



## **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 26th MAY 2015**

**PRESENT:** Councillor M Gant (Chair), Councillors A Lunn, M Clarke, S Claymore, T Clements, D Cook, A Couchman, M Couchman, S Doyle, J Faulkner, J Goodall, S Goodall, M Greatorex, G Hiron, A James, R Kingstone, T Madge, M McDermid, K Norchi, J Oates, M Oates, S Peuple, T Peuple, R Pritchard, R Rogers, E Rowe, P Seekings, P Standen and M Thurgood

The following officers were present: Anthony E Goodwin (Chief Executive), John Wheatley (Executive Director Corporate Services), Jane Hackett (Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer), Linda Street (Democratic & Elections Officer), Natalie Missenden (Public Relations Officer) and Janice Clift (Democratic and Elections Officer)

### **1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Chesworth

### **2 MAYOR'S CADET**

Joshua Powell was inaugurated as the Mayor's Cadet for 2015/16.

### **3 TO ELECT A MAYOR**

Councillor M Gant was elected as Mayor and proposed a vote of thanks for Councillor Richard Kingstone's year as Mayor.

*(Moved by Councillor T Clements and seconded by Councillor Simon Peuple)*

### **4 TO ELECT A DEPUTY MAYOR**

Councillor A Lunn was elected as Deputy Mayor.

*(Moved by Councillor T Clements and seconded by Councillor M Greatorex)*

### **5 TO ELECT THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

Councillor D Cook was elected Leader of the Council.

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

**6 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

**7 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The minutes of the meetings held on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2015 were approved and signed as a correct record.

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

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

None

**9 QUESTION TIME:**

**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL NO. 1**

**Under Procedure Rule No 11, Councillor S Peaple will ask the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, Councillor S Claymore, the following question:-**

"With the announcement that Coventry is proposing to join the Birmingham / Black Country Combined Authority, and that the Leader of Solihull is going to propose that Solihull MBC do the same; would the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development outline to the Council the issues facing Tamworth regarding the future direction for economic development?"

**Councillor S Claymore gave the following reply:-**

The original working group of Unitary and Metropolitan Boroughs across Birmingham and the Black Country combined resources to undertake a range of assessments. These included economic benefits; transport and infrastructure, health & care etc. A further piece of work was to consider the role of LEPs which included a number of Districts and Boroughs within Staffordshire and Worcestershire. An element of this work was to establish the geography or scope of a potential Combined Authority. These assessments continue and it is anticipated that they will be extended to include the new members.

Districts and Boroughs have not been directly involved in the working group though they have been kept informed by way of updates. This is shortly to change; District and Borough CEOs are to meet within the next week with a view to establishing their priority requirements and basis of engagement with any Combined Authority. This meeting will be followed by a joint meeting of Leaders and CEOs prior to any decisions or formal considerations being made.

It is proposed that the CEO provide regular updates to Cabinet as part of the Quarterly Performance Reports. Clearly; should there be a requirement for more frequent updates, these will be arranged.

**Supplementary Question:-**

“Can you please elaborate further and copy everyone in across the board. We need to make sure that public awareness is essential?”

**Councillor S Claymore gave the following reply:-**

Five years ago with we made the informed decision to work with Birmingham and Solihull and other local Authorities to form a Local enterprise Partnership.

This decision was based on our travel to work data and our economic ties with the conurbation.

We also took into account that Birmingham is the economic hub of the midlands and Solihull is the gateway into it.

Five years on Tamworth has seen the biggest fall in unemployment than anywhere in the UK and currently has the lowest unemployment figures we have seen in a generation.

Although we can't by any means attribute this solely to the work of the LEP, it certainly looks like this economic partnership is working.

Last year it became clear that Government and the labour party were both in favour of further devolution of powers and funding away from central government to those areas who set up a combined Authority similar to the Manchester offer.

The four black country Authorities and Birmingham agreed to form a combined authority which they hoped would go on to reflect the shape of the three LEP areas of the Greater Birmingham and Solihull, the black Country and Coventry and Warwickshire.

This would include the three cities of Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Coventry and would make it the largest Combined Authority offer in the Country. Contrary to the scaremongering that's going on at the moment this won't mean anyone taking on others debts or change of boundaries, each Authority will continue to independently run and govern their own Authorities.

