

## **EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a Meeting of the Cabinet held in the Coltman VC Room at the Town Hall, Burton upon Trent on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

### **Present:**

Councillors M T Fitzpatrick (Chairman), A A Chaudhry, D F Fletcher, R Hawkins, S Slater and P Walker.

### **Officers Present:**

The Chief Executive, the Head of Environment and Corporate Services, the Head of Regeneration and Development, the Chief Finance Officer, the Principal Solicitor and Deputy Monitoring Officer, the Corporate and Commercial Manager and the Principal Democratic Services Officer.

### **Also Present:**

Cabinet Support Member Councillor L Walker.

## **PART II**

### 78/24 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations at the commencement of the meeting.

### 79/24 **MINUTES**

#### **Resolved:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024 be approved and signed as a correct record.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

<b>Those voting for the motion</b>	<b>Those voting against</b>	<b>Those abstaining</b>
Councillor M T Fitzpatrick		Councillor A A Chaudhry
Councillor D F Fletcher		
Councillor R Hawkins		
Councillor S Slater		
Councillor P Walker		

### 80/24 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business prior to the commencement of the meeting.

### 81/24 **FORWARD PLAN**

The Forward Plan from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024 was submitted for information.

**NOTED.**

82/24

### **UPDATE AND INTRODUCTION OF A CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY**

The report of the Head of Corporate and Environment Services on the overview of the process and costs of introducing a citizens' jury in line with Corporate Plan target ID06 was considered.

Cabinet noted that a Citizen's Jury was an inclusive, deliberative body formed of local members of the public who were involved in the decision making process of a particular topic; developing specific recommendations on policy issues. Citizens' Juries could be used for a wide variety of policy areas but were most effective surrounding complex policy questions which cannot be unpicked using other consultation methods.

Following discussions with other Local Authorities already operating such a model it was proposed that 20-25 members representing various demographics including age, ethnicity and socioeconomic status would be an ideal number to make up a Citizen's Jury. Members of the public eligible must be citizens of the borough (i.e. a person who lives, works or study's in the borough). The process would be led by an independent consultant, providing support as lead facilitator and would be an experienced individual in the selected topic area. The final report from the jury would be presented to the next Cabinet meeting, with a designated number of jurors invited to attend and present the juries' final recommendations, with the acceptance of proposed recommendations being subject to subsequent Cabinet debate and decision.

The reasons for making the decision below were set out in the report.

#### **Resolved:**

That the report be approved.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

<b>Those voting for the motion</b>	<b>Those voting against</b>	<b>Those abstaining</b>
Councillor M T Fitzpatrick		
Councillor A A Chaudhry		
Councillor D F Fletcher		
Councillor R Hawkins		
Councillor S Slater		
Councillor P Walker		

83/24

### **OPTION TO CREATE A COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING ENERGY MODEL FOR ESBC**

The report of the Head of Legal and Regulatory Services on the pathways for developing localised, sustainable energy systems for East Staffordshire was considered. The following appendices had been circulated with the report:

- Appendix 1 - The Current Energy Picture in East Staffs
- Appendix 2 - Current Energy Projects
- Appendix 3 - Potential Solar Sites

- Appendix 4 - Types of Renewable Technology (expanded text)
- Appendix 5 - Staffordshire Community Energy
- Appendix 6 - Community Energy Alternative Finance Options
- Appendix 7 - AMP Battery Box Briefing Paper

Cabinet noted that opportunities existed to leverage the Council's assets, regeneration sites and cross-sector relationships in deploying solutions ranging from tried and tested solar photovoltaics (PV) to exploring new technologies such as virtual power plants, and investigating the viability of introducing a district heat network.

Cabinet noted the existing ESBC energy projects; successful local energy projects and unsuccessful energy projects as detailed within the report.

Cabinet considered the following options identified for the Council to capitalise on the opportunities available:

- Option 1: Solar Community Energy Project;
- Option 2: Energy efficiency and Conservation First;
- Option 3: Battery Storage;
- Option 4: Virtual Power Plant.

The reasons for making the decision below were set out in the report.

**Resolved:**

- 1) That Option one – Solar Community Energy Project be endorsed;
- 2) That officers, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member, be authorised to invite proposals from relevant organisations with a view to producing an options appraisal, alongside any financial considerations and projections for implementing the model.

84/24

**AIR QUALITY STRATEGY ACITON PLAN**

The report of the Head of Legal and Regulatory Services on the reviews and updates of the Air Quality Strategy and Air Quality Action Plan was considered. The following appendices had been circulated with the report:

- Appendix 1: Air Quality Strategy 2024-29;
- Appendix 2: Air Quality Action Plan 2024-29

Cabinet noted that Air Quality had improved across all monitoring locations within East Staffordshire since declaring two air quality Management Areas (AQMA) in 2007 and following implementation of the actions detailed within the previous Air Quality Action Plans. However, breaches of the nitrogen dioxide objective remained in some locations within the AQMA's. The Air Quality Strategy and Air Quality Action Plan have therefore been revised to identify further measures to be implemented over the next five years.

The Air Quality Strategy objectives had been carried through to the Air Quality Action Plan, which had been revised and updated. The Action Plan would be reviewed every 5 years and progress on measures set out within the plan would be reported annually within the Borough Council's air quality status reports (ASR).

