

EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Cabinet held in the Coltman VC Room, Town Hall, Burton upon Trent on Monday 12th June 2017.

Present:

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

Officers Present:

The Heads of Service (Sal Khan and Mark Rizk), the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Accountant, the Corporate and Commercial Manager, the Enforcement Team Leader (Environmental Health), the SSC Manager (Revenues, Benefits and Customer Contacts) and the Principal Democratic Services Officer.

PART II

155/17 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor C V Whittaker declared an interest in respect of minute no 159/17 as he was a landlord in the borough, he left the meeting whilst this matter was discussed.

156/17 **MINUTES**

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 15th May 2017 be approved and signed as a correct record.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

Those voting for the motion	Those voting against	Those abstaining
Councillor Mrs P L Ackroyd		Councillor G Hall
Councillor R G W Grosvenor		
Councillor Mrs J F Jessel		
Councillor Mrs J Jones		
Councillor D C Leese		
Councillor C V Whittaker		

157/17 **URGENT BUSINESS**

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

158/17 **FORWARD PLAN**

The Forward Plan for the period 1st June 2017 to 30th September 2017 was submitted for information.

NOTED.

159/17 **DESIGNATION OF A SELECTIVE LICENSING PILOT**

At this juncture, Councillor C V Whittaker left the meeting whilst this matter was discussed.

The report of the Head of Service (Mark Rizk) on the designation of a Selective Licensing Pilot was considered. The following appendices had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting:

- Appendix 1: Selective Licensing Consultation Report
- Appendix 2: Selective Licensing Policy
- Appendix 3: Housing Enforcement Policy
- Appendix 4: Equality and Health Impact Assessment

Cabinet considered and noted the extensive efforts and findings of the consultation work which had been undertaken during late 2016 and early 2017. The responses showed a split in views with tenants largely in favour and landlords in opposition of the scheme. Councillors noted that in response to concerns raised in relation to the fee, a reduced fee of £300 for landlords who were a member of an accreditation scheme and who paid early to obtain a licence, compared to the original price of £500 for a standard licence, was proposed.

Councillors noted the aims and objectives of the scheme as indicated at sections 3.13 and 3.14 of the report.

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

Resolved:

- (1) That the selective licensing pilot scheme for the East Anglesey area be approved, as defined with a revised smaller fee arrangement following consultation as set out in the report;
- (2) That the selective licensing policy (appendix 2) and amended Housing Enforcement Policy (appendix 3) be approved and adopted.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

Those voting for the motion	Those voting against	Those abstaining
Councillor R G W Grosvenor		
Councillor Mrs P L Ackroyd		
Councillor G Hall		
Councillor Mrs J F Jessel		
Councillor Mrs J Jones		

Councillor D C Leese		
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160/17 **CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT 2016/17 YEAR END**

The report of the Head of Service (Sal Khan) on the update on progress at the end of the 2016/17 financial year towards achieving the priorities set out in East Staffordshire Borough Council's Corporate Plan and the objectives with an impact on equalities in Service Plans was considered.

The following appendices had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting:

- Appendix 1 – comprehensive data on all Corporate Indicators;
- Appendix 2 – comprehensive data on the progress against the objectives with an equalities impact on Service Plans;
- Appendix 3 – comprehensive data on the benchmarking exercise co-ordinated by East Staffordshire Borough Council.

Councillors noted that out of 109 targets that were due to be reported on: 95.41% were green, 3.67% were amber status and 0.92% were red status.

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

Resolved:

- 1) That performance at the end of the 2016/17 financial year towards achieving the Council's Corporate Priorities and objectives with an impact on equalities in Service Plans be considered;
- 2) That the targets for 2017/18 as listed in Section 5.6 of the report be approved. .

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

Those voting for the motion	Those voting against	Those abstaining
Councillor R G W Grosvenor		
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		

161/17 **REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUTTURN REPORT FINAL QUARTER 2016/17**

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

- Appendix A – Variances against Budget at outturn 2016/17;
- Appendix B – Summary of expenditure against programme 2016/17;
- Appendix C – Investments at 31st March 2017;
- Appendix D – Revenue Budget Carry Forward Requests 2016/17 outturn;
- Appendix E – Corporate and Strategic Risks.

