



## **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 23rd FEBRUARY 2021**

**PRESENT:** Councillor R Claymore (Mayor), Councillors M Bailey, D Box, P Brindley, J Chesworth, R Bilcliff, T Clements, D Cook, M Cook, C Cooke, S Doyle, A Farrell, J Faulkner, R Ford, S Goodall, M J Greatorex, T Jay, R Kingstone, K Norchi, J Oates, S Peuple, Dr S Peuple, B Price, S Pritchard, R Rogers, M Summers and P Thurgood

The following officers were present: Andrew Barratt (Chief Executive), Anica Goodwin (Executive Director Organisation), Stefan Garner (Executive Director Finance), Lynne Pugh (Assistant Director Finance), Rebecca Neill (Head of Audit & Governance and Monitoring Officer), Tracey Pointon (Legal Admin & Democratic Services Manager), Jodie Small (Legal, Democratic and Corporate Support Assistant) and Adam Deakin (Technical Infrastructure Engineer)

Apologies received from: Councillor(s) M Oates, R Pritchard and P Standen

### **42 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020 were approved and signed as a correct record.

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

### **43 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

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

**The Chief Executive Andrew Barratt made the following announcement-**

“Thank you Madam Mayor I would just like to confirm that I have formally received notification from the Leader of the Council of his intention to retire from office as of the 1<sup>st</sup> March. Later on the agenda tonight there is the proposal to vote in a new Leader of the Council. Thank you very much.”

### **45 QUESTION TIME:**

No questions received

***MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE RULE 4.13C***

Councillor D Cook proposed to change the running order of the agenda, to bring agenda item 8 forward, therefore agenda item 8, recommendation from Corporate Scrutiny - Cemetery Regulations is now agenda item 6.

*(Moved by Councillor D Cook and seconded by Councillor C Cooke)*

**46 RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - CEMETERIES REGULATIONS**

The Chair of Corporate Scrutiny Councillor T Jay updated Council on this item which had been referred to the Committee from Council on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020, which had previously received a Petition requesting that a bench be placed at Wigginton Cemetery.

The Chair of Corporate Scrutiny reported that this Committee had 2 meetings on the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and the 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

The Chair advised that during the 2 meetings there was good debate and discussion and committee was able to draw to a conclusion.

The Chair went on to say that this was a high profile, emotive case, and the Committee looked at the policy as a whole and not individual cases.

After discussions and questions & answers during the 2 Scrutiny meetings it was decided and clear by Committee that the main policy should remain unchanged.

Councillor T Jay advised there were some additional recommendations which were referred to Cabinet in reference to Memorial plaques, which Scrutiny Committee felt the scheme wasn't being used, so requested Cabinet to consult with the wider public to look at alternative memorial options.

Councillor D Cook also spoke regarding the recommendations which came to Cabinet on the 4<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

Resolving that the policy was correct but there is other matters that need looking at long term, such as a memorial garden, and the plaque scheme.

Councillor D Cook informed Council that Cabinet had endorsed that the policy was correct, and that Cabinet has also sent the Portfolio Holder and Assistant Director a task to look at the other parts of the policy around memorial gardens and the plaque scheme.

Councillor D Cook advised Council he has written to Keeley Bunkers family offering further discussion if they wish, around placing the bench somewhere else in Tamworth and offering to work with the family as best as possible to try and reach a resolution, but at this time it was not possible to site the bench in Wigginton Cemetery.

Councillor Dr S Peple asked the Leader, Councillor D Cook if Cabinet have referred this alternative forms of memorialisation task back to Cabinet or if it will be referred back to scrutiny, and if there is a time frame.

Councillor D Cook responded that technically he will not be the Leader of the Council after tonight so would be difficult to answer but he did put a recommendation to Cabinet that the Portfolio Holder and the Officer feedback by late spring, early summer with something that the public can be consulted on. Councillor D cook did mention he has no problem with Scrutiny being involved with the process, and congratulated every member of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee for giving this the diligence it deserves.

#### **47 CORPORATE VISION, PRIORITIES PLAN, BUDGET & MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2021/22**

The Leader of the Council proposed the Vision Statement, Priority Themes, Corporate Priorities and Plans and their inclusion in the Corporate Plan.

To approve the recommended package of budget proposals to enable the Council to agree the:

General Fund (GF) Revenue Budget and Council Tax for 2021/22;

Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget for 2021/22;

5 Year General Fund Capital Programme (2021/26);

5 Year HRA Capital Programme (2021/26);

3 Year General Fund Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) (2021/24);  
and

5 Year HRA Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) (2021/26).

To comply with the requirement of the Council's Treasury Management Policy in reporting to Council the proposed strategy for the forthcoming year and the Local Government Act 2003 with the reporting of the Prudential Indicators and the requirement to prepare an annual Corporate Capital Strategy.

The Leader reported that the Council received Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) income based on its policy for developments within the borough, 15% of the income is set aside in reserve to fund neighbourhood projects and the balance

now stands at over £35,000, therefore The Leader proposed an additional recommendation as set out at recommendation 28 below.