At the moment I see this as a massive opportunity not just for Tamworth but for the whole of the west midlands, however I do have some concerns around the future of the LEPs and I hope they would still have a powerful and active role to play within this.

I also have concerns around the governance and decision making process and of the requirement of an elected Mayor however, what would be critical is that whoever joins would need to adopt a strategic and politically mature relationship with the others for it to work.

## 10 APPOINTMENT OF CABINET AND ALLOCATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES

The membership of Cabinet for 2015/16 was received and circulated at the meeting as follows:

<b>Cllr Daniel Cook</b>	<b>Cllr Rob Pritchard (Deputy leader)</b>
<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>Portfolio</b>
Corporate Assessments	Corporate Finance & Procurement
Engagement Overview	Audit & Governance
Financial Planning	Service Transformation
Performance Management	Customer Services, HR and ICT
Member Development	GF/HRA Commercial Property & Asset Manag
Strategic Overview	Constitution
Strategic Partnerships	Treasury Management
Budget Consultation	Revenues & Benefits
Participatory Budgeting	Community Health & Safety
Tamworth Listens	Corporate Health and Safety
Reputation	PR and Coms Management (GF & HRA)
Organisational Capacity	Graphics and Publications
Corporate Consultation / Engagement (GF & HRA)	Car Parks
Legal and Democratic Services	Civil Parking Enforcement
Third Sector Engagement	Council Tax and NNDR recovery
Voluntary Sector Engagement and Funding	Leisure Services & Sport
Locality / Integrated Commissioning.	Tourism/ Destination Tamworth
	Outdoor Events
<b>Communities &amp; Public Health</b>	<b>Economy and Education</b>
<b>Cllr Stephen Doyle</b>	<b>Cllr Steve Claymore</b>
<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>Portfolio</b>
Safer & Stronger Communities	Town Centre Development
Community Safety, ASB Reduction & Crime	Town Centre Economy / Cultural Qtr.
Tackling Fear of Crime	Education / Educational Attainment
Integrated Enforcement / Clean Streets Enforcement	Career Skills and Training
CCTV Management	Business Liaison
Community Development and Locality Working	Business Development
Cemeteries	Development Management
Services for Young People / Youth Council	Building Control
Police and Crime Commissioner Panel	Town Centre Market Development
Nature Reserves, Parks and Play	Local Plan / Regeneration
Street Furniture Maintenance	Southern Staffordshire Partnership (SSP)
Streetscene	LEP Board Member
Licensing	Infrastructure / Transport / LTB
Environmental Health	Planning
CCG / PCT Engagement	Decent & Affordable Housing Development
Healthier Communities / Lifestyles	Gateways Project
Community Wardens.	Heritage Conservation / Promotion
Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults	Housing Regeneration Projects
Child Protection / Every Child Matters Agenda	

Housing and Waste Management Cllr Michelle Thurgood	Champions
<b>Portfolio</b>	
<b>Strategic Waste Management</b>	<b>Cllr John Chesworth - Digital Champion</b>
<b>Refuse Collection</b>	<b>Cllr Joy Goodall - Skills Champion</b>
<b>Recycling Services</b>	<b>Cllr Michael Greatorex - Heritage Champion</b>
<b>Waste Minimisation</b>	
<b>Joint Waste Board with LDC.</b>	
<b>Staffordshire Joint Waste Management Board</b>	
<b>Strategic Housing</b>	
<b>Homelessness Prevention</b>	
<b>Housing Advice</b>	
<b>Landlord Services / Council Housing</b>	
<b>Private Rented Sector Housing</b>	
<b>HRA Neighbourhood Renewal</b>	
<b>Healthier Housing</b>	
<b>Public Sector Garages</b>	
<b>HRA Business Planning</b>	
<b>Tenant Engagement</b>	
<b>Decent Homes Standard</b>	
<b>Tamworth in Bloom Operations</b>	

## 11 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

The constitution and membership of Committees for 2015/16 was received and circulated at the meeting as follows:

### CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEES 2015/16

#### CABINET

Councillors	D Cook	Leader of the Council
	R Pritchard	Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Operations and Assets
	S Claymore	Portfolio Holder for Economy and Education
	S Doyle	Portfolio Holder for Communities and Public Health
	M Thurgood	Portfolio Holder for Housing and Waste Management

#### ASPIRE AND PROSPER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Councillors	T Clements
	M Couchman
	J Goodall
	M Greatorex

G Hirons  
R Kingstone  
M McDermid  
E Rowe  
P Standen

### **HEALTHIER AND SAFER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Councillors J Chesworth  
M Clarke  
A Couchman  
J Faulkner  
S Goodall  
A James  
M Oates  
T People  
R Rogers

### **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Councillors J Chesworth  
M Couchman  
J Goodall  
S Goodall  
M Greatorex  
T Madge  
K Norchi  
T People  
J Oates  
M Oates  
E Rowe  
P Standen  
M Thurgood

### **AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

Councillors J Chesworth  
J Faulkner  
J Goodall  
S Goodall  
K Norchi  
J Oates  
T People

### **LICENSING**

Councillors M Clarke  
T Clements  
A Couchman  
D Cook  
S Doyle

M Gant  
G Hirons  
A James  
A Lunn  
M McDermid  
M Oates  
R Rogers  
P Seekings

#### **APPOINTMENTS AND STAFFING COMMITTEE**

Councillors        D Cook  
                         M Couchman  
                         S People  
                         R Pritchard  
                         M Thurgood

#### **NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

Councillors        T Clements  
                         G Hirons  
                         R Kingstone  
                         E Rowe  
                         P Seekings

#### **CHIEF OFFICER CONDUCT COMMITTEE**

Councillors        M Gant  
                         M Greateorex  
                         A Lunn  
                         T Madge  
                         S People

#### **STATUTORY OFFICER CONDUCT COMMITTEE**

Councillors        M Couchman  
                         S Doyle  
                         J Faulkner  
                         M Gant  
                         A Lunn

#### **CABINET GRANTS (SUB) COMMITTEE**

Councillors        S Claymore  
                         S Doyle  
                         R Pritchard

### **12 THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES (EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS) (MEETINGS AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION) RULES 2012**

The Report of the Leader of the Council to advise members of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) Regulations 2012 specify and require inter alia under Regulation 19 that the executive leader must submit a report on a regular basis to Council containing details of particulars of each urgent executive decision and a summary of the matters in respect of which the decision was made was considered.

**RESOLVED:** That Council endorse the Annual Executive Arrangements report.

*(Moved by Councillor D Cook and seconded by Councillor R Pritchard)*

### **13 REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION AND SCHEME OF DELEGATION**

The Report of the Leader of the Council and the Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer seeking to obtain Council comments, endorsement and approval of the reviewed Constitution and Scheme of Delegation was considered.

**RESOLVED** That Council

- 1 endorsed the changes to the reviewed Constitution and Scheme of Delegation;
- 2 adopted and approved the changes as presented;
- 3 authorised the Solicitor of the Council to invite the Independent Persons to become members of the Statutory Officer Conduct Committee;
- 4 refer the reviewed Constitution and Scheme of Delegation to Audit and Governance Committee for consideration and overview; and
- 5 publish Schedule 16 – Local Protocol for Councillors and others dealing with planning matters in the planning section of the Council website.

*(Moved by Councillor D Cook and seconded by Councillor R Pritchard)*

### **14 REGULATION OF MEMBERS CONDUCT**

The Report of the Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer to advise Members on the number of complaints received for the period 01 May 2014 until 30 April 2015 in relation to alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct arising from implementation of Part 1 Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011 which introduced provisions to assist with the regulation of standards of conduct for elected and co-opted Councillors was considered.



**RESOLVED:** That Council endorsed the findings and content of the report.

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

## **15 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**

The Calendar of Meetings for 2015/16 was received and circulated at the meeting.

**RESOLVED:** That this Council accept the calendar of meetings for 2015/2016 with the addition of one other Aspire and Prosper Scrutiny Committee and a Healthier and Safer Scrutiny Committee to appoint the Chairs and Vice-Chairs to be held in June.

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

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The Mayor