



## **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD ON 6th APRIL 2023**

**PRESENT:** Councillors R Pritchard (Vice-Chair), M Bailey, T Clements, S Doyle, A Farrell and M Summers

The following officers were present: Andrew Barratt (Chief Executive) and Tina Mustafa (Assistant Director Neighbourhoods)

Councillor T Jay Chair of Corporate Scrutiny and Councillor S Goodall Chair of Infrastructure, Safety & Growth Scrutiny were in attendance.

### **129 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Oates

### **130 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023 and previous meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023 were approved as a correct record.

*(Moved by Councillor A Farrell and seconded by Councillor T Clements)*

### **131 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

### **132 QUESTION TIME:**

None

### **133 MATTERS REFERRED TO THE CABINET IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULES**

None

### **134 CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET**

Report of the Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee to update Cabinet and to make recommendations to it following consideration of the report of the Chief Executive on the Solway (Tamworth) Limited Update.

Following its consideration of the above item, the Corporate Scrutiny Committee agreed to make recommendations to Cabinet as set out below:

#### Recommendations

RESOLVED that the Committee recommended:

1. That Cabinet wind up Solway (Tamworth) Limited.

(Moved by Councillor A Cooper and seconded by Councillor S Goodall)

RESOLVED That Cabinet

agreed that Solway (Tamworth) Ltd be put into dormancy to release associated savings

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

### **135 INFRASTRUCTURE SAFETY AND GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET**

Report of the Chair of the Infrastructure Safety & Growth Scrutiny Committee to update Cabinet and to make recommendations to it following consideration of the Staffordshire Sustainability Board at the meeting on 23rd March 2023.

Following its consideration of the above item, the Corporate Scrutiny Committee agreed to make recommendations to Cabinet as set out below:

#### **Recommendations:**

**Resolved:** That the Committee endorsed the recommendations from the report:

1. That the Staffordshire Sustainability Board joint communications plan (attached as Appendix 1 to the report), which sets out the 12-month programme of climate change awareness-raising and behaviour change activity, be adopted.
2. That the Staffordshire County Council Public Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy (as attached in Appendix 2 to the report), be adopted.
3. That the Borough Council commissions a borough-wide bespoke strategy to provide a framework for making decisions around EV charging in Tamworth, is endorsed.

4. That the EV Charging update on the installation of 4 fast charging points is endorsed.

**The Committee recommended to Cabinet the following additional recommendations be added to the report:**

5. That the Tamworth Borough Council EV Charging Strategy is received by the Committee in its draft form before the end of 2023.
6. That the Installation of Charging Points within Tamworth be treated as a Cabinet Priority moving forward.

*(Moved by Councillor S Goodall and seconded by Councillor P Turner)*

RESOLVED: That Cabinet

Endorsed the recommendations from Infrastructure Safety & Growth Scrutiny Committee including the additional recommendations 5 & 6.

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

## **136 SOCIAL HOUSING REGULATION AND COMPLIANCE - COUNCIL HOUSING**

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Homelessness Prevention and Social Housing To update Cabinet on the requirements of the consumer regulation agenda significantly impacting the Councils Housing Service, previously reported on 10/11/22 and set out the resourcing arrangements over the next 2-years to fulfil the Councils' obligations to meet the required regulatory standards across its housing stock including collation and submission of the 22 Tenant Satisfaction Measures required by the Regulator of Social Housing from April 2023/2024.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet

1. Acknowledged the findings of the Internal Audit report (February 2023) giving Audit & Governance Scrutiny Committee substantial assurance that the Councils preparedness for the proposed legislation is robust
2. Agreed that Homelessness Prevention & Social Housing Sub Committee will debate progress of the Councils

preparedness for the Social Housing (Regulation) legislation and that this will inform policy proposals to Cabinet on overall compliance; further noting that the co-opting of members of Tenant Consultative Group is being built into the next Constitutional review.

3. Agreed to delegate the final detail and submission (including the Tenant perception measures) to the Portfolio Holder of Homeless Prevention and Social Housing to ensure collation (from April 2023) & formal submission (in April 2024) as required under the Regulators directions using the Regulatory portal
4. Supported feedback from Corporate Scrutiny on 14/3/23 & Homelessness Prevention & Social Housing Sub Committee on 16/2/23, resulting in a proposed Programme/Project plan (shown at Annex Two) that will replace the raw detail in the improvement plan previously shared & developed to ensure it is SMART, appropriately rated so that progress is clear and that the improvement plan is simplified for easy reference publicly.

