

EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

SCRUTINY (VALUE FOR MONEY COUNCIL) COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting of the Scrutiny (Value for Money Council) Committee held in the Coltman VC Room, Town Hall on Wednesday 17th January 2024 at 6:30pm.

Present:

Councillors Z. Krupski (Chairman), A. Bailey, A. Clarke, S Gaskin; M. Holton, P Krupski; S. Sankey and M. Shrive

Officers Present

Mark Rizk (Head of Corporate and Environment Services); John Teasdale (Head of Legal and Regulatory Services); Rachel Liddle (Environmental Health Manager); James Abbott (Corporate and Commercial Manager), Dan Langford (Leisure Services Contract Officer), Sean Loughran (Programmes and Transformation Officer) Andrea Davies (Principal Democratic Services Officer).

Also Present:

Councillors G Allen; Mrs B Ashcroft; L Bullock; A A Chaudhry; M T Fitzpatrick; D F Fletcher; P Hudson; R Lock; C Smedley; P Walker and B G Peters.

28/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at the commencement of the meeting.

29/24 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business submitted to the meeting pursuant to Rule 12.

30/24 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No questions from members of the Public had been submitted in advance of the meeting.

31/24 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

The following question had been received from Councillor S Sankey:

“What resources in excess of the national support schemes have been made available for supporting communities through the cost of living crisis?”

The Chairman invited Councillor A A Chaudhry to provide the response.

32/24 PUBLIC MINUTES

Resolved:

That the Public Minutes of the Meeting held on the 11th September 2023 be approved by the Committee.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

Those voting for the motion Councillor	Those voting against Councillor	Those abstaining Councillor
Z Krupski		P Krupski
A Bailey		
A Clarke		
S Gaskin		
M Holton		
S Sankey		
M Shrive		

33/24 **CALL IN OF CABINET DECISION (PARKING REVIEW DECEMBER 2023)**

The report of the Head of Environment and Corporate Services on the decision made at the Cabinet meeting held on 18th December 2023 in respect of the Parking Review (agenda item 8). was considered. The following appendices had been circulated with the report:

- Appendix 1: Extract from the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 18th December 2023;
- Appendix 2: Member requests for call-in.

The Chairman invited Councillor Mrs B A Ashcroft to speak on the reasons for the call in of the decision.

The Cabinet Member (Environment and Climate Change) spoke on the decision and responded to questions raised. The Chairman invited the Cabinet Member (Finance and Treasury Management) to speak on the decision.

The Chairman invited Councillors P Hudson; G Allen and B G Peters to speak on the reasons for the call in of the decision.

An opportunity for questions followed.

The Committee debated the matter.

Resolved:

That the decision be allowed to stand.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

Those voting for the motion Councillor	Those voting against Councillor	Those abstaining Councillor
Z Krupski	A Clarke	
A Bailey	S Gaskin	
M Holton	S Sankey	
P Krupski		
M Shrive		

34/24 **SCRUTINY REVIEW PROGRAMME UPDATE: CAR PARKING CHARGES; GROUNDS MAINTENANCE**

The Committee received an update on the scrutiny reviews of Car Parking Charges and Grounds Maintenance from the Programmes and Transformation Officer.

It was proposed and duly seconded that:

“That the scrutiny review of Car Parking Charges be completed and then revisited in 12 months’ time“

Voting concerning the above decision:

Those voting for the motion Councillor	Those voting against Councillor	Those abstaining Councillor
Z Krupski	M Holton	
A Bailey		
A Clarke		
S Gaskin		
P Krupski		
S Sankey		
M Shrive		

It was noted that the Grounds Maintenance review group would meet in February/early March time.

NOTED.

35/24 **QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE REPORT 2023/24 CORPORATE PLAN**

The Report of the Head of Corporate and Environment Services, on the performance update on progress at the end of the second quarter of the 2023/24 financial year towards delivering East Staffordshire Borough Council's Corporate Plan, Leisure Services Contract Performance and Towns Fund Programme was considered. Appendix 2: Spreadsheet of Quarter 2 updates for Corporate Plan targets had been circulated with the report.

Councillors noted that out of 132 corporate targets, 114 were green, 2 were amber, 5 were red; 9 not yet due to be reported and 2 proposed for deletion; of the 121 live targets, 94.21% were green status, 1.65% were amber status and 4.13% red status; at the end of Quarter 2 of the Leisure Contract Performance, 78 performance indicators were green, 0 were amber and 0 red; project progress on the Towns Fund Programme including key risks, current financial profiles, and claims for Specialist College Offer Project: £3,494,864.26 (99.79% of grant award), with the following amounts being claimed but not yet paid: Cycle Network Project: £780,049.76 (41.1% of grant award). The total spend for the Council's own High Street project as of the end of Quarter Two was £6.1m from a total project budget of £20,259,335, representing 30% of the project budget.

An opportunity for questions followed.

NOTED.

36/24 **DISABLED FACILITIES GRANT – 6 MONTHLY UPDATE**

The report of the Head of Legal and Regulatory Services on the progress update on the Disabled Facilities Grant Service was considered. Appendix 1: DFG Satisfaction Questionnaire Results had been circulated with the report.

Councillors placed on record their thanks to the team for a comprehensive and positive report.

NOTED.

37/24 **PUBLIC EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD(S)**

Members considered the Public Executive Decision Records

An opportunity for questions followed.

Councillor A Clarke questioned as to why the removal of parking charges at Christmas was not taken into account as part of the review and report on Car Parking (with reference to EDR 067/23 removal of parking charges at Christmas).

NOTED

38/24 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting take place on 20th March 2024.

NOTED.

39/24 **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 Meeting during discussion of the following items as it would 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 indicated in brackets before each item number on the Agenda

APPENDIX 2 QUARTER 2 LEISURE SERVICES CONTRACT PERFORMANCE SUMMARY AND APPENDIX 3 QUARTER 2 TOWNS FUND PROGRAMME SUMMARY

LEISURE SERVICES CONTRACT PERFORMANCE

PRIVATE MINUTES

PRIVATE EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORDS

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

Those voting for the motion Councillor	Those voting against Councillor	Those abstaining Councillor
Z Krupski		
A Bailey		
A Clarke		
S Gaskin		
M Holton		
P Krupski		
S Sankey		
M Shrive		