



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD ON 26th NOVEMBER 2015

PRESENT: Councillor D Cook (Chair), Councillors S Claymore, S Doyle and M Thurgood

The following officers were present: Anthony E Goodwin (Chief Executive), John Wheatley (Executive Director Corporate Services), Rob Barnes (Director - Housing and Health), Andrew Barratt (Director - Assets and Environment), Stefan Garner (Director of Finance), Steve Pointon (Housing Strategy Manager), Stephen Lewis (Head of Environmental Health), Karen Adderley (Head of Partnerships and Commissioning), Claire Keeling (Housing Strategy Officer), Alison Knight (Housing Development and Regeneration Officer), Deborah Casey (Housing Strategy Officer), Natalie Missenden (Public Relations Officer) and Janice Clift (Democratic and Elections Officer)

VISITOR: Councillor A James

73 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R Pritchard

74 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 November 2015 were approved and signed as a correct record.

(Moved by Councillor S Claymore and seconded by Councillor S Doyle)

75 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

76 QUESTION TIME:

None

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

The Chair of Healthier and Safer Scrutiny Committee Councillor A James updated Cabinet on the proposals for DBS checking and that the members of Healthier

and Safer Scrutiny Committee had voted unanimously not to proceed with this any further.

78 QUARTER TWO 2015/16 PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Leader of the Council provided Cabinet with a performance and financial health-check

RESOLVED: That Cabinet endorsed the contents of this report.

(Moved by Councillor D Cook and seconded by Councillor S Doyle)

79 DRAFT BASE BUDGET FORECASTS 2016/17 TO 2020/21

The Leader of the Council informed Members of the re-priced base budget for 2016/17, base budget forecasts for the period 2016/17 to 2020/21 (the 5 Year Medium Term Planning Period) and the underlying assumptions and considered the future strategy to address the financial trends.

RESOLVED: That

- 1 the technical adjustments and re-priced base budget figures for 2016/17 and indicative budgets to 2020/21 be approved (as attached at Appendix B, C, D, E, F, G and H);
- 2 consideration was given to the proposed Policy Changes and Capital Programmes, as detailed within the report;
- 3 consideration was given to the planned changes to Council Tax and Housing Rent for 2016/17, as detailed within the report; and
- 4 in compliance with the Constitution of the Council, the Joint Scrutiny Budget Workshop be asked to consider the budget proposals contained within this report.

(Moved by Councillor D Cook and seconded by Councillor S Claymore)

80 VCS AND LOCALITY COMMISSIONED SERVICES CONTRACT REVIEW

The Leader of the Council informed Cabinet and requested approval where necessary on decisions relating to Commissioning Cycle 2 – Tamworth Borough Council VCS funding contracts and Locality Commissioning – multi-agency funding contracts. Also the investment in services provided to Tamworth residents through these contracts will automatically cease on 31 March 2016 unless the decision is taken to take up the option to extend for a further one year.

RESOLVED:

- That Cabinet
- 1 authorised officers in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder for Communities and Public Health to take up the option to extend five contracts named in Appendix 1 for a further one year to automatically cease as of 31 March 2017 and one contract for a minimum of a further 6 months;
 - 2 authorised officers in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder for Communities and Public Health to terminate the contract with Business Development Services Ltd for an 'Infrastructure Support to the Business and Third Sector' service in line with the commencement of the Staffordshire County Council (SCC) infrastructure support contract;
 - 3 authorised officers in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder for Communities and Public Health to use the funding released from the termination of the 'Infrastructure Support to the Business and Third Sector' contract to purchase additional support for Tamworth from the successful SCC infrastructure support contract holder on an as and when basis;
 - 4 authorised officers in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder for Communities and Public Health and the Portfolio Holder for Economy and Education to develop a new business support service with a proposal to be brought to a future Cabinet for approval;
 - 5 delegated authority to the Director of Housing and Health in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder for Communities and Public Health to manage the contracts set out in Appendix 1 during the final year of operation;
 - 6 endorsed the 6 month performance data for the 12 contracts provided in Appendix 2; and
 - 7 endorsed the Director of Housing and Health in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder for Communities and Public Health and the Commissioning Hub partners to decide on

(Moved by Councillor D Cook and seconded by Councillor S Doyle)

The Portfolio Holder for Operations and Assets reported on the Council Tax Base for the Borough Council for 2016/17.

RESOLVED: That Tamworth Borough Council resolves its calculation of the Council Tax Base for the year 2016/17 to be 20,904 (2015/16 – 20,628)

(Moved by Councillor D Cook and seconded by Councillor S Claymore)

82 WRITE OFFS 01/04/15 - 30/09/15

The Portfolio Holder for Operations and Assets provided Members with details of write offs from 1st April 2015 to 30th September 2015 and sought approval to write off irrecoverable debt in line with policy re Housing Benefit Overpayments in excess of £10k.

