



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD ON 17th FEBRUARY 2022

PRESENT: Councillor J Oates (Chair), Councillors R Pritchard (Vice-Chair), M Bailey, A Farrell and M Summers

The following officers were present: Andrew Barratt (Chief Executive), Anica Goodwin (Executive Director Organisation), Stefan Garner (Executive Director Finance), Paul Weston (Assistant Director Assets), Adey Ramsel (Theatre, Artistic and Events Manager) and Tracey Pointon (Legal Admin & Democratic Services Manager)

Guests: Councillor R Claymore (Chair of Health & Wellbeing Committee) and Councillor S Pritchard (Vice Chair of Corporate Scrutiny)

109 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor S Doyle, Councillor Farrell arrived at 18.04

110 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th January 2022 were approved and signed as a correct record.

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

111 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

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

Councillor Rosey Claymore Chair of the Health & Wellbeing Committee attended to update Cabinet in relation to two items discussed at the committee.

1. Update from the Midlands Partnership Foundation Trust (MPFT).

The Committee had raised the following motion:

That Cabinet consider the feasibility of producing 'wellbeing' portal on Tamworth Borough Council website linked to MPFT Communications Team

The Leader agreed that Cabinet accepts the recommendation

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

2. Reset & Recovery

The following motion was raised

The Committee recommends to Cabinet to consider another location other than that of the Assembly Rooms for interim, front of house customer services as quickly as possible.

Agreed that Cabinet would look at the options and Cabinet moved the following motion:

That Cabinet ensure that this is discussed as an agenda item at the next Reset & Recovery Board meeting on 23rd February and feed back to Health & Wellbeing Chair.

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

Councillor Steven Pritchard, Vice Chair, Corporate Scrutiny Committee attended to present the following motion:

The Committee recommends to Cabinet that the Audit & Governance Committee be requested to look at the the tendering process used by the Council with a particular regard of the scoring mechanism process and that it report back to Cabinet or Corporate Scrutiny on its findings.

(Moved by Councillor J Oates and seconded by Councillor R Pritchard)

113 QUESTION TIME:

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC NO. 1 Under Schedule 4, 13, Mr H Loxton asked the Portfolio Holder Environment & Leisure the following question:-

Mr Loxton was not in attendance and the Chief Executive asked the question on his behalf

"I'm sure councillors would agree with me it's amazing to see so many volunteers picking up litter in our town, and I'm sure they would like to take the opportunity to thank them all.

Can I ask as a result of the amount of litter now being collected by these groups and individuals if the cost of litter removal spent by the council themselves has reduced, and if so how that money saved has been utilised?"

Councillor Pritchard gave the following reply:-

I would like to place on the record the councils thanks to everyone who gives up their time to pick up litter.

As a proud member of Tamworth Volunteer litter pickers, who have collected around 8,000 bags of litter, I would like to praise the ordinary men, women and children from the town who roll up their sleeves to tackle the litter and fly-tipping issue that plagues our society.

The activity of voluntary litter pickers doesn't save the council any money.

Indeed the authority is planning in spending more money on cleaning Tamworth and we are hiring new staff to help clean up our HRA estates.

However the work of voluntary litter pickers does greatly enhance and compliment the authorities' efforts to tackle litter.

Less litter on the streets means that our staff can walk further on their litter picking rounds, they can also cleanse larger areas when supported by community litter pickers.

Voluntary litter picking also means some areas can be visited less frequently by council staff due to community litter picking being so effective, and the council can redeploy litter cleaning staff elsewhere in the Borough.

Finally, volunteers litter picker also clean areas that are outside the councils responsibility, greatly adding to the cleanliness of Tamworth.

We also looking to do some research with members of Tamworth Volunteer Litter Pickers to asses if areas litter picked by volunteers stay cleaner for longer.

I also want to add that Volunteer litter picking provides real encouragement to our street scene operatives, who are so thankful for the communities' efforts.

During the height of the pandemic the street scheme team was stretched to the limit, so without the hundreds of local volunteers it would have struggled to help keep Tamworth clean.

There are several dedicated litter picking groups that operate in and around Tamworth, as well as many other community and voluntary groups, schools, organisations, businesses and clubs that do litter picking.

To every single volunteer litter picker in Tamworth, I say thank you and keep up the amazing work.

114 RELEASE OF CAPITAL CONTINGENCY

Agenda item 10 was discussed before agenda item 6

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Entertainment and Leisure to request the release of £50k from the Councils Capital Contingency budget to the Capital programme, for the refurbishment of existing play facilities in the Borough

RESOLVED: That Cabinet

approved the release of £50k from Capital Contingency Budget to be included into the 2022/2023 Capital Programme; and

endorsed that the Assistant Director, Operations and Leisure in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Entertainment & Leisure be authorised to enter into contract with the most economically viable and environmentally sustainable tender received.