The Leader also pointed out an error within recommendation 5, the correct year should be 2021/22 not 2020/21 which has been corrected below.

**RESOLVED** That Council approved;

1. the Vision Statement, Priority Themes, Corporate Priorities and Outcomes for 2021/22 (Appendix A);
2. the proposed revisions to Service Revenue Budgets (Policy Changes) (Appendix C);
3. the sum of £60,376 be applied from Council Tax Collection Fund surpluses in reducing the Council Tax demand in 2021/22 (Appendix E);
4. the sum of £7,137,191 be applied to Business Rates Collection Fund deficits in 2021/22, in part offset by a transfer from the Business Rates reserve of £6,876,350 (Appendix E);
5. that on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020, the Cabinet calculated the Council Tax Base 2021/22 for the whole Council area as 22,366 [Item T in the formula in Section 31B(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")];
6. that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2021/22 is £4,179,982 (Appendix E);
7. the following amounts as calculated for the year 2021/22 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
  - a. £54,121,642 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act (Outgoings excluding internal GF Recharges);
  - b. £49,941,660 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act (Income excluding internal GF Recharges);
  - c. £4,179,982 being the amount by which the aggregate at 7(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 7(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year (Item R in the formula in Section 31A(4) of the Act);
  - d. £186.89 being the amount at 7(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (at 5 above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year;
8. the Council Tax level for the Borough Council for 2020/21 of £186.89 (an increase of £5 (2.75%) on the 2020/21 level of £181.89) at Band D;
9. an aggregate Council Tax (comprising the respective demands of the Borough Council, Staffordshire County Council, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire

- Fire and Rescue Authority) of £1,864.86 at Band D for 2021/22 be noted (£1,780.17 in 2020/21) (Appendix H);
10. the Council Tax levels at each band for 2021/22 (Appendix H);
  11. the sum of £206,157 be transferred from General Fund Revenue Balances in 2021/22 (Appendix E);
  12. the Summary General Fund Revenue Budget for 2021/22 (Appendix E);
  13. the Provisional General Fund Budgets for 2022/23 to 2023/24, summarised at Appendix G, as the basis for future planning;
  14. minimum level for balances of £500k to be held for each of the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account, General Capital Fund and Housing Capital Fund;
  15. Cabinet be authorised to release funding from the General Contingency budget and that the release of funding for Specific Contingency items be delegated to the Corporate Management Team in consultation with the Leader of the Council;
  16. proposed HRA Expenditure level of £14,745,710 for 2021/22 (Appendix D);
  17. rents for Council House Tenants in General Accommodation for 2021/22 be set at an average of £89.25 (2020/21 £87.93), over a 48 week rent year (including a 1.5% increase);
  18. rents for Council House Tenants due for 52 weeks in 2021/22 be collected over 48 weeks;
  19. the HRA deficit of £342,610 be financed through a transfer from Housing Revenue Account Balances in 2021/22 (Appendix D);
  20. the proposed 5 year General Fund Capital Programme of £30.732m, as detailed in Appendix I to the report;
  21. the proposed 5 year Housing Capital Programme of £33.742m, as detailed in Appendix J to the report;
  22. to delegate authority to Cabinet to approve/add new capital schemes to the capital programme where grant funding is received or there is no net additional cost to the Council;
  23. the Treasury Management Strategy Statement, the Treasury Management Policy Statement, Minimum Revenue Provision Strategy and Annual Investment Statement 2021/22 (as detailed at Appendix N);
  24. the Prudential and Treasury Indicators and Limits for 2021/22 to 2023/24 contained within Appendix N;
  25. adoption of the Treasury Management Practices contained within ANNEX 8;
  26. the detailed criteria of the Investment Strategy 2021/22 contained in the Treasury Management Strategy within ANNEX 4; and
  27. the Corporate Capital Strategy and associated Action Plan (as detailed at Appendix O).

28. the current funding of £35,000 held in the CIL neighbourhood reserve be released to create a budget in 2021/22 for Cabinet to allocate on a neighbourhood project basis.

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

### **Named Vote**

Named vote takes place *In accordance with Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, the Council is required to take a recorded vote on decisions which approve the budget or set the council tax.*

#### **FOR**

Councillor M Bailey  
Councillor P Brindley  
Councillor J Chesworth  
Councillor R Claymore  
Councillor T Clements  
Councillor D Cook  
Councillor C Cooke  
Councillor M Cook  
Councillor S Doyle  
Councillor A Farrell  
Councillor R Ford  
Councillor S Goodall  
Councillor M Greatorex  
Councillor T Jay  
Councillor R Kingstone  
Councillor J Oates  
Councillor B Price  
Councillor S Pritchard  
Councillor R Rogers  
Councillor M summers  
Councillor P Thurgood

#### **AGAINST**

Councillor R Bilcliff  
Councillor J Faulkner  
Councillor K Norchi  
Councillor Dr S Peale  
Councillor S Peale

#### **ABSTAIN**

Councillor D Box

### **48 APPOINTMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

Councillor J Oates was nominated for Leader of the Council.

There was no other nominations.

