



## **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 17th DECEMBER 2013**

**PRESENT:** Councillor J Garner (Chair), Councillors R Kingstone, M Clarke, S Claymore, T Clements, D Cook, C Cooke, M Couchman, S Doyle, J Faulkner, D Foster, K Gant, M Gant, M Greatorex, G Hirons, A James, J Jenkins, A Lunn, M McDermid, R McDermid, K Norchi, J Oates, S Peuple, R Pritchard, E Rowe, P Seekings, P Standen and M Thurgood

The following officers were present: Anthony E Goodwin (Chief Executive), Andrew Barratt (Director - Assets and Environment), Stefan Garner (Director of Finance), Jane Hackett (Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer) and Bernadette Flanagan (Elections Officer)

### **40 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor L Bates and S Pritchard.

### **41 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2013 were approved and signed as a correct record.

*(Moved by Councillor D Cook and seconded by Councillor R Pritchard)*

### **42 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

### **43 TO RECEIVE ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, LEADER, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

#### **Announcement by the Mayor**

Councillors Barry and Sheila Pitt, Lord Mayor and Mayoress of Stoke on Trent, passed on their greetings and Peter Dartford from Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service has also passed his greetings on.

**44 QUESTION TIME:****QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL****NO.1**

**Under Procedure Rule No 11, Councillor C Cooke will ask the Portfolio Holder for Public Housing and Vulnerable People, Councillor M Greatorex, the following question:-**

"Given that there were only four affordable homes built in Tamworth for the year ending 31st of March 2013, can the portfolio holder advise me what are the calculated expected needs for affordable housing for the current year, from 1st April 2013, and how much of that need is expected to be met by new built dwellings before the end of this current year?"

**The Portfolio Holder for Public Housing and Vulnerable People, gave the following reply:**

We anticipate 3 affordable housing completions this current financial year. This continued low number is due to the general downturn in the housing market.

However during the next financial year we expect to see a significant increase in the number of affordable homes including:

40 new homes built in partnership with Registered Providers on underused Council garage sites

6 units at Victoria Road developed by Waterloo Housing Association

New affordable homes arising from the work to bring Empty Homes back into use- anticipated 5.

In future years the Council has a pipeline of schemes which will be brought forward. This includes further development of underused garages sites. Section 106 opportunities at a range of sites and further opportunities via the work to bring Empty Homes back into use.

**Supplementary Question**

Given that our Council has 2000 applications on the housing waiting list how does the portfolio holder ensure that the housing needs of such people are met?

**The Portfolio Holder for Public Housing and Vulnerable People, gave the following reply:**

We work closely with the private sector and are currently reviewing allocation procedure and the housing register. What we hope to do is tailor the need to satisfy demand. This is what we have in mind for this difficult problem.

**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL****NO.2**

**Under Procedure Rule No 11, Councillor C Cooke will ask the Portfolio Holder for Economy and Education, Councillor S Claymore, the following question:-**

"Having noted that a revised Tamworth Local Plan was due out in September, can the Portfolio Holder advise me if there is as yet any revised timetable set for the amended Tamworth Local Plan and if so what date is it now expected to go out for public consultation?"

**The Portfolio Holder for Economy and Education gave the following reply:**

Thank you Councillor Cooke. When the decision was taken in March by Full Council to withdraw the Local Plan, areas of work were identified before a new plan could be consulted on. I do not believe a September date for consultation was given, however, officers have been progressing these workstreams with close supervision and guidance from the cross party sub group that was established also at Full Council in March. Some of these workstreams have taken longer than was originally envisaged and therefore it is my intention to take a draft plan for consultation to Cabinet early in the new year.

**Supplementary Question**

As I recall we Councillors were hustled into accepting the now withdrawn Local Plan which has left us susceptible.

In our current position of having no Local Plan in place do we use the National Policy Planning Framework or the Local Plan as yet unpublished and not consulted on?