(Moved by Councillor r Pritchard and seconded by Councillor J Oates)

115 CORPORATE VISION, PRIORITIES PLAN, BUDGET & MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2022/23

The Leader of the Council proposed the Vision Statement, Priority Themes, Corporate Priorities and Plans and their inclusion in the Corporate Plan. The recommended to approve the recommended package of budget proposals to enable the Council to agree the:

- General Fund (GF) Revenue Budget and Council Tax for 2022/23;
- Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget for 2022/23;
- 5 Year General Fund Capital Programme (2022/27);
- 5 Year HRA Capital Programme (2022/27);
- 3 Year General Fund Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) (2022/25); and
- 5 Year HRA Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) (2022/27).

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.

REOLVED: That Cabinet endorsed the following recommendations to proceed to Council for approval:

1. the Vision Statement, Priority Themes, Corporate Priorities and Outcomes for 2022/23
2. the proposed revisions to Service Revenue Budgets

- (Policy Changes) (Appendix C);
3. the sum of £74,584 be applied from Council Tax Collection Fund surpluses in reducing the Council Tax demand in 2022/23
 4. the sum of £1,200,215 be applied to Business Rates Collection Fund deficits in 2021/22, in part offset by a transfer from the Business Rates reserve of £939,376 (Appendix E);
 5. that on 2nd December 2021, the Cabinet calculated the Council Tax Base 2022/23 for the whole Council area as 22,968 [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 2022/23 is £4,407,330 (Appendix E);
 7. the following amounts as calculated for the year 2022/23 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
 - a. £48,399,016 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. £43,991,686 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. £4,407,330 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. £191.89 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 2022/23 of £191.89 (an increase of £5 (2.68%) on the 2021/22 level of £186.89) 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 £1,922.11 at Band D for 2022/23 be noted (£1,864.86 in 2021/22) (Appendix H);

10. the Council Tax levels at each band for 2022/23 (Appendix H);
11. the sum of £257,591 be transferred from General Fund Revenue Balances in 2022/23 (Appendix E);
12. the Summary General Fund Revenue Budget for 2022/23 (Appendix E);
13. the Provisional General Fund Budgets for 2023/24 to 2024/25, 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 £16,640,270 for 2022/23 (Appendix D);
17. rents for Council House Tenants in General Accommodation for 2022/23 be set at an average of £92.87 (2021/22 £89.21), over a 48 week rent year (including a 4.1% increase);
18. rents for Council House Tenants due for 52 weeks in 2022/23 be collected over 48 weeks;
19. the HRA deficit of £1,950,690 be financed through a transfer from Housing Revenue Account Balances in 2022/23 (Appendix D);
20. the proposed 5 year General Fund Capital Programme of £18.837m, as detailed in Appendix I to the report;
21. the proposed 5 year Housing Capital Programme of £46.454m, 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 2022/23 (as detailed at Appendix N);

24. the Prudential and Treasury Indicators and Limits for 2022/23 to 2024/25 contained within Appendix N;
25. adoption of the Treasury Management Practices contained within ANNEX 8;
26. the detailed criteria of the Investment Strategy 2022/23 contained in the Treasury Management Strategy within ANNEX 4; and
27. the Corporate Capital Strategy and associated Action Plan (as detailed at Appendix O).

(Moved by Councillor J Oates and seconded by Councillor R Pritchard)

116 QUARTER THREE 2021/22 PERFORMANCE REPORT

Report of the Leader of the Council to provide the Committee with a performance update and financial health-check. This report was considered by Corporate Scrutiny Committee on 1st February 2022.

RESOLVED That Cabinet

approved that the General Fund budgets are revised to reflect the forecast savings and associated projected net underspend at Quarter 3 of £895k.

(Moved by Councillor J Oates and seconded by Councillor R Pritchard)

117 ESTABLISHMENT OF A STAFFORDSHIRE LEADERS BOARD

Report of the Leader of the Council to enable Cabinet to consider joining the proposed Staffordshire Leaders Board. The Council along with County Council and the other 7 District and Borough Councils have been meeting to formalise a new Leaders Board to facilitate closer and stronger two tier working and to position this group to enter into discussion with Government for a formal "County Deal".

RESOLVED That Cabinet

1. Agreed to participation in the Staffordshire Leaders Board

based on the terms of reference/Constitution attached to this report

2. Agreed to appoint the Leader of the Council as the Councils representative on this board, with the Deputy Leader as the substitute member.

(Moved by Councillor J Oates and seconded by Councillor R Pritchard)

118 WRITE OFFS

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Risk and Customer Services to ask that Members endorse the amount of debt written off for the period 1st April 2021 to 31st December 2021.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet

endorsed the amount of debt written off for the period of 1st April 2021 to 31st December 2021 – as shown in Appendix A-E.

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

119 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 R Pritchard)

120 DELIVERY OF DISABLED FACILITIES GRANTS

Resolved: that the recommendations in the report be approved

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

121 SUMMER 2022 ACTIVITY PROGRAMME

Resolved that the recommendations in the report be approved

(Moved by Councillor R Pritchard and seconded by Councillor J Oates)

Leader

