



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL
HELD ON 21st JANUARY 2025**

PRESENT: Councillor G Coates (Mayor), Councillors C Bain, C Adams, N Arkney, B Clarke, L Clarke, M Clarke, R Claymore, T Clements, M Couchman, S Daniels, C Dean, S Doyle, D Foster, H Hadley, R Kingstone, K Norchi, J Oates, P Pallett, B Price, L Smith, S Smith, N Statham, P Turner, J Wadrup, L Wood and A Wells

The following officers were present: Stephen Gabriel (Chief Executive), Nicola Hesketh (Monitoring Officer) and Tracey Pointon (Legal Admin & Democratic Services Manager)

60 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Bailey, M Summers and T Jay.

61 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th December 2024 were approved and signed as a correct record.

(Moved by Councillor L Wood and seconded by Councillor M Couchman)

62 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor N Statham, declared an interest in item 6 as her employer is mentioned in one of the recommendations.

63 TO RECEIVE ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, LEADER, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Mayor made the following announcement:

I have a couple of events coming up on 19th February a Folk Music Concert at the Helping Hands Cafe to raise funds for my two charities, Changes and the Hygiene Bank. Thank you of for the Councillors who have supported me so far raising funds for these charities.

Councillor S Daniels made the following announcement.

Happy new year with our first meeting, Mayor you were there Tamworth versus Tottenham Hotspur, we know that score did not reflect how good that match was. And if you get chance read the social media comments, we had people from around the world talking about our Town, Tottenham fans even saying, 'they were robbed' and they had to bring on their most expensive players versus the plumber! I thought it was a really great day for the Town that bought us all together. And speaking of things that will bring us together I am looking forward to you curryoake another fund-raising event but away from the fact it is going to be a fun night the know the importance is about fundraising and raising awareness. I am a little bit nervous because you know me Mr Mayor, sometimes I go against protocol and can I invite one of the members of the opposition to speak because the 27th January is an important date in the National Calendar and can I ask Cllr T Clements to what the British legion is doing for national Holocaust Memorial day

Councillor T Clements

The Royal British Legion will be holding a short service of remembrance on Monday 27th January at 11.00am outside St Editha's church and a short remembrance so that we can remember and hop that none of these atrocities never happen again.

64 QUESTION TIME:**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC NO. 1**

Under Procedure Rule No 10, D Maycock, will ask the Portfolio Holder for People Services, Engagement and Leisure, Councillor L Smith, the following question:-

Can Cllr Smith provide a detailed account of what actions he has personally overseen regarding the Armed Forces Covenant since it was added to his portfolio, including any interactions he has had with the Armed Forces Community?

Response:-

Tamworth was formally awarded the Silver Employee Recognition Scheme in September 2024 to recognise support for armed forces veterans seeking employment and have met some of the standards for the Gold Award. An updated plan Armed Forces Covenant plan, presented by the Portfolio Holder, was overseen the by Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny on 16th July 2024 and September 2024. The Committee endorsed a request to Cabinet for the appointment of an Armed Forces named Champion who was not a member of Cabinet. The previous Cabinet member that had this under their portfolio was a member of the Armed Forces The nomination and naming of the champion is at the Leader of the Council' discretion and we have suggested that Cllr Clements should be the Armed Forces Champion.

Supplementary

Can Cllr Smith confirm whether the council still stands by its commitment when re-signing the Armed forces covenant particularly those who have been injured or bereaved.

Answer

Yes definitely, the Council will be upholding everything to do with the Armed Forces Covenant

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC NO. 2

Under Procedure Rule No 10, D Maycock, will ask the Leader, Councillor C Dean, the following question:-

Can Cllr Dean outline what measures the council has implemented to ensure financial assistance and support is accessible to the most vulnerable residents, including those affected by unaffordable housing costs?

Response:-

Tamworth Borough Council introduced from April 2024 a Banded Council Tax Reduction Scheme for those who are most financially vulnerable.