Cabinet noted that NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations in AQMA 2 had been below 36µgm<sup>3</sup> since 2019 and supported by 11 years of the Objective not being exceeded, meteorological variation over the corresponding time did not appear to have significantly affected the air quality to any negative degree. It was proposed that AQMA 2 be revoked. Feedback from Defra in October 2023 following the submission of the annual status report supported this recommendation and the rationale for revoking AQMA 2.

The reasons for making the decision below were set out in the report.

**Resolved:**

- 1) That the contents of the report be considered and that the updated Air Quality Strategy, Air Quality Action Plan and the revocation of AQMA 2 be approved;
- 2) That the Air Quality Action Plan be subject to a six week statutory consultation with feedback recorded within the Air Quality Action Plan in accordance with DEFRA guidance.

85/24

**UPDATE ON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND REVIEW OF INDOOR FACILITIES**

The report of the Head of Corporate and Environment Services on the review of the updated Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy (PPOSS0 and the Built facilities strategy was considered. The following appendices had been circulated with the report:

- Appendix 1a – East Staffordshire Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy (PPOSS) – Full Assessment;
- Appendix 1b - East Staffordshire Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy (PPOSS) – Strategy Report;
- Appendix 2a – East Staffordshire Indoor Strategy – Needs Assessment;
- Appendix 2b - East Staffordshire Indoor Strategy – Action Plan.

Cabinet noted that across the majority of sports, the outdoor and indoor facilities within East Staffordshire currently had the capacity to supply the needs and demands of the borough, although the provision of 3G football pitches were the exception. Should there be the predicted population growth through increased housing developments though; future capacity across most sports may not be able to meet the demand.

The reasons for making the decision below were set out in the report.

**Resolved:**

- 1) That the Open Spaces and Playing Pitches Supplementary Planning Document and Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document be updated as necessary;
- 2) That the reports at Appendix 1a, 1b and 2a, 2b be used to inform the annual review of the Local Plan and forward on at an appropriate time to the Development Plan Committee.

86/24

**QUARTER 3 REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUTTURN**

The report of the Chief Finance Officer on the forecast outturn position in relation to the Council's revenue budget, capital programme of expenditure, treasury and risk management activities was considered.

The following appendices had been circulated with the report:

- Appendix A: Quarter 3 Forecast variances against budget at outturn 2023/24;
- Appendix B: Investments at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023;
- Appendix C: Detailed Mainstream Capital Programme by Project Quarter 3;
- Appendix D: Detailed Towns Fund by Project Quarter 3;
- Appendix E: Corporate and Strategic Risks – Quarter 3 2023/24

Cabinet noted that the report presented a forecast underspend at quarter 3 of £0.421m and that the positive overall position was driven by one-off increases in investment income because of the increase in the Bank of England interest rate. However the additional investment income had disguised some significant spending pressures within individual services.

The reasons for making the decision below were set out in the report.

**Resolved:**

- 1) That the forecast financial position at quarter 3 for the 2023/24 financial year in relation to revenue and capital budgets and the recommended transfer of any final revenue underspend to general reserves at year end to provide further mitigation against the financial risks and uncertainties that the Council was currently facing be noted;
- 2) That the latest position in respect of the Council's investments and borrowing be noted;
- 3) That the changes and reprofiling detailed in Appendix C for the mainstream capital programme and the Towns Fund Capital programme detailed in Appendix D of the report be noted;
- 4) That the inclusion of the Health Inequalities Directors' Group Funding and related schemes in the revenue budget and Capital programme be noted and approved;
- 5) That the corporate and strategic risks, together with actions being taken to manage these, as set out in Appendix E of the report be noted.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

<b>Those voting for the motion</b>	<b>Those voting against</b>	<b>Those abstaining</b>
Councillor M T Fitzpatrick		
Councillor A A Chaudhry		
Councillor D F Fletcher		
Councillor R Hawkins		
Councillor S Slater		
Councillor P Walker		

**QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE REPORT 2023/24: CORPORATE PLAN, LEISURE CONTRACT AND TOWNS FUND PROGRAMME**

The report of the Head of Corporate and Environment Services on progress at the end of the third quarter of the 2023/24 financial year towards delivering East Staffordshire Borough Council's Corporate Plan; Leisure Services Contract Performance and the Towns Fund Programme was considered. Appendix 1: Spreadsheet of Quarter 3 updates for Corporate Plan targets had been circulated with the report.

Cabinet noted that of the 132 targets in total, 118 were green status; 3 were amber status; 5 were red status and 3 were not yet due to be reported and 2 had been deleted. Of the 126 'live' targets: 93.65% were green status; 2.38% were amber status and 3.97% were red status. Overall the Leisure Operator continued to be compliant with the services specification. At the end of Quarter 3 of the 2023-24 contract year a review of the Outcomes Scorecard's RAG ratings for the Key Performance Indicators showed statuses as follows; 77 Green, 1 Amber, and 0 Red. The report provided an update on the Towns Fund programme as of 2023-24 Q3, providing a summary of project progress, key risks, current financial profiles.

The reasons for making the decision below were set out in the report

**Resolved:**

That performance at the end of the third quarter of the 2023/24 financial year towards achieving the Council's Corporate Priorities and Leisure Services Contract and Towns Fund Programme be considered.

**EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**Resolved:**

That, in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the Meeting as it was likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that there would be disclosed exempt information as defined in the paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

<b>Those voting for the motion</b>	<b>Those voting against</b>	<b>Those abstaining</b>
Councillor M T Fitzpatrick		
Councillor A A Chaudhry		
Councillor D F Fletcher		
Councillor R Hawkins		
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Councillor P Walker		