response to the Government's plan for local government reorganisation and devolution. The report recommends that the Full Council endorses the recommendations being considered by Cabinet on 6 March 2025. This includes the initial proposals for submission to Government by 21 March, consider other potential options, and authorise the development of a final proposal to be submitted by the Government's deadline of 28 November 2025.

Cllr Doyle moved an amendment to the report that the Council look at the use of parish councils to protect our assets. Following a discussion Cllr Doyle withdrew this motion.

A motion was moved to amend the wording to include the following additional wording that a Governance Review is began considering the options available including the creation of Parishes or other bodies to achieve the outcomes of Local Government Re-organisation

*(Moved by Councillor J Oates and seconded by Councillor S Doyle)*

**This motion was not carried**

**Resolved** that Council endorsed

1. The initial proposals as outlined in this report and explored other potential options. Additionally, the Cabinet authorised the development of a final proposal to be submitted by the Government's deadline of 28 November 2025
2. The Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be delegated the responsibility to prepare and submit the initial proposals to the Government by the 21 March 2025 deadline. This should be done in collaboration with other local authorities
3. The Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be delegated the authority to commission expert advice and support as needed to optimise the Council's position. This may include commissioning or cost-sharing with other authorities as required

4. The Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be delegated the authority to draw funds from the Transformation Reserve, with an allocation of up to £100k to be ringfenced. This is to enable the council to meeting legislative deadlines and ensure the council has sufficient resources to progress delivery

*(Moved by Councillor C Dean and seconded by Councillor M Couchman)*

The recommendations were approved.

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The Mayor