Banded schemes mean less changes during the financial year, less Council Tax adjustment notices issued, and less changes to instalment plans, which overall makes budgeting household bills much easier for residents. We can confirm that this scheme will continue for the next financial year ensuring that we can support those most financially in need.

We will give financial guidance wherever possible but we also have a very good relationship with our third sector providers. For example Tamworth Advice Centre. We make referrals to them with the residents' permission.

Realistic payment arrangements will be an option based on individual circumstances. This has to be realistic as we have a duty to collect on behalf of all residents of the Borough.

There are council tax discounts and exemptions available dependant on the make-up of a household.

If a person is vulnerable we invite applications for a discretionary payment. This will be based on their income and expenditure.

In respect of Housing there is a discretionary housing payment process for those most in need. This too will be based on income and expenditure.

We would encourage residents struggling with their bills to go to our website and contact us if they wish to make an application.

Citizens Advice Mid-Mercia (Tamworth Advice Centre) provide a debt and generalist advice service for Tamworth, the service also runs a weekly outreach service from Sacred Heart Community Centre in Tamworth. Total number of clients the TAC April 2024- December 2024 and the financial gains for clients are detailed below:

	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Running Total
Number of clients	299	330	327	956
Financial Gains	£414,150	£479,570	£473,419	£1,367,139

The Council also provide funding to Tamworth Samaritans to sustain a Tamworth branch and delivering an Outreach Programme in Tamworth

During the period April 2024 – September 2024 Tamworth volunteers supported

- 4736 phone calls
- 1387 hours on the phone
- 389 e-mails responded to
- 7 people out of 10 say they feel better after speaking to a Samaritan

Through the council's community and voluntary sector grant schemes the following organisations have been supported, these organisations provide support to those vulnerable residents with cost-of-living, (please note this is not an exhaustive list).

Tamworth Hygiene Bank
 Tamworth Foodbank
 Changes

The council have enabled, through a number of UKSPF funded projects, assistance to vulnerable residents, these include:

Heart of Tamworth – provide low-cost food and clothing from their HoT shop. The pantry sells on average 98 low-cost food bags a week

CTCIC – provide a form filling service to support vulnerable residents access benefit claims, the service has seen 73 individuals within their own homes and has awarded benefits have totalled £192,230.

Dementia Caring – provide a TIME OUT CLUB - Fun activities for people living with dementia.
 The Time Out Club has supported and engaged with 93 individuals.

Citizens Advice Mid-Mercia – funding received has enabled recruitment of additional volunteers who have helped provide additional advice to residents around debt. The volunteers have supported clients with nearly 1500 issues and identified financial gains of £350,000.

Supplementary

Thank you Cllr Dean as we have just heard from Cllr Smith the Council stands by its pledge to uphold the Armed Forces Covenant especially those injured or bereaved, there are councils across the country that have implemented policies to specifically disregard income from Veterans compensation payments and recognise that these payments are for injuries sustained during military service. Can Councillor Dean explain why this Labour Council as chosen to exercise its discretion to include these payments which are designed to support veterans with disabilities in income calculations for discretionary housing payments when it is fully within the Councils ability without a policy change to disregard them.

Answer

I was not aware, but I will take that back and write to you to let you know what our position is and I am quite surprised by what you are saying.

Under Rule 4.10.10 Councillor Clements moved the following motion

To refer to Cabinet for discussion to disregard in full any income received from the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme, War Pension Scheme and Armed forces independent Payments in all income assessments for discretionary housing payments and other relevant discretionary financial support schemes.

(Moved by Councillor T Clements & seconded by Councillor P Turner)

Under rule 4.17.4 a named vote was called and supported by Cllrs Turner, Clements, Claymore, Kingstone & Wadrup

For	Against	Abstain
Cllr C Adams		Cllr G Coates
Cllr N Arkney		
Cllr C Bain		
Cllr B Clarke		
Cllr L Clarke		
Cllr M Clarke		
Cllr R Claymore		
Cllr T Clements		
Cllr M Couchman		
Cllr S Daniels		
Cllr C Dean		
Cllr S Doyle		
Cllr D Foster		
Cllr H Hadley		
Cllr R Kingstone		
Cllr K Norchi		
Cllr J Oates		
Cllr P Pallett		

Cllr B Price		
Cllr L Smith		
Cllr S Smith		
Cllr N Statham		
Cllr P Turner		
Cllr J /Wadrup		
Cllr A Wells		
Cllr L Wood		

This motion was carried

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC NO. 3

Under Procedure Rule No 10, Mr Beetham, will ask the Leader, Councillor C Dean, the following question:-

Was the leader of the council aware the Labour Party were going to abolish district and borough councils before the general election 2024?

