



## **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD ON 25th JANUARY 2024**

**PRESENT:** Councillor T Jay (Chair), Councillors S Smith (Deputy Chair), T Clements, A Cooper, J Oates, M Summers and P Thompson

The following officers were present: Andrew Barratt (Chief Executive), Rebecca Smeathers (Executive Director Finance (S151)), Joanne Goodfellow (Assistant Director Finance), Anna Miller (Assistant Director – Growth & Regeneration), Paul Weston (Assistant Director Assets), Zoe Wolicki (Assistant Director People), Tania Phillips (Head of Corporate Communications), Tracey Pointon (Legal Admin & Democratic Services Manager) and Laura Sandland (Democratic and Executive Support Officer)

### **107 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None

### **108 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023 were approved and signed as a correct record.

*(Moved by Councillor A Cooper and seconded by Councillor S Smith)*

### **109 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor J Oates, T Jay and T Clements declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 11 due to being Members of Staffordshire County Council.

### **110 QUESTION TIME:**

None

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

Report of the Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee to notify Cabinet of the report and recommendations from the Housing Repairs Working Group item that was discussed at the meeting of Corporate Scrutiny on the 20th December 2023.

Following consideration of the item the Committee agree to the following recommendations being made to Cabinet:

1. To add additional resource to TBC repairs team; when a MLDINS code is inputted for a property a manual lookback at the history of repairs for that property be conducted to identify if this Damp and/or Mould has been a previous issue at the property, or for the tenant at a previous property.
2. That the Damp & Mould inspection process become part of the repairs policy.
3. To ensure that vulnerable residents are prioritised when there are damp and mould issues within the home.

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

**Resolved that cabinet**

1. Agreed to add additional resource to TBC repairs team; when a MLDINS code is inputted for a property a manual lookback at the history of repairs for that property be conducted to identify if this Damp and/or Mould has been a previous issue at the property, or for the tenant at a previous property.
2. Agreed that the Damp & Mould inspection process become part of the repairs policy
3. To ensure that vulnerable residents are prioritised when there are damp and mould issues within the home.

*(Moved by Councillor S Smith and seconded by Councillor T Jay)*

Cabinet asked that with regards to recommendation 3 there would need to be some work around specific wording as to what would constitute priority.

**112 DRAFT BUDGET & MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2024/25**

Report of the Leader of the Council to approve the draft Medium Term Financial Strategy (attached at Appendix 1), to consult with the Joint Scrutiny Committee (Budget) on 31 January 2024 and receive their feedback on the:

- General Fund Revenue (GF) Budget and Council Tax for 2024/25;

- Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget for 2024/25;
- Capital Programme – General Fund & HRA;
- Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)

**Resolved that Cabinet:**

1. Approved the draft package of budget proposals included in the Medium Term Financial Strategy (as detailed at Appendix 1).
2. As required by the Constitution of the Council, the Joint Scrutiny Committee (Budget) on 31 January 2024 be requested to consider the budget proposals contained within this report.

*(Moved by Councillor S Smith and seconded by Councillor T Clements)*

**113 QUARTER TWO 2023/24 PERFORMANCE REPORT**

Report of the Leader of the Council to provide Cabinet with an overview of Council performance for the second quarter of the 2023-24 financial year (July to September 2023). It reports the position in relation to progress with strategic projects and updates on the financial position, corporate risk, audit, information governance and complaints. The report was considered by Corporate Scrutiny Committee on 20th December 2023.

**Resolved that Cabinet**

1. Endorsed the contents of the report

*(Moved by Councillor P Thompson and seconded by Councillor S Smith)*

**114 BUSINESS RATES INCOME FORECAST 2024/25**

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Operations and Finance to seek endorsement from Members on the Business Rates income forecast for 2024/25.

**Resolved that Cabinet**

1. Approved the Business Rates income forecast for 2024/25 and subsequent NNDR1 form for submission to DLUHC by 31 January 2024, in line with the scheme of delegation.
2. Should material amendments be required to the forecast NNDR1, Cabinet authorised the Executive Director Finance, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to make such required amendments as necessary

3. Noted discretionary relief granted to qualifying bodies in line with the existing policy.

*(Moved by Councillor J Oates and seconded by Councillor T Clements)*

## **115 ANNUAL RESIDENTS' SURVEY RESULTS**

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Civic Pride and Engagement to share the results of the annual survey and budget consultation, to inform the decision-making process around council budget and priorities.

### **Resolved that Cabinet**

1. Endorsed the survey report

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

## **116 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 T Clements and seconded by Councillor A Cooper)*

## **117 SOLWAY CLOSE REPORT**

Report of the Leader of the Council to approve the disposal of Solway Close for residential development and all associated processes.

### **Resolved that Cabinet**

1. Approved the recommendations in the report.

*(Moved by Councillor P Thompson and seconded by Councillor T Clements)*

## **118 UPDATE ON COMMERCIAL LEASE**

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Town Centre and Commercial Property to provide a further update on a commercial lease in Tamworth.

**Resolved that Cabinet**

1. Approved the three recommendations in the report.

*(Moved by Councillor P Thompson and seconded by Councillor A Cooper)*

**119 FHSF UPDATE**

Report of the FHSF Portfolio Holder to provide an update on the Future High Streets Fund (FHSF) programme of works.

The Chair of Infrastructure, Safety & Growth Committee also presented 3 recommendations which were considered by Cabinet and would be discussed, and a response to the recommendations would be provided.

**Resolved that Cabinet**

1. Endorsed the report

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

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Leader

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