

## **EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a Meeting of the Cabinet held in the Coltman VC Room, Town Hall, Burton upon Trent on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

### **Present:**

Councillors Mrs J Jones (Vice-Chairman in the Chair), Mrs P L Ackroyd, G Hall, Mrs J F Jessel, D C Leese and C V Whittaker.

### **Officers Present:**

The Chief Executive, Heads of Service (Sal Khan and Mark Rizk), the Monitoring Officer, the Environment Manager, the Open Spaces Manager, the Housing Options Manager and the Principal Democratic Services Officer.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor R G W Grosvenor.

## **PART II**

### 164/17 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

### 165/17 **MINUTES**

#### **Resolved:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017 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 Mrs P L Ackroyd		
Councillor G Hall		
Councillor Mrs J F Jessel		
Councillor Mrs J Jones		
Councillor D C Leese		
Councillor C V Whittaker		

### 166/17 **URGENT BUSINESS**

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

167/17 **FORWARD PLAN**

The Forward Plan for the period 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017 was submitted for information.

**NOTED.**

168/17 **REDUCING THE NUMBER OF EMPTY HOMES**

The report of the Head of Service (Sal Khan) on reducing the number of empty homes was considered. The following appendices had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting:

- Appendix 1: Table of S106 Commuted Sums for affordable Housing;
- Appendix 2: Uttoxeter
- Appendix 3: Rural
- Appendix 4: Rural
- Appendix 5: Greater Burton upon Trent
- Appendix 6: Inner Burton upon Trent
- Appendix 7: Central Burton upon Trent
- Appendix 8: Further Enforcement Options.

Councillors noted that a reduction in empty homes would provide the following benefits:

- Renovate dilapidated properties which could blight local communities;
- Make use of housing resources which were currently wasted;
- Reduce the need for ongoing enforcement activity and improve Council Tax collection.

Within those empty homes eligible to contribute to meeting the baseline for New Homes Bonus, there had been estimated to be 385 properties suitable for Council intervention. Not every property could be tackled simultaneously so a scoring matrix had been developed to target those empty homes with the highest visual impact based on a reasonable person's assessment, and where there had been likely to be the greatest need for such a property to return to general use. This process had resulted in a short list of 6 properties.

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

**Resolved:**

- 1) That contact be made with the owners of the 6 identified properties to offer tailored advice and assistance alongside a warning of the real prospect of formal action should the property not be reoccupied;
- 2) That If the owner was unresponsive or insufficient progress made, utilise the 'Right to Enter and Survey Land' under Sec 172 of the Housing Planning Act 2016 to acquire detailed information about the

condition of the property, in order to inform a future Cabinet report detailing options for the property.

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 Mrs P L Ackroyd		
Councillor G Hall		
Councillor Mrs J F Jessel		
Councillor Mrs J Jones		
Councillor D C Leese		
Councillor C V Whittaker		

169/17 **CONTACTLESS PARKING MACHINES**

The report of the Head of Service (Mark Rizk) on the options for the installation of contactless/cash ticket machines, specifically those included in the “Free After 3” scheme (Burton Place, Cooper’s Square and the Maltings, Uttoxeter) was considered.

Councillors noted that introducing contactless/card payments on Council managed “Free after 3” car parks would increase the range of payment options available to users and increase the quality of service by increasing the range of payment options. Furthermore, having a variety of payment options would reduce the amount of time that machines were out of action due to faults.

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

**Resolved:**

That the financing, procurement and installation of 16 contactless/cash machines at the three “Free after 3” car parks 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 Mrs P L Ackroyd		
Councillor G Hall		
Councillor Mrs J F Jessel		
Councillor Mrs J Jones		
Councillor D C Leese		
Councillor C V Whittaker		

170/17

**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.