Response:-

I can confirm that I wasn't aware of the white paper being put forward, but the Labour Manifesto does mention Devolution, and we at Tamworth as part of the Staffordshire Leaders Board were putting a proposal forward for the devolution deal but now government are looking at a Local Government re-organisation that's set out in the White paper

Supplementary

As you have just told us that the Labour Government didn't consult with a democratically elected council, can you confirm that if it's your intention for when the change is forced upon on us that you as Leader of the Council and other elected members in this chamber will write and lobby against delayed elections and let Tamworth residents have their democratic voice.

Answer

We are not anticipating that any of our elections in Tamworth will be delayed. We know for a fact that the Staffordshire County Council elections will be going ahead in Tamworth and together we have started a cross-party group to talk through the devolution and local reorganisation deal and we are bringing the whole Council together to look at how we are going to work on this and make sure that everybody is involved as they can be. But the other thing that we want to do is bring the residents in on this as well and it is important for us to have engagement with local residents so they have a say on how this will affect them.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL NO. 1

Under Procedure Rule No 11, Councillor J Oates will ask The Leader, Councillor C Dean, the following question:-

Could the leader of the council inform council when they became aware that building known as Ankerside Shopping Centre was potentially coming under into council control?

Response:-

The Council had been in ongoing discussions with REI over the viability of their tenancy of the centre since we were informed of a change in their structure in the autumn of 2022. On 16th March 2023 Cabinet was provided with an update on the position, this report outlined that one potential option was for the lease to be surrendered to the Council and this remained an option throughout the process.

Following receipt of information and proposals from REI in June 2024 it was agreed by Cabinet on 29th August 2024 that negotiations for surrender of the lease should commence.

Following a period of negotiation with REI the terms and final for the surrender of the lease were agreed by Cabinet on 21st November 2024.

During the negotiation process from August through to November updates were presented to Cabinet. Key Cabinet Members were also engaged in the process and were being updated on a regular basis. Additional meetings also took place with Scrutiny Chairs prior to the key decisions being made. And I hope you will agree that we are now in a better position to revitalise Ankerside to make best use of the Centre whatever that maybe for our residents and businesses

Supplementary

Thank you for the informative and comprehensive answer in public it is difficult to discuss things with commercial confidentiality. Based on the answer given and the length of time we have been aware of this and been dealing with this were the Labour Group all involved in consideration of the future of Ankerside when considering the reopening of the decommissioned Marmion House. We have a building with shop front access, reception style access, with offices etc. etc. coming back into council control was it considered when the decision was made to reinvest in Marmion House, and the reason I ask this is that as part of the reset and renewal paper in 2021 /2022 plans were drawn up to use parts of Ankerside on a rental basis, so I was just wondering if with the longevity of the negotiations whether that was considered and whether all the members of the group not just the Cabinet were involved in those discussions when the decisions were made about using Marmion House as opposed to the option of Ankerside was that considered or not.

Answer

I think the only thing I can say in answer to that question is our group were totally unanimous in their desire to see the front desk open in Marmion House. That is our home at the moment and for the foreseeable future especially with the

uncertainty with what is going to happen to local Government that it would seem a good reason for us to remain there and not to start looking for anywhere else at this present time. Our group were totally unanimous in their support that Marmion House is the right place.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL NO. 2

Under Procedure Rule No 11, Councillor T Clements will ask Portfolio Holder for People Services, Leisure and Engagement, Councillor L Smith, the following question:-

It is more important than ever to celebrate our identity as a council. Each year, showcasing events take place across the county. What does this council intend to do for Staffordshire Day to celebrate Tamworth's character, history, and heritage?

