



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD ON 27th APRIL 2023

PRESENT: Councillor J Oates (Chair), Councillors T Clements, S Doyle, A Farrell and M Summers

The following officers were present: Andrew Barratt (Chief Executive), Tina Mustafa (Assistant Director Neighbourhoods), Joanne Sands (Assistant Director Partnerships), Paul Weston (Assistant Director Assets) and Tracey Pointon (Legal Admin & Democratic Services Manager)

Apologies received from: Councillor(s) R Pritchard and M Bailey

140 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Bailey and R Pritchard

141 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 6th April 2023 were approved as a correct record.

(Moved by Councillor T Clements and seconded by Councillor S Doyle)

142 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

143 QUESTION TIME:

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC NO. 1 Under Schedule 4, 13, Martin Hall will ask the Leader of the Council, Jeremy Oates the following question:-

Can the Executive Leadership Team and others at Tamworth Borough Council update me on the progress of the FHSF funded regeneration of Tamworth programme in the town centre that the Borough Council are delivering. I am particularly interested to hear an update on the schedule progress, overview of costs and expenses to date and funds assigned to outside agencies

Councillor Oates gave the following answer:

Its full steam ahead with the Future High Streets Fund Project. A number of key milestone has been hit with the contractors on board who will lead the physical delivery of the programme. We have a contractor on board the multi skilled group of people who are being looked after by Speller Metcalf who have a great reputation within the industry for delivering projects and keeping communities up to date with progress. I am aware that often unless you keep repeating the message it gets lost and people lose track of where we are. The Borough Council is handing over a number of project designs to be delivered by this contractor and also have completed a number of stages of the design work of the project itself. You will be aware that the old Co-operative building that was purchased by the borough council has now been demolished and the start of the new college build is expected in April/May this year in terms of start date. Within that there was design work and planning permissions sort for that. Planning permission and design work has been completed in terms of the flex units which are the shops behind his building here the parade leading from George Street to the entrance of the Middle Entry. There are also designs that have been agreed and handed over to the contractor in relation to the new square that will created by those shops at the back of the Town Hall and also the entrance way to the Castle Grounds. In terms of those milestones, I believe St Editha's Square as also received a significant amount of design work that as been agreed on in terms of a future plan. So in terms of physical works you will also know that the canopy as been removed in St Editha's Square and that square has been opened up prior to works that will happen later on in the project but that was part of the phase where we demolish the cooperative building.

So in terms of where we are at with the project we are where we should be, we are where we should be in terms of costs. I can't go into detail into how much has been awarded to each agency because of commercial confidentiality but what I can say is they are within the original spec that we set out when we started this project way back in 2019. In terms of costs as we go forward and the reason, I've raised the date 2019 is because it was 4 years ago when we started to put this together and there are obviously now increasing construction and material costs. They are within projects at the moment and we are continually reviewing those in terms of the outside agency costs they are within where they were in the original part of the project. In terms of other agencies involved I have already mentioned that Speller Metcalfe are our lead on those but we also got heritage specialists, structural specialists and others who we need to consult with as and when appropriate to give us specialist information, an example of that would be the properties on Market Street which are of a particular age and nature where they have had to have specialist attention and we have had to have specialist advice on those. So that is a very brief summary of where we are at with the project at the moment, but it is all speed ahead the project board receives regular update the Audit & Governance Committee also receive regular updates on risk and the costings, and financial guidance in terms of value for money etc. and the Infrastructure, Safety and Growth Scrutiny Committee receive regular updates on the particle side of the project as well.

Mr Hall asked the following Supplementary Question

I don't have the original plans to hand but could you just confirm then what the budget number was for those outside agencies if you are on course and on budget what was that number, please.

Councillor Oates gave the following response:

I don't have that to hand but like I said it was all part of the original bid, but I can get those budgets to you. I can point to where they are, but I can also send you an email with those figures included.

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

Report of the Chair of Health & Wellbeing to update Cabinet and to make recommendations to it following consideration of matters by the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.

Following a petition received at Full Council meeting in July 2022, the Assistant Director, Assets attended the meeting to update the Committee on the current toilet provision within Tamworth.