**The Portfolio Holder for Economy and Education gave the following reply:**

Officers are working to ensure we have a plan as soon as possible that will pass examination. The National Policy Planning Framework takes precedence until that time.

**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

**NO.3**

**Under Procedure Rule No 11, Councillor S People will ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor D Cook, the following question:-**

"At the County Council Meeting held today, Cllr C Cook described Tamworth Borough Council as being opposed to HS2 whereas at the recent Aspire and Prosper Committee Cllr Thurgood expressed the view that Tamworth Borough Council was supportive of HS2. Would the Leader of the Council please state which of them was correct?"

**The Leader of the Council gave the following reply:**

Simple answer is – Currently neither.

Let me explain, currently Tamworth Borough Council has no exact stance on HS2. The Conservative group has one. Corporately we have previously stated we would / do support given the right environmental, social and economic mitigations.

Now is time for us to truly nail our colours to the mast - fully. Councillor Thurgood is correct in that the stance of the Conservative group in Tamworth collectively is full support for HS2; this is not to say individual Conservatives may not carry slightly differing thoughts, we are a democracy.

The Government announced at the time of the spending review in June 2013 that it recognised a potential funding requirement for HS2 of £42.6bn, at 2011 prices. This breaks down to £21.4bn for Phase One and £21.2bn for Phase Two – figures which include a total contingency for both phases of £14.4bn.

Construction along the line is due to start in 2017 and be completed by 2025. The first train services will run between London and Birmingham from 2026.

The consultation on HS2 Ltd's proposed routes for Phase 2 of HS2 was launched on 17th July 2013 and closes on 31 January 2014. I am expecting Cabinet to receive a report in January on the consultation at which we will make a decision on our response to the consultation.

Key considerations will include our ambitions for future connectivity utilising West Coast Main Line, the mitigation required during construction to reduce impact on residents, visitors and businesses.

Proposed benefits to Tamworth (based on KPMG work) are between £79.2m and £187.5m additional economic benefit per annum following phase 1 opening, then an additional £50m per annum following Phase 2 construction. We cannot ignore this as a Council, we need a position.

Councillors we must as a Council now put our money where our mouth is. It is time to reach a firm stance and answer the consultation. In January at Cabinet Councillor Claymore will fetch a report stating our response to the Consultation. I promised Councillor Chris Cooke earlier this year that if we did this; all voices in this chamber would be heard. With that in mind I open up a period for all Councillors to put their opinion / facts into a brief internal consultation. From today until the 9<sup>th</sup> January all Councillors are free to E-mail Councillor Claymore, Matt Bowers and Rob Mitchell with their views and supporting information.

Cabinet will consider these responses and other relevant information and on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January at the Cabinet meeting state the corporate position on HS2 of Tamworth Borough Council.

I hope this clarifies the matter.

### **Supplementary Question**

Given long timescales and Government proposals would Councillor Cook agree that we need greater clarity on how blight on properties will be dealt with under the proposals?

**The Leader of the Council gave the following reply:**

I agree with 99%. The 1% I don't agree with is that we need to get on with HS2. We need to compensate people now. The timescales are too long. We need to get on with it.

**45 TAMWORTH PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY - REVIEW OF POLLING PLACES**

The Report of the Chief Executive informing Members of the comments received from the recent consultation in respect of the review of polling districts and polling places undertaken in accordance with the Electoral Administration Act 2006 and the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 and making recommendations relating to polling places within the Parliamentary Constituency that fall within the Parliamentary Constituency that fall within the Borough of Tamworth was considered.

A motion was moved to amend the recommendations to include only recommendations 1 (a), 2 and 3

*(Moved by Councillor R Pritchard and seconded by Councillor D Cook)*

A further amendment was moved to include all the recommendations in the report.

*(Moved by Councillor J Faulkner and seconded by Councillor S Peaple)*

The amendment to the motion was not carried.