Response:-

Staffordshire Day is a project led by SCC and their Visit Staffs team. There is not yet anything on their website for 2025 yet and they usually set a theme. The Borough Council are not aware yet of this year's theme yet, so it's a little difficult to plan specifics.

In terms of comms, we will support the county wide campaign, and link to #StaffordshireDay via a social media campaign. and where there are local events we promote those, and promote Tamworth heritage and castle in general.

Plans to celebrate and promote Tamworth's history and heritage are very much focussed again this year, working with partners, on Aethelstan 1100, 19th-27th July 2025.

Supplementary

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL NO. 3

Under Procedure Rule No 11, Councillor T Clements will ask Portfolio Holder for People Services, Leisure and Engagement, Councillor L Smith, the following question:-

In a world of AI, photoshops and fake news, history can be airbrushed away. Holocaust Day is held on 27th Jan. This day is a reminder of the atrocities in our past and is held to stop any form of genocide from ever happening again. What is this council doing to ensure this terrible behaviour is not forgotten and never repeated as I haven't heard of any plans.

Response:-

Tamworth Borough Council will honour Holocaust Memorial Day on Monday 27 January, by lighting the castle purple on the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp, and the 30th anniversary of the genocide in Bosnia.

Holocaust Memorial Day remembers all aspects of the Holocaust, Nazi persecution and subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. In remembrance of those who were killed, Tamworth Borough Council will light the castle purple from 4pm on 27 January, to Light the Darkness in memory of the victims of the Holocaust and other genocides, in tribute to the survivors and to take a stand against prejudice, discrimination and hatred today.

Supplementary

To ask Cllr Smith that if this remains in his portfolio will you work with community groups and we have better communication on a calendar of events as these events happen on the same date every year we have already said what the RBL are doing and I am happy to work with Cllr Smith on giving you the events that we already have planned this year. We need to make sure that Tamworth is placed on the map and stays on the map for all the right reasons.

Answer

Yes I completely agree with you and I am happy to work with you going forward.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL NO. 4

Under Procedure Rule No 11, Councillor P Turner will ask The Leader, Councillor C Dean, the following question:-

Will the leader of the council along with me, congratulate our hard working Country councillors for all hard work and endeavour's in getting our roads fixed?

Response:-

I have to say I had to read your question several times to understand what it was asking me. I do try to give credit where its due however in this instance while the Tory County Councillors may have done their best, I don't consider that we can describe the roads of Tamworth as fixed. And I am sure there aren't many people who would, we all know our roads are in a terrible state so no I can't congratulate anyone with regard to the state of the roads and I think our residents would be amazed if I did. This weekend I was out campaigning with a petition about the potholes, and whilst everyone may not have been a Labour supporter they were more than happy to sign the petition and tell us how appalled they are with the state of the roads. Also to tell us how fed up they are with this situation, we get it all the time I have heard many stories about damage to vehicles and concerns about their safety especially in the dark and wet weather when they hit a pothole. There was also a lot of talk about some work that as been done and whetehr its appropriate work that's done. One is Peelers Way being resurfaced again and whether that's a good use of resource because our residents who speak to us at surgeries want to see their local roads done so together with my fellow Bolehall Councillors we have asked several times that the roads on our Estates are repaired but are told by the County that they don't have the funds. I would say that any work that as been done as not made an impact on our residents, and they are still very angry about the state of the roads in Tamworth

Supplementary

My question was geared at Coton lane which as been completely repaired top to bottom and we are about to start Lichfield Street, Gungate and Comberford Road. With the recent closure of Coton Lane I heard many conversations of the complete and utter traffic congestion that caused lots of problems and inconvenience not only to residents but also to businesses. Would the council leader outline what lessons have been learned in regard to communicating this strategy as we are aware the list of works in hand by County for all our roads in town and when they are likely to be done. The reason I ask this question is that to inform residents about the traffic congestion and road closures whilst the repairs are being done its only common decency so we can plan our routes we can organise traffic movements and specifically how the Council can ensure timely and effective communication to minimize inconvenience to residents and the businesses to make their plans. I ask this question to address to the need for clear proactive communications which is crucial in maintaining public trust and minimising disruptions.

