



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 13th MARCH 2018

PRESENT: Councillor J Chesworth (Chair), Councillors P Thurgood, R Bilcliff, S Claymore, T Clements, D Cook, C Cooke, S Doyle, J Faulkner, R Ford, S Goodall, M Greatorex, A James, R Kingstone, A Lunn, T Madge, K Norchi, J Oates, M Oates, Dr S Peuple, S Peuple, T Peuple, R Pritchard, R Rogers, P Standen, M Summers and M Thurgood

The following officers were present: Andrew Barratt (Chief Operating Officer), Jane Hackett (Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer) and Tracey Pointon (Civic and Democratic Services Officer)

44 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A Bishop, Councillor M Gant and Councillor J Goodall

45 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 27th February 2018 were approved and signed as a correct record.

(Moved by Councillor D Cook and seconded by Councillor Dr. S Peuple)

46 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

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

The following announcements were made:

The Mayor Councillor John Chesworth:- I have received the following from Cllr Tom Peuple which I will read out as it is written. 'I am very sorry I cannot be with

you tonight to round off my time as Councillor. Despite the political differences I have had with most of you I would like to think I can count you all as friends, I wish to thank you all for your kindness and support over the last four years and also to extend these thanks to the people I have served with who are no longer councillors in particular the sadly missed Peter Seekings. I particularly wish to thank Councillor Doyle for taking more of my questions than anyone else although I should point out he only pipped Councillor Cook by a single question.

Finally I wish Councillor Cook & Thurgood every happiness for their upcoming wedding and I hope when I come back I may see them in the Gate again.

Councillor M Oates: - Thank you Mr Mayor, can I suggest that you write a letter to thank Councillor People for his service over the last four years.

48 QUESTION TIME:

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL NO. 1

Under Procedure Rule No 11, Councillor Dr S People will ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor D Cook, the following question:-

"At the recent WMCA Scrutiny meeting, the Metro Mayor was reluctant to agree to using the phrase "Regional Spatial Strategy" but assured me that the non-constituent authorities were included in his consultation over how to deliver the regional target of 215,000 new homes. Would the Leader of the Council update us on the discussions that Tamworth Borough Council has had with Mayor Street regarding delivery of the regional housing target?"

Thank you Mr Mayor.

To be fair Cllr People we speak to the WMCA as a whole in the main rather than direct with the Metro Mayor, but I understand your question.

There is no consultation on how to deliver the homes identified needed by the WMCA across the West Midlands to deliver the economic growth they aspire to. The WMCA have been keen to recognise the importance of local plans in planning for the growth required. Following the Land Commission report the WMCA have established a Housing and Land Delivery Board which agreed the Housing and Land Delivery Plan in September 2017, which was a key recommendation of the Land Commission. The Housing and Land Delivery Plan identified the need for a Spatial Investment and Delivery Plan as also recommended by the Land Commission. I will quote directly from a report to the Board on the 21st February:

This places the focus firmly on delivery and is specifically not a new statutory regional planning structure. There is a need for further coordinated and resourced delivery efforts to unlock housing supply in the region. The Spatial Investment and Delivery Plan (SIDP) will set out a spatial framework for growth including

priority sites and growth areas and associated infrastructure requirements and the actions participating authorities, including WMCA and its strategic partners, Homes England, TfWM, HS2, Network Rail and the Highways Agency, will take to support the delivery of new homes and employment opportunities in the region.

The Council through Cllr Claymore sits on the Land Delivery Board and we have officer representation at Steering Group and clearly we are represented by yourself on Scrutiny.

On the matter of Spatial Plans, you are aware we both agree it would be in the interests of the West Midlands and certainly Tamworth to have these discussions so infrastructure requirements across the region can be accordingly planned.

If you require a more technical discussion, I am sure Cllr Claymore can be of assistance.

Supplementary / Background: The Birmingham and Black Country Housing Market area have recently published a technical report on potential for delivering future housing. Cabinet will be receiving an update on this in due course.

