



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD ON 23rd JANUARY 2014

PRESENT: Councillor D Cook (Chair), Councillors S Claymore, S Doyle and M Greatorex

The following officers were present: Anthony E Goodwin (Chief Executive), John Wheatley (Executive Director Corporate Services), Jane Hackett (Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer), Andrew Barratt (Director - Assets and Environment), Stefan Garner (Director of Finance), Robert Mitchell (Director - Communities, Planning and Partnerships), Matthew Bowers (Head of Planning and Regeneration), Michael Buckland (Head of Revenues), Tina Mustafa (Head of Landlord Services) and Joanne Sands (Neighbourhood Services Manager)

85 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R Pritchard and J Oates.

The Chair changes the order of business to accommodate public present.

86 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2013 were approved and signed as a correct record.

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

87 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor M Greatorex Declared an Interest in Item 13 and Item 14 as he sits on the Stoke and Staffordshire Fire Authority. The interest did not prevent him taking part in the agenda items.

88 QUESTION TIME:

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

NO.1

Under Schedule 4, 13, Mr P Hill, 55 Strode House, Lichfield Street, Tamworth asked the Portfolio Holder for Public Housing and Vulnerable People, Councillor M Greatorex, the following question:-

"Firstly could I thank you for solving the parking problems regarding staff on the car parks of Strode, Weymouth and Peel House.

However, I wish to question the Riverside contract permits which do not state the vehicle registration number. The reason why I question this is because I have noticed cars parked in the car parks of the flats with contractors permits displayed, however, no work is being carried out. For example, I recently saw a lady park her car and take her child shopping, whilst displaying a contractors permit on her windscreen."

The Portfolio Holder for Public Housing and Vulnerable People gave the following response:-

Thank you for your question; this is the first question to a Portfolio Holder at Cabinet.

The Council issues parking permits to essential repair, building and maintenance contractors for use at Riverside, generally by our Housing Team for the multitude of Contractor who deliver services on our behalf.

Because of the generic nature of the work some of these permits tend to be non vehicle specific, and as such do not have a registration number attached to them.

Contractor passes are also issued on occasion to short term office staff (generally based from Marmion House), who require the use of a car as part of their work. These do tend to be for a specific vehicle

Contractors may park in the permitted area for a length of time suitable for the work undertaken.

The Community Payback Team, who arrange valuable work in the community with offenders also have a Contractor pass to enable their work to continue.

It has been recognised that there may be some passes in circulation that may not have been returned and appear to Civil Enforcement Staff to be still valid. To reduce this all of our enforcement officers now have a full list of all cancelled permits to ease the concern.

Persons found to be using fraudulent badges will be issued with penalties and the permits where possible will be destroyed.

It is not possible to prevent employees or contractors with valid badges maybe dropping children off at nursery/going shopping on way to or from work, so long as the purpose for them parking is to carry out their work duties.

Work is ongoing with the teams who issue permits to ensure where practicable registration numbers are allocated to permits when they are issued.

All Residents are encouraged to supply pass details and vehicle registrations of any cars/vans they have concerns about for checking.

Supplementary question:

I'm not disputing Riverside Contractors permits. Permit offers no idea whether week or day permit. Surely if a day permit it should state this. Believe Contractor permit valid unless aware invalid.

The Portfolio Holder for Public Housing and Vulnerable People gave the following response:-

The situation is complicated and difficult to monitor. Civil enforcement staff will be made aware and will ensure issues are dealt with appropriately.

89 SHARED SERVICES - MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The Report of the Leader of the Council seeking endorsement of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) relating to potential shared services with Lichfield District Council was considered.

RESOLVED: That the Memorandum of Understanding thereby securing future shared service opportunities with Lichfield District Council be endorsed.