RESOLVED: That Members endorsed the amount of debt written off for the period of 1st April 2015 to 30th September 2015 – **Appendix A - D** and approved the write off of irrecoverable debt for Housing Benefit Overpayments of £28,988.66 – **Appendix E** respectively.

(Moved by Councillor D Cook and seconded by Councillor S Doyle)

83 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY MID-YEAR REVIEW REPORT 2015/16

The Portfolio Holder for Operations and Assets presented to Members the Mid-year review of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet

- 1 accepted the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy Mid-year Review Report 2015/16;
- 2 approved the changes to the credit methodology whereby viability, financial strength and support ratings will not be considered as key criteria in the choice of creditworthy investment counterparties, and revise the minimum sovereign credit criterion to AA- for all sovereigns within our current Annual Investment Strategy; and
- 3 approved the inclusion of Property Funds within the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy as an additional form of Non-

Specified Investment for potential future use.

(Moved by Councillor D Cook and seconded by Councillor S Claymore)

84 REVISED GAMBLING ACT 2005 STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES 2016-2019

The Portfolio Holder for Communities and Health requested Members to endorse the revised statement of principles following the consultation between 1 August 2015 - 31 October 2015 and the comments from Licensing Committee on 12 November 2015. The comment received from Licensing Committee was that Tamworth Borough Council will promote socially responsible gambling and where possible prevent problem gambling. It is a requirement of the Gambling Act 2005 that the Council publishes a revised Statement of Principles in respect of the requirements of the Act by 1 January 2016.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet endorsed the Statement of Principles and recommends them to Council at the meeting on the 15th December 2015.

(Moved by Councillor S Doyle and seconded by Councillor D Cook)

85 HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION STRATEGY

The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Waste Management requested Members approval of the refreshed Homelessness Prevention Strategy 2016-20, the annual Strategy Action Plan, the Spend Plan that sets out how the homelessness prevention activity will be resourced over the first two years to 2018 and the supporting review and evidence base document.

The report also requested Cabinet approval of the Housing Solutions Fund, the Hospital Discharge Protocol and refreshed Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEPE), three key tools that will support the delivery of the Strategy and Action Plan.

Additionally, the report requested approval from Cabinet to increase the Bed and Breakfast Budget by £50K in order ensure the Council can assist those in need of temporary accommodation at a time of increased demand.

The report also requested approval to participate in the Government backed Gold Standard scheme that will require the Council to have excellent services and partnerships in place that meet the 10 local challenges that underpin the scheme.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet
1 approved the refreshed Homelessness Prevention Strategy 2016-20 and supporting Action Plan, Spend Plan and Review Document;

- 2 approved the Housing Solutions Fund, the Hospital Discharge Protocol and refreshed Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP);
- 3 approved an increase of £50K in the Bed and Breakfast income and expenditure budgets; and
- 4 gave approval to participate in the Gold Standard scheme.

(Moved by Councillor D Cook and seconded by Councillor S Doyle)

86 REVISED STANDARDS FOR HOUSING IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION (HMOS)

The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Waste Management requested for Members to agree to the adoption and implementation of revised standards for Housing in Multiple Occupation (HMO) including Category D Lodgings and Hostels for the purpose of temporary accommodation.

RESOLVED:

- That Cabinet
- 1 agreed to the adoption and implementation of revised standards for HMOs; and
 - 2 agreed to the inclusion of Category D Lodgings and Hostels used for temporary accommodation.

(Moved by Councillor D Cook and seconded by Councillor S Doyle)

87 TINKERS GREEN AND KERRIA REGENERATION

The Portfolio Holder for Economy and Education requested Members to agree procurement of a developer for the regeneration of the Tinkers Green Estate and Kerria Centre

RESOLVED:

- That Cabinet
- 1 agreed to the commencement of a procurement exercise for a developer for the regeneration of the Tinkers Green Estate and the Kerria Centre;
 - 2 agreed the requirements of developers shown at Annex One of this report including that 100% of the homes to be replaced will be Council owned properties for rent;
 - 3 agreed that the Director of Housing and Health in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Economy and Education be authorised to agree the final specification

prior to the commencement of the procurement; and

- 4 agreed that the Director for Housing and Health in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Economy and Education and Solicitor to the Council be authorised to appoint a developer by May 2016

(Moved by Councillor S Claymore and seconded by Councillor D Cook)

88 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 D Cook and seconded by Councillor S Doyle)

89 COUNCIL GARAGE SITE REDEVELOPMENT

The Portfolio Holder for Economy and Education requested Members to agree the approach to redevelopment of Council owned garage sites for affordable housing.

RESOLVED: That the recommendations as contained in the report be approved

(Moved by Councillor S Claymore and seconded by Councillor D Cook)

Leader