

## **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> September 2018.

### **Present:**

Councillors R G W Grosvenor (Chairman), Mrs P L Ackroyd, G Hall, Mrs J Jones, D C Leese and C V Whittaker.

### **Officers Present:**

The Chief Executive, the Heads of Service (Sal Khan and Mark Rizk), the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Accountant, the Communities and Open Spaces Manager, the Housing Options Manager, the Programmes and Transformation Team Leader and the Principal Democratic Services Officer.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mrs J F Jessel.

## **PART II**

### 250/18 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

### 251/18 **MINUTES**

#### **Resolved:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2018 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 R G W Grosvenor		
Councillor Mrs P L Ackroyd		
Councillor D C Leese		
Councillor G Hall		
Councillor Mrs J Jones		
Councillor C V Whittaker		

### 252/18 **URGENT BUSINESS**

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

253/18 **FORWARD PLAN**

The Forward Plan for the period 1<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 was submitted for information.

**NOTED.**

254/18 **QUARTER 1 REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUTFURN REPORT**

The report of the Head of Service (Sal Khan) on the forecast outturn position in relation to the Council's revenue budget, capital programme of expenditure, treasury management activities was considered. The following appendices had been circulated with the report:

- Appendix A: Forecast variances against budget at outturn 2018/19;
- Appendix B: Investments at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018;
- Appendix C: Corporate and Strategic Risks – Quarter 1 2018/19..

Councillors noted a forecast underspend of £134k for the financial year.

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

**Resolved:**

- (1) That the financial position at quarter one of 2018/19 in relation to revenue budgets be noted;
- (2) That the financial position at quarter one of 2018/19 in relation to capital budgets be noted;
- (3) That the latest position in respect of the Council's investments and borrowing be noted;
- (4) That the corporate and strategic risks, together with actions being taken to manage these 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 R G W Grosvenor		
Councillor Mrs P L Ackroyd		
Councillor G Hall		
Councillor Mrs J Jones		
Councillor D C Leese		
Councillor C V Whittaker		

**CORPORATE PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT QUARTER 1**

The report of the Head of Service (Sal Khan) on progress at the end of the first quarter of the 2018/19 financial year towards achieving the priorities set out in East Staffordshire Borough Council's Corporate Plan was considered.

The following appendices had been circulated with the report:

- Appendix 1: Contains comprehensive data on all Corporate Indicators
- Appendix 2: Contains comprehensive data on the benchmarking exercise co-ordinated by East Staffordshire Borough Council.

Councillors noted that out of the 122 targets, 75 were green status, 0 were amber, 3 were red and 44 were not yet due to be reported on and of the 78 live targets 96.15% were green status, 0% were amber status and 3.85% were red status.

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

**Resolved:**

That performance at the end of the first quarter of the 2018/19 financial year towards achieving the Council's Corporate Priorities 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 R G W Grosvenor		
Councillor Mrs P L Ackroyd		
Councillor G Hall		
Councillor Mrs J Jones		
Councillor D C Leese		
Councillor C V Whittaker		

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT OMBUDSMAN – ANNUAL LETTER 2018**

The report of the Head of Service (Sal Khan) on the Local Government Ombudsman annual review letter 2018 was considered. The following appendices had been circulated with the report:

- Appendix 1: Annual Review Letter 2018;
- Appendix 2: Note on interpretation of Local Authority Statistics (extract from [www.lgo.org.uk](http://www.lgo.org.uk));
- Appendix 3: Formal Complaints per Authority Breakdown

Councillors noted the positive nature of the Ombudsman's annual letter and that following further analysis involving removal of those complaints made as part of an organised effort, the vast majority of formal complaints

submitted to the Council were resolved at Stage 1 of the complaints procedure; less than 50% of complaints received at stage 2 moved on to stage 3 and that none of the complaints that eventually went to the Local Government Ombudsman had been upheld.

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

**Resolved:**

That the Annual Review letter 2018 from the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman be received and 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 R G W Grosvenor		
Councillor Mrs P L Ackroyd		
Councillor G Hall		
Councillor Mrs J Jones		
Councillor D C Leese		
Councillor C V Whittaker		

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**HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY RENEWAL**

The report of the Head of Service on the renewal of the Homelessness Strategy was considered. The following appendices had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting:

- Appendix 1: Draft Homelessness Strategy 2018 – 2023
- Appendix 2: Homelessness Review 2018
- Appendix 3: Equality and Health Impact Assessment

Councillors noted that the Council was required under the Homelessness Act 2002 to adopt a new Homelessness Strategy every 5 years and that the current strategy was now due for renewal. The draft strategy had been informed by the Homelessness Review and recommended that the Council maintained its commitment to delivering a high standard of homelessness service, for example by assessing the service according to the top nationally-recognised test.

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

**Resolved:**

That the draft Homelessness Strategy 2018 – 2023 be adopted.

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 R G W Grosvenor		
Councillor Mrs P L Ackroyd		
Councillor G Hall		
Councillor Mrs J Jones		
Councillor D C Leese		
Councillor C V Whittaker		

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## **PROPOSED STAFFORDSHIRE BUSINESS RATES PILOT**

The report of the Head of Service (Sal Khan) on the proposed Staffordshire business rates pilot was considered. The following appendices had been circulated with the report for the meeting:

- Appendix A Piloting Prospectus
- Appendix B Draft Memorandum of Understanding Scheme
- Appendix C Statement from the Chairman of the Scrutiny (Audit & Value for Money Council Services) Committee

Councillors noted that the invitation to pilot 75% Business Rates Retention in 2019/20 had been published on the 24 July 2018. The invitation applied to new pilot applications together with the ten pilots that were formed as part of the 2018/19 Local Government Finance Settlement and it contained two major changes in relation to Piloting Business Rates Retention in 2019/20, as compared to 2018/19, notably

- Piloting a 75% scheme, as opposed to a 100% scheme
- No Detriment not applying.

The potential “windfall” for Staffordshire for 2019/20, based upon the 75% prospectus, was estimated to be £13.265m, with the Council’s share estimated to be a minimum of £0.2m.

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

### **Resolved:**

- 1) That participation in the application to form a Staffordshire Pool for 2019/20 based upon piloting the 75% Business Rates Scheme be agreed;
- 2) That the GBSLEP Pool be notified of the Council’s intention to be part of a pilot application and if successful leave that pool;
- 3) That, in the event of the pilot application not being successful, the Council remain a member of the GBSLEP Pool;

- 4) That, subject to the above, the Leader, in consultation with the Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer, be authorised to submit a firm application to be pilot and if successful to agree the final pooling agreement and memorandum of understanding;
- 5) That for the reasons set out in the report relating to the timescale for responses, the decisions relating to the determination of the proposed Pilot/Pool Membership are subject to the urgency provisions as set out at Regulation 11 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012/2089 and at paragraph 7.12 of Part 4a of the Council's Constitution 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 R G W Grosvenor		
Councillor Mrs P L Ackroyd		
Councillor G Hall		
Councillor Mrs J Jones		
Councillor D C Leese		
Councillor C V Whittaker		

259/18 **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.

**Chairman**