Councillors noted an under-spend against the Councils revenue budget of £0.4m for the full financial year ending 31st March 2017.

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

Resolved:

- 1) That the position in relation to the revenue outturn for 2016/17 be noted;
- 2) That the carried forward requests in relation to the revenue outturn as set out in Appendix D of the report be approved;
- 3) That the revenue under-spend of £375k be set aside to support future initiatives to deliver ongoing savings to the revenue budget, as part of the development of the MTFS for 2018/19 onwards;
- 4) That the position in relation to the capital outturn for 2016/17 be noted;
- 5) That the budgets in relation to the Capital outturn for outstanding projects from 2016/17 totalling £0.289m be carried forward to 2017/18 as set out in paragraph 6.4 of the report, be approved;
- 6) That the position in relation to the Council's investments and borrowings as at 31st March 2017 as set out in Section 5 of the report be noted;
- 7) That the position in respect of the Council's general balances and earmarked reserves as at 31st March 2017 as set out in paragraph 2.7 of the report be noted;
- 8) That the draft outturn position in relation to the Business Rates retention Scheme for 2016/17 be noted and the subsequent be set aside to reserves.

- 9) That the significant risks facing the authority and associated mitigations or control measures in place be noted as outlined within Appendix E of the report.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

Those voting for the motion	Those voting against	Those abstaining
Councillor R G W Grosvenor		
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		

162/17

REVIEW OF COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME

The report of the Head of Service (Sal Khan) on the review of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme was considered. The following appendices had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting:

- Appendix 1: Current CTR scheme.
- Appendix 2: Current Vulnerable scheme.
- Appendix 3: Current EHIA.

Councillors noted that the current scheme had been in place for four years and that the amount of Council Tax collected showed that Council Tax was being paid.

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

Resolved:

- 1) That the Council continue with its current scheme as shown at paragraph 6.2 of the report;
- 2) That the proposed amendment to reduce the maximum period of backdated CTR award for working age claimants that do not come under the Council's Vulnerable Scheme, to 1 month to coincide with current Housing Benefit regulations, as shown in paragraphs 6.8 and 6.9, be approved.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

Those voting for the motion	Those voting against	Those abstaining
Councillor R G W Grosvenor		

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		

163/17 **ACCOMMODATION REVIEW**

The report of the Head of Service (Mark Rizk) on the accommodation review was considered. The following appendices had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting:

- Appendix 1: Detailed Cost Plan for Refurbishment of Town Hall
- Appendix 2: Proposed Plan Ground Floor
- Appendix 3: Proposed Plan First Floor
- Appendix 4: Proposed 3D Plan Ground Floor
- Appendix 5: Proposed 3D Plan First Floor
- Appendix 6: Example Finishes 1
- Appendix 7: Example Finishes 2
- Appendix 8: Cost/Saving Analysis

Councillors noted the following options for future accommodation, which had been presented to the Member Working Group, along with the pros and cons of each of the options:

- Option 1 - Remain at the Maltsters within a Smaller Footprint;
- Option 2 - Redeploy Staff across a number of existing Council buildings;
- Option 3 – Move to the Old Town Hall.

In April 2017, the Member Working Group agreed to look at a move to the Old Town Hall in further detail as “preferred option” and had appointed Pozzoni Architects to develop a specification and brief for refurbished accommodation at the Old Town Hall.

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

Resolved:

- 1) That Option 3 be adopted as the preferred Option for the accommodation of staff;
- 2) That one-off funds of £863,250 for the refurbishment of the old Town Hall and subsequent move (as detailed in Appendix 8 of the report) be approved;
- 3) That the budgeted amount of £96,625 for the Town Hall Phase 3 project be allocated to the new refurbishment project.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

Those voting for the motion	Those voting against	Those abstaining
Councillor R G W Grosvenor		
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		

Chairman