Answer

I think you know that communications is something our group have been banging on about since we've been here but its one of the issues that we are really really concerned about and want to make sure that we get that right. We have found in quite a few arears that people don't feel fully informed so we are doing that piece of work and it's in our Corporate Peer Review about how we make better communications it's the one thing that makes the difference to out residents, we know it is they need to know what's going on and there was a very definite learning opportunity from what happened a couple of weeks ago it wasn't good for anybody.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL NO. 5

Under Procedure Rule No 11, Councillor R Kingstone will ask The Leader, Councillor C Dean, the following question:-

When the Dunstall Park development was approved a few years back a condition (no. 23) was applied that required improvement works to the Ventura Park Road and A453/Hints/Watling Street.

The condition stated, and I'm not going to read word for word what it actually says but to summarise, that plans for road improvement works should be submitted and constructed before any of the properties are to be occupied. In a nutshell, this should have involved a left-hand filter lane being constructed at the Mile Oak crossroads.

We are now some 7 to 8 years on since the application was approved, and the development has seen properties occupied for 4 to 5 years but no infrastructure improvements.

What are the leaders' views on this apparent breach of planning conditions?

Response:-

Thank you for your question councillor. The original full application is 0308/2016. Application 0080/2020 was submitted to discharge the condition relating to highway improvement works which was formally signed off on 9th July 2020. To be able to sign off the condition Staffordshire County Council highways were consulted as highways authority and were satisfied with the plans received from the developer.

The planning team have been chasing Staffordshire highways following a request from Cllr Kingstone prior to Christmas on this matter and have yet to receive a response. The planning team will continue to chase and provide a response when available. On a personal level I can understand everyone's frustration when a condition appears to have been breached and I am going to personally ask the officers to keep me informed when the response comes in and if needed I am quite happy to raise this matter with the Leader of Staffordshire County Council

Supplementary

It's been some two months now that I've been chasing with our planning department a response to this question about the infrastructure improvement and I know our planning Department have been pressuring SCC and the Highways team for a response with nothing coming back. We are going to see more developments across the town and it really concerns me that we have got to a position where a development as large of the Dunstall Park estate has been allowed to progress without enforcement of these conditions we've all seen in recent weeks and I've drove through the other day coming back from Good Hope hospital during the middle of the day the Ques of traffic approaching the Mile Oak crossroads that now run down towards the garden centre and sometimes beyond at weekends so its clear that our house building programme is having an impact on our infrastructure, so as well as chasing this can the leader ensure that SCC is pressures into ensuring that enforcement action is taken to ensure that any developments in the future that we see coming before us has the proper infrastructure improvements carried out. I know we get them attached as conditions but what concerns me is how many developments have we seen go ahead without those infrastructure improvements. We see them as a condition on the application then years pass does nothing happen. In this case it would appear so, so can we have some assurance that you will task out planning team and I know they are under a great deal of pressure and they do a fantastic job but can we have some pressure applied to chase these conditions to ensure that they actually go through.

Answer

Yes, I am quite happy to take that task on and I'm aware of the issue that as come to light around the new estate so we have quite a big problem here. As you know we are now at the point where we are saying no more in Tamworth, we can't have anything else that will put a strain on our infrastructure, so we need to make sure that the conditions that were there re bought forward. Its only right for all of us because impacts on all of us. It took me two hours to get out of Tamworth the other morning.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL NO. 6

Under Procedure Rule No 11, Councillor S Smith will ask The Portfolio Holder for Housing, Homelessness and Planning, Councillor B Clarke the following question:-

It's approaching a year since the independent review of Leaseholder Charges was released, which revealed instances of incompetence and poor customer service by the Council. Since taking control of the Council last year, could the Portfolio Holder update members on any actions taken or implemented within the Council to address these issues? Additionally, have any personnel within the Assets Department been held accountable or received additional training?

