

# EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of East Staffordshire Borough Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Burton upon Trent on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

## Present:

Councillor P Hudson (Mayor) in the Chair

Councillors	Mrs P L Ackroyd	H Hall
	G A Allen	S A Hussain
	Mrs B Ashcroft	Mrs J Jones
	E W R Barker	Mrs J A Killoran
	L Beech	Ms A Legg
	Mrs B Brady	R Lock
	K J Builth	S McGarry
	A A Chaudhry	S McKiernan
	A Clarke	M Metcalfe
	R A Faulkner	B G Peters
	M T Fitzpatrick	S Sankey
	D F Fletcher	M Shrive
	S P Gaskin	C Sylvester (Deputy Mayor)
	D Goodfellow	L Walker
	Mrs V J Gould	P Walker
	R G W Grosvenor	C V Whittaker
	T Hadley	C D Wileman

## Officers Present:

The Chief Executive, the Heads of Service (Mark Rizk, Sal Khan and Thomas Deery), the Monitoring Officer, the Corporate and Commercial Manager, the Digital Communications Officer and the Principal Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Florence-Jukes, G Hall, G Lamb and Mrs B Toon.

### 293/23 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

### 294/23 **MINUTES**

The public minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Borough Council held on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

<b>THOSE VOTING FOR THE MOTION Councillor</b>	<b>THOSE VOTING AGAINST Councillor</b>	<b>THOSE ABSTAINING Councillor</b>
Mrs P L Ackroyd		T Hadley
G Allen		
Mrs B Ashcroft		
E W R Barker		
L Beech		
Mrs B Brady		
K J Builth		
A A Chaudhry		
A Clarke		
R A Faulkner		
M T Fitzpatrick		
D F Fletcher		
S P Gaskin		
D Goodfellow		
Mrs V J Gould		
R G W Grosvenor		
H Hall		
P Hudson		
S A Hussain		
Mrs J Jones		
Mrs J A Killoran		
Ms A J Legg		
R Lock		
S McGarry		
S McKiernan		
M Metcalfe		
B G Peters		
S Sankey		
M Shrive		
C Sylvester		
L Walker		
P Walker		
C V Whittaker		
C Wileman		

The public minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of the Borough Council held on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

<b>THOSE VOTING FOR THE MOTION Councillor</b>	<b>THOSE VOTING AGAINST Councillor</b>	<b>THOSE ABSTAINING Councillor</b>
Mrs P L Ackroyd		T Hadley
G Allen		
Mrs B Ashcroft		
E W R Barker		
L Beech		
Mrs B Brady		
K J Builth		
A A Chaudhry		
A Clarke		
R A Faulkner		
M T Fitzpatrick		
D F Fletcher		
S P Gaskin		
D Goodfellow		
Mrs V J Gould		
R G W Grosvenor		
H Hall		
P Hudson		
S A Hussain		
Mrs J Jones		
Mrs J A Killoran		
Ms A J Legg		
R Lock		
S McGarry		
S McKiernan		
M Metcalfe		
B G Peters		
S Sankey		
M Shrive		
C Sylvester		
L Walker		
P Walker		
C V Whittaker		
C Wileman		

## 295/23 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Leader of the Council advised he had three announcements to make which were as follows:

- At the Cabinet meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023 the motion submitted to the previous Council meeting by Councillor C Wileman on the subject of Parkrun was considered (minute number 286/23 of the minutes of the previous meeting refers). Cabinet agreed to engage with the Park Run organisers and the relevant Cabinet Member would begin discussions about a Park Run in Burton upon Trent;

- At the Cabinet meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023 the motion submitted to the previous Council meeting by Councillor G Allen on the subject of the Levelling Up Fund was considered (minute number 287/23 refers). Cabinet welcomed the third round of Levelling Up Fund as announced recently;
- At the Cabinet meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023 Councillors approved the recommendations contained within the report on the participation in the Local Authority Housing Fund. Council noted that this decision was an urgent decision subject to call in which could not reasonably be deferred due to the timescales set out by the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities.

296/23 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business for consideration at the meeting.

297/23 **INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL – FINAL REPORT ON MEMBER REMUNERATION – OUTCOME OF REVIEW**

The report of the Chief Executive on the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Members allowances was considered. Appendix 1: A review of Members Allowances for East Staffordshire Borough Council: the Eighth report by the Independent Remuneration Panel had been circulated with the report.

The Mayor invited Dr Declan Hall (Chairman of the Independent Remuneration Panel) to present the report.

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations as detailed in the executive summary (page 1 to 3) of appendix 1 of the report be approved as follows:

- (1) That the Basic Allowance and Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs) be paid as set out in the table below:

<b>ESBC IRP Recommendations Allowances Review</b>					
<b>Post</b>	<b>Basic Allowance</b>	<b>Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA)</b>	<b>No's Payable</b>	<b>Maximum Payable Per Member</b>	<b>Sub Totals</b>
All Members (37)	£5,242		37	£5,242	£193,954
Leader	£5,242	£19,489	1	£24,731	£19,489
Other Cabinet Members	£5,242	£8,858	5	£14,100	£44,290
Cabinet Support Member	£5,242	£4,429	1	£9,671	£4,429
Chair of Planning	£5,242	£7,441	1	£12,683	£7,441

Chair Licensing	£5,242	£6,495	1	£11,737	£6,495
Chairs of Scrutiny	£5,242	£3,897	3	£9,139	£11,691
Chair of Audit	£5,242	£3,897	1	£9,139	£3,897
Chair of Standards	£5,242	£1,557	1	£6,799	£1,557
Leader of Main Opposition Group	£5,242	£7,796	1	£13,038	£7,796
Leader of (Minority) Opposition Group (with at least 4 Members)	£5,242	£1,063	1	£6,305	£1,063
<b>Sub Total Basic Allowance</b>			<b>37</b>		<b>£193,954</b>
<b>Sub Total SRAs</b>			<b>16</b>		<b>£108,148</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>£302,102</b>