**RESOLVED:**

- That:
- 1 The results and officer recommendations from the review process be endorsed together with the reasons for said proposals for the polling districts including changes to the following polling districts as detailed below:
    - (a) GL1 & GL3 Glascote Ward – move from Glascote Heath Primary School to the Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, and;
  - 2 Information as prescribed in compliance with the legislation be published, and;
  - 3 Appropriate recommendations be made for consideration by Cabinet in Budget Setting Process 2014/15.

*(Moved by Councillor R Pritchard and seconded by Councillor D Cook)*

**46 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY MID-YEAR REVIEW REPORT 2013/14**

The Report of the Portfolio Holder for Operations and Assets presenting to Members the Mid-year review of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy was considered.

**RESOLVED:** That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy Mid-Year Review Report 2013/14 be accepted.

*(Moved by Councillor R Pritchard and seconded by Councillor D Cook)*

**47 LOCAL COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2014/15**

The Report of the Portfolio Holder for Operations and Assets regarding the ongoing agreement of the Authority's current Council Tax Reduction Scheme for Working Age customers, originally agreed at Council on 13 December 2012, including 1% up ratings to Applicable Amounts applied for 2014/15 was considered.

**RESOLVED:** That:

- 1 The continuation of the Authority's Local Council Tax Reduction scheme for a further year, without change, for 2014/15 be endorsed, and;
- 2 The scheme following completion of the first year be reviewed and identification of delivery of the scheme's financial target and full implications of potential changes that may arise re consultation/equalities/potential challenge.

*(Moved by Councillor R Pritchard and seconded by Councillor D Cook)*

**48 FRAUD AND CORRUPTION UPDATE REPORT**

The Report of the Portfolio Holder for Operations and Assets providing the Council with a review and update of the Counter Fraud & Corruption Policy Statement, Strategy & Guidance Notes and the Whistleblowing Policy was considered.

**RESOLVED:** That:

- 1 The Counter Fraud & Corruption Policy Statement, Strategy & Guidance Notes and the Whistleblowing Policy be adopted, and;
- 2 The Whistleblowing Policy be adopted.

*(Moved by Councillor R Pritchard and seconded by Councillor D Cook)*

**49 LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

The Report of the Portfolio Holder for Economy and Education seeking approval of a Joint Committee, draft constitution and Terms of Reference and for the creation of a Joint Scrutiny Committee for the Supervisory Board of the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP) was considered.

**RESOLVED:** That:

- 1 The establishment of a Joint Committee, in accordance with Article 12 of the constitution, the Localism Act 2011, and the Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000 for the purposes of acting as a Supervisory Board for the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP) for decisions on any funds devolved from government as part of a Single Local Growth Fund be approved, and;
- 2 The Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP) draft Constitution, Terms of Reference and Joint Scrutiny Committee arrangements as detailed in the documents attached in the appendices in accordance with the Constitution and Article 11 thereof be approved.

*(Moved by Councillor S Claymore and seconded by Councillor J Oates)*

**50 REVISED GAMBLING ACT 2005 STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES 2013-2016**

The Report of the Portfolio Holder for Environmental and Waste Management seeking Council approval of Tamworth's Statement of Policy under the Gambling Act 2005 was considered.

**RESOLVED:** That the Statement of Policy be adopted.

*(Moved by Councillor S Doyle and seconded by Councillor A Lunn)*

**51 SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT 2013 FEES**

The Report of the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Waste Management providing details of proposed Policy, Scheme of Delegation and fee structure applicable to the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 was considered.

**RESOLVED:** That:

- 1 The Scheme of Delegation be endorsed, and;
- 2 The proposed fee levels be endorsed.

*(Moved by Councillor S Doyle and seconded by Councillor A Lunn)*

**52 REVIEW OF ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING POLICY**

The Report of the Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer providing the Council with the revised and updated Anti-Money Laundering Policy was considered.

**RESOLVED:** That the revised Anti-Money Laundering Policy in the Council's policy framework as approved by Audit & Governance Committee be adopted.

*(Moved by Councillor D Cook and seconded by Councillor S Peaple)*

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The Mayor