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

RESOLVED that the Committee make the following recommendations:

1. That Cabinet explore the allocation of contingency funds to adequately resource and fund the cleaning of the Castle Grounds toilets, with sufficient cleaning allocated to weekends and holiday periods.
2. That Cabinet explore with Officers the Community Toilet Scheme with local businesses.
3. That Cabinet continue with the current daily (7 day a week, 9-5pm) opening of the Castle Grounds toilets and explore extending the opening hours during the summer period to 7pm in the evening.
4. That Cabinet explore the installation of an intercom in the Changing Facilities.

(Moved by Councillor D Maycock and seconded by Councillor R Claymore)

Councillor Oates asked for more detail on the recommendations and asked for context as to what is a sufficient level of cleaning in comparison to what is already delivered. Also, in terms of the community toilet scheme we have had many conversations with businesses over the years about toilets so it would be interesting to have more information on that scheme. Happy to take those recommendations and have a conversation later on.

Cabinet made the following recommendations.

RESOLVED That Cabinet

1. Consider the four recommendations and produce a response and respond to Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee to get feedback

from Health & Wellbeing Committee.

(Moved by Councillor J Oates and seconded by Councillor S Doyle)

Following an update from the Chair on possible members' mental wellbeing support scheme, the Committee:

RESOLVED: to recommend to Cabinet that a member benefit scheme in terms of mental wellbeing support only be considered.

(Moved by Councillor D Maycock and seconded by Councillor J Wadrup)

RESOLVED: That Cabinet

1. Consider what support is available; and
2. Discuss if it is to be provided by the Council or another option.

(Moved by Councillor J Oates and seconded by Councillor A Farrell)

145 INCOME MANAGEMENT & RECOVERY POLICY - COUNCIL HOUSING

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Homelessness Prevention and Social Housing to set out the Council's approach to its Council Housing income recovery policy in order to maximise income to its Housing Revenue Account, whilst also providing support to its tenants that need it.

RESOLVED That Cabinet

1. Acknowledged the current tenancy rent arrears performance position reported to year end (2022/2023); noting this is an improved position on last year; and subject to benchmarking is likely to remain upper quartile when compared with 'best in class';
2. Approved the new Income Management Policy 2023 (Appendix 1) and the associated Community Impact Assessment (Appendix 2) with any final amendments delegated to the Portfolio Holder for Homelessness Prevention and Social Housing.
3. endorsed the Rent Accreditation Improvement Plan 2022-25 (Appendix 3) progress update report; and

4. Acknowledged Corporate Scrutiny's input into the data analysis improving the overall understanding informing the policy for approval.

(Moved by Councillor A Farrell and seconded by Councillor M Summers)

146 ECO4 STATEMENT OF INTENT

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Homelessness Prevention and Social Housing to seek agreement to declare a statement of intent that enables the Council to participate in the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) scheme known as ECO4 and ECO4 Flex.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet

1. Agreed to the signing and publication of a Statement of Intent that sets out the eligibility criteria for Tamworth residents to access ECO4 Flex; and
2. Delegate authority to the Assistant Director Partnerships to be the dedicated responsible person to enter into any agreements that enable the maximisation of ECO4Flex benefits

(Moved by Councillor A Farrell and second by Councillor M Summers)

147 TAMWORTH COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2023-2026

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Voluntary Sector, Town Centre, Evening Economy and Community Safety to endorse the 2023-26 Tamworth Community Safety Partnership Plan and progress update on the 2020-23 work plans.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet

1. Supported the content of the report in terms of progress made on the Community Safety Plan 2020-23 (2022 Update); and
2. Supported the endorsement of the 2023-2026 partnership plan for publication and return to the Staffordshire Commissioners Office

(Moved by Councillor M Summers and seconded by Councillor S Doyle)

148 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 J Oates and seconded by Councillor M Summers)

149 UPDATE ON COMMERCIAL LEASE

Resolved: that the recommendations in the report be approved and Cabinet to be updated on 8th June 2023

(Moved by Councillor J Oates and seconded by Councillor M Summers)

Leader