

## **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 21<sup>st</sup> October 2024.

### **Present:**

Councillors A A Chaudhry, R Hawkins, S Slater, and L Walker

### **Officers Present:**

The Head of Environment and Corporate Services, the Chief Financial Officer, the Head of Development and Regeneration, the Head of Legal and Regulatory Services, the Corporate Services Manager, the ICT Manager, the Housing Options Manager, the Supported Housing Visiting Officer and the Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M T Fitzpatrick, D Fletcher and P Walker.

## **PART II**

### 136/24 **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

In the absence of the Chairman and the Vice Chairman, the Monitoring Officer opened the meeting seeking nominations for the Chair for this meeting only.

### **Resolved:**

That Councillor A A Chaudhry be appointed Chairman for the meeting.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

Those voting for the motion	Those voting against	Those abstaining
Councillor A Chaudhry Councillor R Hawkins Councillor S Slater Councillor L Walker		

### 137/24 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations at the commencement of the meeting

138/24

**MINUTES**

**Resolved:**

That the public minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024 be approved as a correct record.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

Those voting for the motion	Those voting against	Those abstaining
Councillor R Hawkins Councillor S Slater Councillor L Walker		Councillor A Chaudhry

139/24

**URGENT BUSINESS**

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

140/24

**FORWARD PLAN**

The Forward Plan for the period 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024 to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025 was submitted for information.

**NOTED.**

141/24

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SOCIAL CARE OMBUDSMAN ANNUAL REVIEW LETTER 2024**

The report of the Head of Corporate and Environment Services on the 2023/24 review by the Ombudsman providing a breakdown of complaints was considered. The following appendices had been circulated with the report.

- Appendix 1: Annual Review Letter
- Appendix 2: Complaints Received and Decided
- Appendix 4: proposed Part 4C Compliments, Comments and Complaint Procedures
- Appendix 5: Proposed Self-Assessment for inclusion in future Cabinet Complaint reports.

Cabinet noted the positive nature of the report and a decrease in complaints received from the previous financial year. The report summarised the Ombudsman’s new Complaint Handling Code for Local Authorities which would be considered in determining casework from April 2026.

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

**Resolved:**

- 1) That the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Annual Review Letter 2024 be received and noted;
- 2) That the changes to the Council's complaints procedure, as summarised at section 5.9 and appendix 5 of the report, be recommended to Council for approval and that these changes take effect immediately following approval of the updated Part 4C of the Constitution.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

Those voting for the motion	Those voting against	Those abstaining
Councillor A Chaudhry Councillor R Hawkins Councillor S Slater Councillor L Walker		

142/24

### **EAST STAFFORDSHIRE COMMUNITY LOTTERY – FIRST YEAR UPDATE.**

The report of the Head of Corporate and Environment Services on the performance on the Community Lottery established in 2023 that supported community and voluntary organisations within the borough was considered.

The following appendices have been circulated with the report.

- Appendix 1: 'Good cause' performance
- Appendix 2: Community Lottery marketing and communications plan.

Cabinet noted that in the first 12 months of operation the Community Lottery had raised a total of £14,086.80 through 23,478 ticket sales from 377 players. The funds raised were directly benefiting grassroots community groups and organisations in the Borough. 'Good causes' receive a monthly payment based on the funds raised through ticket sales for their good cause. During the first year of operation this Central Fund had raised £2,795.70 with £423.60 of that being raised through direct ticket sales.

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

#### **Resolved:**

- 1) That the report and performance of the first year of the East Staffordshire Community Lottery be noted;
- 2) That the continuation of the Community Lottery be confirmed;
- 3) That the implementation of the marketing plan be agreed;

- 4) That accrued funds raised through the Central Community Fund be agreed, in order to build a small grants programme which would provide the mechanism for distributing funds raised through this fund from lottery ticket sales, alongside utilising this funding to support the costs of the annual Gambling Commission licence fee and the Lotteries Council membership fee that the Council incurs.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

Those voting for the motion	Those voting against	Those abstaining
Councillor A Chaudhry Councillor R Hawkins Councillor S Slater Councillor L Walker		

143/24

**REVIEW OF SUPPORTED HOUSING FOR WORKING AGE ADULTS**

The report of the Head of Regeneration and Development on the review of the supported accommodation sector for working age adults following targeted activity to drive up standards was considered. The following appendices had been circulated with the report.

- Appendix 1: Subsidy Levels

Cabinet noted the success of the approach being taken to drive up standards within the supported accommodation sector.

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

**Resolved:**

- 1) That the approach that is being taken to driving up standards in the supported accommodation sector be endorsed;
- 2) That consideration for continued financial support of the Supported Housing Visiting Officer be discussed as part of the 2025/26 budget process.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

Those voting for the motion	Those voting against	Those abstaining
Councillor A Chaudhry Councillor R Hawkins Councillor S Slater Councillor L Walker		

144/24

**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:

Those voting for the motion	Those voting against	Those abstaining
Councillor A Chaudhry Councillor R Hawkins Councillor S Slater Councillor L Walker		

**Chairman**