Councillor S Peale asked the following supplementary question:-

Thank you Councillor Cook. I thought it was good that it's all out in the open. Firstly to note that the Mayor said his staff would be going round authorities, so I am expecting that he shall take a great interest and secondly, in the spatial and public plans that have been put together and published it refers to Strategic highways and to areas on the borders between two authorities. So could I ask that we make it a priority in approaching the West Midlands because obviously Scrutiny is a different thing to the Executive role that you have which is that we should be applying I believe for the sort of infrastructure investment to unlock the sites that appear to be going to be coming into our area, unless we're very careful that I would ask you to take that as a priority going forward to address that issues of strategic corridors and cross boundary developments because I think in recent weeks we've seen quite a few and one of them is going to be discussed tonight.

Councillor D Cook gave the following reply:-

Hard to disagree with anything Councillor Peale just said, absolutely correct, when we're talking cross border and the delivery of infrastructure on the wider West Midland Region we need as a council to approach every avenue of support and every avenue of funding to insure that infrastructure does arrive. Councillor Claymore does have it marked as a priority in his diary to continue those discussions and our Chief Operating Officer Mr Barratt also as it as a priority to continue more discussions. And I'm pleased to see this evening that Infrastructure, Safety & Growth Scrutiny will be making a motion, I believe to get all 30 Councillors to sign a letter to our neighbouring authority which follows up a letter I've sent on behalf of Cabinet for better and more detailed discussions and I am pleased to say it seems to be a cross party decision at the moment but not to

pre-empt discussions I fully support what Councillor People said and he has my assurance that it is a priority.

Thank you Mr Mayor

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL NO. 2

Under Procedure Rule No 11, Councillor Dr S People will ask the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Councillor S Claymore, the following question:-

"In the projected budget for the Enterprise Centre, it is clear that high occupancy is not leading to a profit over three years. Given the continuing squeeze on Council resources, how does the Portfolio Holder plan to increase returns?"

Thank you Mr Mayor

It is important from the outset to highlight that the aim of the Enterprise Centre is to provide a hub for businesses to start, grow and develop in a supportive environment, and not as an income generator to the Council.

As detailed in the recent cabinet report the projected budget takes a cautious approach to future revenue and activity as the TEC, being open for less than 10 Months, is still working to establish itself and its reputation. Income from office figures are therefore not based on the current 100% occupancy levels but instead, builds in possible vacancies.

The focus of the team running the TEC is to maintain these occupancy levels and also to establish and increase income for our meeting rooms and virtual office space offer. Alongside, looking at minimising operating costs when fully known and where possible, but importantly, whilst maintaining the high quality offer that has attracted the tenants to date.

There is a full and detailed business plan in place, attached to the said Cabinet report that details how the Centre will move forward and develop.

The Centre also contributes towards significant benefits to the local economy, locating 15 businesses to the Town Centre that were not there previously and creating opportunities for employment, training, business creation and skills development.

49 AUDIT & GOVERNANCE ANNUAL REPORT

The Report of the Chair of Audit and Governance Committee advising Members on the action taken by the Audit and Governance Committee for the municipal year 2017/18 was considered.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the report be endorsed

(Moved by Councillor M Summers and seconded by Councillor R Ford)

50 SCRUTINY CHAIRS REPORT

The annual report of the Chair of Corporate Scrutiny was received

RESOLVED: That Council

1. agreed to continue to work with the current scrutiny model.
2. consider the quarterly performance report and;
3. agreed to programming more meetings for Scrutiny Committees, with the ability to cancel as required.

(Moved by Councillor J Oates and seconded by Councillor P Standen)

The annual report of the Chair of Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny was received

RESOLVED: That the contents of the report be endorsed

(Moved by Councillor Andrew James and seconded by Councillor S Goodall)

The annual report of the Chair of Infrastructure, Safety & Growth Scrutiny was received

RESOLVED: That the contents of the report be endorsed.

(Moved by Councillor S Goodall and seconded by Councillor P Standen)

The Mayor

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