On a Vote being taken Councillor J Oates was elected Leader of the Council

*(Moved by Councillor B Price and seconded by Councillor A Farrell)*

Councillor J Oates advised Council that Councillor R Pritchard will remain as Deputy Leader, and advised of the changes to the Cabinet Portfolio structure which are detailed below.

Commendations then followed and were given to Councillor D Cook outgoing Leader and to Councillor J Oates incoming Leader from Councillors B Price, A Farrell, Dr S Peple, R Claymore, S Peple, S Doyle, S Goodall, M Cooke, T Clements and S Pritchard with comments of Thanks and Congratulations.

Councillor D Cook advised Council of his intention to resign as Leader of the Council with immediate effect.

<b>Leader of the Council</b> Cllr Jeremy Oates		<b>Assets and Finance</b> Cllr Rob Pritchard (Deputy leader)		<b>Heritage and Performance</b> Cllr Danny Cook	
<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>A.D.</b>	<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>A.D.</b>	<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>A.D.</b>
Business Continuity	A.D. Assets	Property Management Investment	A.D. Assets	Performance	A.D. People
TSP (Tamworth Strategic Partnership)	A.D. Partnerships	GF Repairs	A.D. Assets	Heritage	A.D. Growth
Emergency Planning	A.D. Neighbourhoods	DFG's	A.D. Assets	Market Tender	A.D. Growth
MTFS	A.D. Finance	Commercial Property Portfolio	A.D. Assets	Dry Recycling Disposal Contract	C.E.O.
Organisational Development	A.D. People	Asset Management	A.D. Assets		
PR / Comms / Corporate Consultation	A.D. People	Revenues & Benefits	A.D. Finance		
Marketing	A.D. People	Treasury Management	A.D. Finance		
Customer Insight	A.D. People	Finance	A.D. Finance		
Partnership Development	A.D. Partnerships	Procurement	A.D. Finance		
Member Development	E.D. Organisation	HR & Payroll	A.D. People		
Corporate Assessments	C.E.O.	Audit & Governance	C.E.O.		
Corporate Risk Management	A.D. Finance	Democratic Services	E.D. Organisation		
Commercial Investment Strategy (CIS)	A.D. Finance	Land Charges/Legal/RTB	E.D. Organisation		
WMCA Member	A.D. Growth	Constitution	C.E.O.		
Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP's)	A.D. Growth	Customer Services	A.D. People		
Economic & Business Development	A.D. Growth	Information Mgt/GDPR/Ombudsman	A.D. People		
Tourism / Destination Tamworth	A.D. Growth	Technology	A.D. People		
Castle	A.D. Growth	Town Centre Car Parks	A.D. Growth		
Education / Educational Attainment	A.D. Growth				
Career Skills and Training	A.D. Growth				
Town Centre Regeneration	A.D. Growth				
Town Centre Master-planning	A.D. Growth				
TIC	A.D. Growth & A.D. People				
<b>Regulatory and Community Safety</b> Cllr Stephen Doyle		<b>Environment and Culture</b> Cllr John Chesworth		<b>Neighbourhoods</b> Cllr Michelle Cook	
<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>A.D.</b>	<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>A.D.</b>	<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>A.D.</b>
Local Plan	A.D. Growth	Waste Management	C.E.O.	Neighbourhood Services	A.D.
Development Control (Planning)	A.D. Growth	Joint Waste Board with LDC.	C.E.O.	HRA Repairs	A.D. Assets
Building Control (Planning)	A.D. Growth	Street Scene / Tamworth in Bloom	A.D. Op's & Leisure	HRA Business Planning	A.D.
Enforcement	A.D. Partnerships	Cemeteries	A.D. Op's & Leisure	HRA Neighbourhood Renewal	A.D. Assets
Environmental Health (Licencing)	A.D. Growth	Arts / Culture	A.D. Op's & Leisure	Tenant Regulation	A.D.
Licensing Policy	A.D. Neighbourhoods	Outdoor Events	A.D. Op's & Leisure	HRA Solutions	A.D.
Health & Safety	A.D. Op's & Leisure	Community Leisure / Sport	A.D. Op's & Leisure	Homelessness Prevention	A.D.
Local Health Engagement	A.D. Partnerships	Public Toilets	A.D. Assets	Private Rental Sector	A.D.
PCC Engagement	A.D. Partnerships	Nature Reserves, Parks and Play	A.D. Op's & Leisure	HRA Cleaning	A.D. Assets
Community Safety	A.D. Partnerships	Assembly Rooms	A.D. Op's & Leisure	Social Landlord Providers	A.D.
Corporate ASB Strategy	A.D. Neighbourhoods	Sports Development	A.D. Op's & Leisure	HRA Green Spaces and Neighbourhoods	A.D. Op's &
Safeguarding	A.D. Partnerships	Tamworth Community Offer	E.D. Communities	HRA Strategy	A.D.
Civil Parking Enforcement	A.D. Partnerships	Voluntary Sector	A.D. Partnerships		
Community Wardens	A.D. Neighbourhoods				
CCTV	A.D. Neighbourhoods				

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The Mayor

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