Addressing these concerns is vital for rebuilding trust with leaseholders and ensuring that such shortcomings are not repeated

Response:-

On 9th October 2024 Corporate Scrutiny received a report to update on a Review of Leaseholder charging which was subsequently considered by Cabinet on 10th October 2024. Since this time the Council has undertaken a number of improvements arising from this review and relating to leaseholder service charges including-

- A revised suite of letters has been produced for the consultation process
- A draft policy has been produced and is being finalised ready for implementation and publication
- The finance team has confirmed payment terms and conditions
- Final costings for roofing works that form part of the review have been agreed
- Stage 3 consultations have begun for those roofing works included as part of the review process
- Stock condition survey work is progressing to remove the use of cloned data in the development of future programmed works

In addition to the above, as part of the Councils overall approach to continuous improvement the Council is undertaking a service transformation exercise relating to the full range of services included in the Assets area. Consideration has also been given to the level of the level of staffing resource available in relevant service areas with consideration currently being given to potential additional investment in these services as part of budget proposals.

In relation to the request to identify if personnel within the Assets Department been held accountable, I don't believe that it is appropriate to provide details of the management of team members either directly or implicitly so I will not be responding to that aspect of the question.

Supplementary

One thing to mention on that is that although in Autumn last year the draft report by the consultants came to Cabinet its worth bearing in mind that the first draft

went to the officers in April last year, so they have it almost a year and that draft as not changed since it's publication. I do think that you've not really addressed in terms of who has been accountable but I'm not asking for names, but I do think it's pertinent to ask any specific information around that and any other points. Do you think it's important we recognise there is a growing perception particularly Labour politicians often refrain from holding Public sector bodies to account as elected councillors our residents expect us to ensure Officers are responsible for their actions you mentioned at last years Scrutiny committee that we trust our officers, while we certainly aim to trust the intentions of the Council and its staff it's crucial for us to address issues proactively, if we don't call out problems when they arise we risk failing in our duties to those that we represent. Given the time gone since the independent review could you elaborate on how you are upholding accountability in this matter and ensure that trust is justified.

Answer

I am meeting every day with officers and all business that we go through is available to scrutinise which I would invite you to do. As I have said before in previous Cabinets I have faith and trust that officers do good work but that doesn't mean we can't be scrutinized further so if this is something you think is worth scrutinizing bring it to the committee and we're happy to attend.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL NO. 7

Under Procedure Rule No 11, Councillor S Smith will ask The Portfolio Holder for Cooperative Council, Community Partnerships and ASB, Councillor S Daniels the following question:-

Given the significant increase in funding for our council from the Asylum Dispersal Grant—where Contingency Accommodation funding has risen from £107,250 in 2023/24 to £182,000 in 2024/25 (an increase of £74,750), and with new Dispersed Accommodation funding of £21,000 in 2024/25—resulting in a total funding increase of £95,750—can the council assure us that this increase in funding will not lead to the neglect or reduction of resources and provisions for our existing homeless population who are not categorised as asylum cases?

What measures are being taken to ensure that the needs of all vulnerable residents are fully met, and that support for existing homelessness services is

maintained or enhanced alongside our commitments under the Asylum Dispersal Scheme.

Response:-

Tamworth Borough council has been granted funding under our obligation to support asylum dispersal under the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, amended to a Full Dispersal model introduced for all local authorities on 13 April 2022.

The Asylum dispersal funding is specifically designed to alleviate the pressure on local services and support community cohesion initiatives and granted to councils

as new burdens wrap around fund for community support, activities and volunteer opportunities whilst in contingency or dispersed accommodation.

Housing advice and personal housing plan can be offered on receipt of positive decision as it is with any other person who may be at risk of homelessness. The funding, if required, can be used to enhance capacity within homelessness support to ensure that this does not have any negative impact on the existing housing register or current officer caseloads.