*(Moved by Councillor A Farrell and seconded by Councillor R Pritchard)*

### **137 STAFFORDSHIRE SUSTAINABILITY BOARD UPDATE**

Report of the Leader of the Council and the Portfolio Holder for Skills, Planning, Economy and Waste to ask Cabinet to adopt the joint Staffordshire Sustainability Board Communications Plan 2023 which has been developed with the Staffordshire Sustainability Board in conjunction with all district and borough councils to help residents to reduce their carbon emissions and also to adopt the Staffordshire County Council Public Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy which has been developed in conjunction with all district and borough councils to help residents to transition to electric vehicles.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet

1. Agreed to adopt the Staffordshire Sustainability Board joint communications plan (attached as Appendix 1 to the report), which sets out the 12-month programme of climate change awareness-raising and behaviour change activity,
2. Agreed to adopt the Staffordshire County Council Public Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy;
3. Endorsed that the Borough Council commissions a borough-wide bespoke strategy to provide a framework for making decisions around EV charging in Tamworth, is endorsed;
4. Endorsed the EV Charging update on the installation of 4

fast charging points;

5. Agreed to receive the Tamworth Borough Council EV Charging Strategy in its draft form before the end of 2023; and
6. Agreed that the Installation of Charging Points within Tamworth is treated as a Cabinet Priority moving forward.

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

### **138 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 R Pritchard and seconded by Councillor A Farrell)*

### **139 RECOVERY & RESET PROGRAMME - EXIT STRATEGY**

Report of the Leader of the Council to provide an overview of the Recovery and Reset programme's achievements against its original aims, reflecting on the narrative of change due to several external factors impacting the programme, such as the Pandemic itself, dynamic and changing citizen expectations, the Government's Levelling Up agenda, and the Councils continued need to deliver high quality responsive and accountable core and statutory services.

To celebrate the success of the programme, specifically the associated £6.9m in efficiencies attributable to Recovery and Reset and its wider reach, as confirmed in the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy report of 28th February 2023

And also to reflect on the delivery of Recovery and Reset as a blueprint for programme infrastructure going forward, with internal learning supported by views of both internal and external auditors, with substantial assurance and recognised good practice in terms of its governance and oversight.

**RESOLVED** That Cabinet

1. Endorse the formal closure of the programme and associated governance arrangements through Scrutiny Committees; further noting the internal learning, external assurances, and governance of the programme have provided a framework for project and programme infrastructure for corporate projects going forward;
2. Recognise the achievements associated with the Recovery

and Reset programme, specifically:

- a. **Customer Service** – Reception Facilities at the Assembly rooms operating 6-days a week with an acceleration of digital platforms allowing citizen contact and 24hr electronic access.
  - b. **Supporting Vulnerable People** – assessed pandemic impacts leading to a range of community outreach services; officer surgeries and increases in home visits.
  - b. **Financial Efficiencies & Re-purposing** of budgets - £6.9m in efficiencies built into the Council's [MTFS as of February 2023](#).
  - c. **SMART workforce** that identifies site, hybrid and home working to ensure responsiveness and accountability to citizens supported by a suite of policies to reflect new ways of working;
  - d. **Service Re-design** approach providing cultural transformation across key services such as treasury management, revenues and benefits shared head of service and transition from Community Wardens to a Neighbourhood Impact service.
  - e. **Making better use of our Physical Assets** – De-commissioning Marmion House for re-development & Investment in our Town Hall as the Council's municipal headquarters; with a staged move to the ground floor of Marmion House pending its closure.
  - f. **Organisational Effectiveness** – Transformation and Culture Change through co-ordinated Programme activity based on shared and collaborative aims.
3. Acknowledged the final project highlight reports, and programme dashboard which outline which activities and risks are to be carried over into legacy projects as the Programme ends and projects transition back to Business as Usual.

*(Moved by Councillor R Pritchard and seconded by Councillor M Bailey)*

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Leader

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