(Moved by Councillor D Cook and seconded by Councillor S Claymore)

90 DRAFT BUDGET & MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2014/15

The Report of the Leader of the Council seeking approval for the draft package of budget proposals, to consult with the Joint Scrutiny Committee (Budget) on 28 January 2014 and receive their feedback on General Services Revenue Budget and Council Tax for 2014/15, Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget for 2014/15, Capital Programme and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) was considered.

RESOLVED: That

- 1 The draft package of budget proposals including the proposed policy changes be approved, and;
- 2 The Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council be authorised to lead on the delivery of the work streams approved by Cabinet on 22 August 2013 and for the Corporate Change Board to provide the necessary Programme Management support, and;
- 3 As required by the Constitution of the Council, the Joint Scrutiny Committee (Budget) on 28 January 2014 be asked to consider the budget proposals contained within the report.

(Moved by Councillor D Cook and seconded by Councillor M Greatorex)

91 GOLF COURSE FUTURE OPTIONS APPRAISAL - PREFERRED OPTION SELECTION

The Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer advised the meeting of documents received at 12noon today which are to be treated as a petition.

The Chief Executive asked Cabinet to note the objection of the petition and for consideration to be given to the objection.

The Leader of the Council asked this meeting to consider the petition that had been received and note it. He advised that all meetings in relation to the Golf Course have been in public and will continue to be.

The Report of the Portfolio Holder for Economy and Education providing Members with a report detailing the options appraisal of the short listed future options for Tamworth Golf Course from which Members will select their preferred option for implementation was discussed.

Options B and G were ruled out as they are options of high risk and uncertainty. Option I is the lowest risk.

RESOLVED:

That:

- 1 The preferred option be Option I, that the Council ceases to operate the golf course in March 2015 (subject to reasonable customer demand in 2014) and that the Council progresses a disposal of the site and works with local residents to identify parkland as part of the redevelopment;
- 2 Authorise the Portfolio Holder Economy and Education and the Director Communities, Planning and Partnerships to progress the implementation of the preferred option, including the commissioning of relevant technical and legal services ahead of a specific report to Cabinet setting out a detailed implementation plan; and
- 3 Endorse the proposed principles for managing any potential capital receipt arising from Option I.
(Moved by Councillor S Claymore and seconded by Councillor D Cook)

92 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

Councillor S Claymore was appointed as Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

(Moved by Councillor D Cook and seconded by Councillor M Greatorex)

Councillor D Cook left the room.

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

The Chair of Healthier and Safer Scrutiny proposed the following recommendations to Cabinet following the meeting of 21 November 2013:

“The Healthier and Safer Scrutiny Committee discussed violence and domestic violence at its last meeting held on 21st November; following that discussion the committee would like to ask the Cabinet to liaise directly with the relevant County Council portfolio holder in order to understand what services are currently available to tackle alcohol misuse in Tamworth and what services are currently being commissioned. This will support and enhance the recent request made by Borough Council officers to the County Council following the committee meeting

The latest health data for Tamworth supports this request from the Healthier & Safer scrutiny committee in respect of

- alcohol specific hospital stays for under 18's is at 74.8% compared with the England average of 61.8%

and

- increasing and higher risk drinking is at 22.7% in Tamworth, which slightly higher than the England average of 22.3%

I would just like to add that the health data for Tamworth is not all negative towards this issue as hospital stays for alcohol related harm is at 1660 in Tamworth which is lower than the England average of 1895.”

RESOLVED: The Chief Executive will draft a letter on behalf of the Leader of the Council.

94 BUSINESS RATES INCOME FORECAST 2014/15

The Report of the Portfolio Holder for Operations and Assets seeking endorsement from Members on the Business Rates income forecast for 2014/15 was presented by the Executive Director (Corporate Services) for consideration.

RESOLVED: That:

- 1 The Business Rate income forecast for 2014/15 and subsequent NNDR1 (v.3) form for submission to DCLG by 31 January 2014 in line with legislative requirements be approved, and;
- 2 Should amendments be required to the forecast NNDR1 (updated 21 and 22 January 2014) following receipt of updated guidance, The Executive Director Corporate Services be authorised in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to make such required amendments as necessary.

