



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD ON 21st NOVEMBER 2024

PRESENT: Councillors C Dean, N Arkney, B Clarke and L Smith

The following officers were present: Stephen Gabriel (Chief Executive), Anica Goodwin (Executive Director Organisation), Joanne Goodfellow (Interim Executive Director Finance and Deputy Section 151 Officer), Tina Mustafa (Assistant Director Neighbourhoods), Rob Barnes (Executive Director Communities), Hannah Peate (Assistant Director Environment, Culture and Wellbeing), Paul Weston (Assistant Director Assets), Jackie Noble (Head of HR and OD), Steve Gee (Operations Manager, Joint Waste Service), Tracey Pointon (Legal Admin & Democratic Services Manager) and Laura Sandland (Democratic and Executive Support Officer)

71 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S Daniels and D Foster

72 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 31st October 2024 were approved as a correct record.

(Moved by Councillor B Clarke and seconded by Councillor N Arkney)

73 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

74 QUESTION TIME:

None

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

None

76 DRAFT BASE BUDGET FORECASTS 2025/26 TO 2029/30

Report of The Leader of the Council to inform Members of the re-priced base budget for 2025/26, base budget forecasts for the period 2025/26 to 2029/30 (the 5 Year Medium Term Planning Period) and the underlying assumptions and to consider the future strategy to address the financial trends.

Resolved that Cabinet:

1. approved the technical adjustments and re-priced base budget figures for 2025/26 and indicative budgets to 2029/30 (as attached at Appendix B, C, D, E, F, G and H);
2. considered the proposed Policy Changes and Capital Programmes, as detailed within the report;
3. considered the planned changes to Council Tax and Housing Rent for 2025/26, as detailed within the report; and
4. noted that the Leader's Budget Workshop were due to consider the budget proposals contained within this report on 18th November 2024, in compliance with the Constitution of the Council

(Moved by Councillor B Clarke and seconded by Councillor L Smith)

Cabinet thanked Officers for all the work that had been done on the budget.

77 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY MID-YEAR REVIEW REPORT 2024/25

Report of the Leader of the Council, to present to Members the Mid-year Review of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy.

Resolved that Cabinet:

1. approved the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy Mid-year Review Report 2024/25.

(Moved by Councillor B Clarke and seconded by Councillor L Smith)

78 LOCAL COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2025/26

Report of the Leader of the Council to recommend that Cabinet and Council approves the Council Tax Reduction scheme from the 1 April 2025.

Resolved that Cabinet:

1. considered and endorsed the proposed recommended changes detailed below:
2. Approved the continuation of the income banded/grid scheme for working age applicants to reduce the administrative burden placed on the Council by the introduction of Universal Credit and to increase the overall level of support for the lowest income families
3. Agreed that should material amendments be required to the scheme, Cabinet authorise the Chief Executive, Executive Director Finance, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to make such required amendments as necessary

(Moved by Councillor L Smith and seconded by Councillor N Arkney)

79 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY STRATEGY

Report of the Leader of the Council to provide an updated Equality and Diversity strategy which gives assurance that Tamworth Borough Council is committed to equality and diversity both within the organisation and in the service it delivers to the Borough. The council will also remain compliant with the public sector duty.

Resolved that Cabinet:

1. endorsed the Equality and Diversity Strategy 2025-2028, the action plan and Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment and recommend it to Full Council (10 December 2024) for formal approval and publication.

(Moved by Councillor N Arkney and seconded by Councillor B Clarke)

80 UPDATE TO CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

Report of the Portfolio Holder of Environmental Sustainability, Recycling and Waste to update members regarding the updated Corporate Health and Safety Policy September 2024. The reviewed policy can be found in Appendix 1.

Resolved that Cabinet:

1. Cabinet formally approves the policy for immediate implementation

(Moved by Councillor B Clarke and seconded by Councillor L Smith)

81 COMMUNITY RECOVERY FUNDING

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Cooperative Council, Community Partnerships and ASB to consider the outline spend plan of the Government's Community Recovery Funding.

Resolved that Cabinet

1. Endorsed the funding of the Belong Network, procured to undertake the Honest Conversations project as part of the Community Recovery Fund
2. Endorsed the procurement of the Spacehive Social Crowd Funding platform for Community Cohesion projects as part of the Community Recovery project for the adoption of a community crowdfunding programme to distribute funds to locally led projects seeking financial support, initially with funding for community cohesion projects.
3. Endorsed the outline emerging draft spend plan for the Community Recovery Fund
4. Delegated authority to the Portfolio Holder for Cooperative Council, Community Partnerships and ASB , the Executive Director Communities and Section 151 officer to authorise confirmed and committed expenditure by 31 March 2025, in accordance with Government Criteria and confirmation by Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)

(Moved by Councillor B Clarke and seconded by Councillor L Smith)

82 COUNCIL HOUSING - TENANCY MANAGEMENT POLICY

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Homelessness and Planning to request approval for the adoption of the Tenancy Management Policy 2024, setting out the Council's approach to offering tenancies as well as how we will manage and sustain tenancies.

Resolved that Cabinet

1. Approved the draft Tenancy Management Policy set out at Appendix A and subsequent publication on the Council's website
2. Delegated authority to the Executive Director Communities in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Social Housing, Homelessness & Planning to make the final amendments to the Tenancy Management Policy (Appendix A)
3. Approved the completion of a full review and consultation on the types of tenancies the Council grant and report back separately to Cabinet during the Summer of 2025/26.

(Moved by Councillor B Clarke and seconded by Councillor L Smith)

83 UPDATED ASSET MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Infrastructure, Heritage and Local Economy to present the Asset Management Strategy linked to the Council's built assets for approval, the report includes associated documents for Asset Management Plans, and linked policies for acquisition and disposal of built assets.

Resolved that Cabinet:

1. approved and implements the Asset Management Strategy as at Appendix 1. 2. Cabinet a
2. approved and implements the Asset Management Plan document as at Appendix 2.
3. approved and implements the associated Acquisitions and Disposal policies as at Appendix 3 and 4.
4. Delegated authority to update and amend the Asset Management Strategy and associated plans and policies to the Assistant Director, Assets in consultation with the Asset Strategy Steering Group and the Portfolio Holder for Infrastructure, Heritage, and Local Economy.

(Moved by Councillor N Arkney and seconded by Councillor B Clarke)

84 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).

85 FOOD WASTE SERVICE

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Sustainability, Recycling and Waste.

Resolved that Cabinet:

1. Approved the recommendations in the report

(Moved by Councillor L Smith and seconded by Councillor B Clarke)

86 UPDATE ON COMMERCIAL LEASE

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Infrastructure, Heritage and Local Economy to recommend that Cabinet notes and accepts the receipt of additional; information items distributed this week, namely the update on the commercial lease, the supplemental report and the KPMG report.

Resolved that Cabinet

1. Noted and agreed the recommendations in the report.

(Moved by Councillor N Arkney and seconded by Councillor L Smith)

Leader