It is the intention of the Home Office to put in processes to move asylum seekers from contingency accommodation to dispersed accommodation prior to receipt of decision, however this may not be possible. The grant funding has enabled (and will enable) the council to fund additional staff as necessary, put in processes to ensure that the service users can access housing advice as necessary through existing channels and to provide support whilst they are within the Tamworth community.

Any asylum seeker who receives a right to stay is permitted to seek advice and will be advised in the same way as any other resident. There is no automatic right to accommodation or allocation for priority need over and above any other person with each case being individually assessed.

Supplementary

First of all, thank you for that precise answer and thank you for publicising the various contact methods for those in vulnerable situations I do agree that we should do as much as we can to ensure that is advertised and, I share also in complimenting ex Cllrs Cook & Maycock for their help and support with Ukrainian refugees. I just want to mention I believe its important the potential ripple effect of the asylum dispersal grant on housing affordability may I enquire if you are aware of any current or future increases in private rental costs within our community as a result of this particular grant.

Answer

At this exact time no but its my duty of care to make sure I find out the answer and will contact you directly Cllr Smith thank you for asking it.

65 TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING MOTION, NOTICE OF WHICH HAS BEEN DULY GIVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROCEDURE RULE NO. 4.12.1 BY COUNCILLORS J OATES, S SMITH, T JAY, M SUMMERS AND T CLEMENTS

Under rule 4.23.1 Councillor J Oates moved the suspension of rule 4.14.5 that A member who has spoken on a motion may not speak again whilst it is the subject of debate for the remainder of the meeting.

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

This motion was not carried

Council considered the following motion, notice of which has been duly give in accordance with Procedure Rule No. 4.12.1 by Councillors J Oates, S Smith, T Jay, M Summers and T Clements.

Following the announcement of the abolition of district and borough councils.

- A. Tamworth Borough Council Objects to the proposals and reaffirms the importance of local service delivery and democracy
- B. Asks the MP to both condemn and oppose these changes in the House of Commons
- C. Consider transferring local cultural, historical, community, and recreational facilities to local parish councils

(Moved by Councillor J Oates and seconded by Councillor P Turner)

These motions were not carried Councillor Natalie Statham did not vote on this item.

66 TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING MOTION, NOTICE OF WHICH HAS BEEN DULY GIVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROCEDURE RULE NO. 4.12.1 BY COUNCILLORS J OATES, S SMITH, T JAY, M SUMMERS AND T CLEMENTS

Council considered the following motion, notice of which has been duly give in accordance with Procedure Rule No. 4.12.1 by Councillors J Oates, S Smith, T Jay, M Summers and T Clements.

Council requests that Cabinet reviews the decision (re Marmion House) following the announcement of the abolition of district and borough councils, further spending on the temporary home of Tamworth Borough Council and its reception at Marmion House should be halted. This decision aligns with the government's devolution white paper, which signals the end of district councils.

(Moved by Councillor J Oates and seconded by Councillor P Turner)

Councillor R Kingstone moved an amendment to the motion that the following is added - that this council requests that the Cabinet halts the work on re-opening the Council Chamber at Marmion House and we continue to hold Council meetings at the Town Hall.

(Moved by Councillor R Kingstone and seconded by Councillor S Doyle)

This amendment was not carried.

Council then voted on the original motion

That Council requests that Cabinet reviews the decision (re Marmion House) following the announcement of the abolition of district and borough councils, further spending on the temporary home of Tamworth Borough Council and its reception at Marmion House should be halted. This decision aligns with the government's devolution white paper, which signals the end of district councils.

(Moved by Councillor J Oates and seconded by Councillor P Turner)

This motion was not carried

67 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

To consider excluding the Press and Public from the meeting by passing the following resolution:-

“That in accordance with the provisions of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meeting and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, and Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act and the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information to the public”

At the time this agenda is published no representations have been received that this part of the meeting should be open to the public

(Moved by Councillor L Wood and seconded by Councillor B Price)

68 FUTURE HIGH STREET FUND UPDATE

Report of the Leader of the Council.

RESOLVED that Council:

1. Approved the recommendations in the report.

(Moved by Councillor C Dean and seconded by Councillor D Foster)

The Mayor