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

95 OFF STREET CASHLESS PARKING AND ANPR TRIAL

The Report of the Portfolio Holder for Operations and Assets seeking Members approval for the introduction of an 18 month no cost trial for a cashless parking and virtual permit system in all Council car parks, and a new Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) initiative parking trial was presented by the Director (Assets and Environment) for consideration.

- RESOLVED:** That:
- 1 The introduction of Cashless Parking for an 18 month trial period be approved, and;
 - 2 The revised fee structures and charges necessary to accommodate the implementation of the above off street parking cashless parking be approved, and;
 - 3 The updating to off-street car parking orders to accommodate cashless parking be approved, and;
 - 4 Receipt and expenditure of a grant allocation of £50k to support ANPR trial on allocated car parks as detailed be approved.

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

96 SCHEME OF DELEGATION DECISIONS

The Report of the Portfolio Holder for Operations and Assets to comply with the Local Government Act 2000 and the Localism Act 2011 and any subordinate legislation which provides good governance for Local Authorities was presented by the Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer for consideration.

- RESOLVED:** That the list of decisions taken in terms of the Scheme of Delegation for the period 1 April 2013 to December 2013 be endorsed.

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

97 HIGH SPEED RAIL 2 (HS2) PHASE TWO: RESPONSE TO THE PHASE TWO ROUTE CONSULTATION

The Report of the Portfolio Holder for Economy and Education briefing the Cabinet on the Governments High Speed Rail 2 proposals and the potential impacts for Tamworth and seeking Cabinets views on the principle of the proposal, and to agree a response to the High Speed Rail 2 (HS2) Phase 2 route consultation was considered.

- RESOLVED:** That:
- 1 Cabinet agreed to the principle of HS2 as a positive

- opportunity for the borough;
- 2 Cabinet recommends that no response to the Hybrid Bill for Phase 1 will be made by the Borough council to the Government and that the Head of Planning and Regeneration is authorised to engage with the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership and Staffordshire County Council as they prepare their response to advise them of the Borough Council's position as set out in the report; and;
 - 3 Cabinet approves the proposed response to the HS2 Phase 2 consultation as outlined in report for submission to the Government.

(Moved by Councillor S Claymore and seconded by Councillor M Greateorex)

98 LANDLORD SERVICES HIGH RISE FIRE SAFETY

The Report of the Portfolio Holder for Public Housing and Vulnerable People setting out the Council's response to the Coroners recommendations issued in 2013 concerning the retro-fitting of sprinkler systems to high rise flats, namely the 6 high rise blocks in Tamworth's Town Centre and setting out the options available and estimated costs, noting that the subsequent expenditure will be built into the capital budget setting process as appropriate for 2014/15 was considered.

RESOLVED:

That:

- 1 Retrofit installation of automatic sprinkler system to individual flats and communal landings in the Town Centre 6-high rise blocks as shown at option 3 in the report be approved, and;
- 2 The decision on the final design and product specification to the Director of Housing & Health and the Director of Assets and Environment in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder of Public Housing & Vulnerable People be delegated, and;
- 3 A further report to Cabinet, should the total capital costs of the scheme differ significantly from current estimates and therefore not be met from the £1.1m funding included within the provisional 2014-2019 HRA Capital Programme, in the 2014 budget process, for fire upgrades to high rise flats.

(Moved by Councillor M Greateorex and seconded by Councillor S Claymore)

EXCLUSION OF 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 to Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

99 FIRE SAFETY PARTNER FOR COUNCIL OWNED STOCK - LANDLORD SERVICES

The Report of the Portfolio Holder for Public Housing and Vulnerable People setting out the procurement arrangements and requirements for obtaining a partner to deliver fire related services currently provided by Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service (SFARS) was considered.

RESOLVED: That the recommendations as contained in the report be approved.

(Moved by Councillor M Greateorex and seconded by Councillor S Claymore)

Leader