(2) That the Basic Allowance continue to be deemed to cover costs such as broadband, personal telephone and printing costs;

(3) That Members of the Planning and Licensing Committees not be paid an SRA;

(4) That the Chairs of Working Groups not be paid an SRA;

(5) That the Co-optees' Allowance remain at £233 per annum, subject to any applicable indexation going forward;

(6) That the current rates payable for the Subsistence Allowances and the terms and conditions by which they may be claimed be maintained;

(7) That the mileage allowance not be paid automatically in retrospect;

(8) That the current rates payable for the Travel Allowances and the terms and conditions by which they may be claimed be maintained, with the addition of following clarification:

Where a Member is claiming mileage allowance by travelling in a hybrid or electric vehicles then the standard HMRC rates are applicable;

(9) That the Dependent Carers Allowance (DCA) be maintained but amended to include the following clarifications:

That two different categories of care are recognised and payable as follows:

- Childcare - maximum hourly rate at National Living Wage (£10.42 from 1 April 2023);

- Elderly/disabled care – maximum hourly rate at the median hourly rate charged by Staffordshire County Council Social Services Department for a Home Care Assistant

That a claim can be made for an informal babysitter as long as the carer is not a Member of the claimant's family, but receipts are still required.

(10) That the following allowances be indexed:

- **Basic, Special Responsibility Allowances, Co-optees' Allowances:**
  - Indexed to the annual percentage salary increase for local government staff (at new spinal pay column 43)
- **DCA:**
  - Childcare - maximum hourly rate at National Living Wage (£10.42 from 1 April 2023)
  - Elderly/disabled care – maximum hourly rate at the median hourly rate charged by Staffordshire County Council Social Services Department for a Home Care Assistant
- **Travel Allowances:**
  - Mileage: indexed to the HMRC rates
  - Other Travel: actual costs subject to most cost effective provisions
- **Subsistence and Overnight Allowances (Outwith Borough Only):**
  - Subsistence & Overnight Allowances: indexed to the maximum rates payable under the Officers Subsistence Scheme.

(11) The refreshed authority for the indexation of allowances to commence from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 and to run for 4 years, the maximum period permitted under the legislation, at which point the Council is required to seek further advice from the Independent Remuneration Panel;

(12) That the current 2 tier system of withholding allowances, the 12<sup>th</sup> remuneration instalment withheld if 75% of meetings are not attended, and the 11<sup>th</sup> instalment withheld if 50% of meetings are not attended be maintained;

(13) That the current definition of meetings to count against the attendance thresholds be maintained;

(14) That where a Member appoints a substitute to attend a meeting on their behalf if they are unable to attend then the meeting attended by the substitute be counted against their attendance target and for the Member sending a substitute that the relevant meeting be discounted against their attendance target;

- (15) That where a Member is on parental leave then they are exempt from the attendance targets and their Basic Allowance, and SRA if applicable, then the Member on parental leave should continue to be paid in full while the Member filling in shall also be paid the applicable SRA on pro rata temporary basis subject to the 1 SRA only rule and where a Member is filling in for another Member on parental leave and the Member on parental leave is in receipt of an SRA then the meetings attended by the Member filling in are counted towards their attendance targets
- (16) That recommendations regarding the indexation of the Basic Allowance, SRAs, Co-optees' Allowance, Travel and Subsistence Allowances and the DCA be implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023;
- (17) All other recommendations to be implemented from the date of the Annual Council Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

<b>THOSE VOTING FOR THE MOTION Councillor</b>	<b>THOSE VOTING AGAINST Councillor</b>	<b>THOSE ABSTAINING Councillor</b>
Mrs P L Ackroyd	R G W Grosvenor	T Hadley
G Allen		S A Hussain
Mrs B Ashcroft		S McKiernan
E W R Barker		M Shrive
L Beech		L Walker
Mrs B Brady		P Walker
K J Builth		
A A Chaudhry		
A Clarke		
R A Faulkner		
M T Fitzpatrick		
D F Fletcher		
S P Gaskin		
D Goodfellow		
Mrs V J Gould		
H Hall		
P Hudson		
Mrs J Jones		
Mrs J A Killoran		
Ms A J Legg		
R Lock		
S McGarry		
M Metcalfe		
B G Peters		
S Sankey		
C Sylvester		
C V Whittaker		
C Wileman		

298/23 **MONITORING OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT**

The report of the Monitoring Officer on the annual review of arrangements for the discharge of the Monitoring officer's duties and proposals for amendments was considered and noted.

**NOTED.**

299/23 **CORPORATE PLAN REFRESH 2023/24**

**Resolved:**

That the Corporate Plan 2023/24 be approved.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

<b>THOSE VOTING FOR THE MOTION Councillor</b>	<b>THOSE VOTING AGAINST Councillor</b>	<b>THOSE ABSTAINING Councillor</b>
Mrs P L Ackroyd	R G W Grosvenor	K J Builth
G Allen	T Hadley	A A Chaudhry
Mrs B Ashcroft	S A Hussain	M T Fitzpatrick
E W R Barker	M Shrive	D F Fletcher
L Beech	P Walker	H Hall
Mrs B Brady		Ms A J Legg
A Clarke		S McKiernan
R A Faulkner		L Walker
S P Gaskin		C V Whittaker
D Goodfellow		
Mrs V J Gould		
P Hudson		
Mrs J Jones		
Mrs J A Killoran		
R Lock		
S McGarry		
M Metcalfe		
B G Peters		
S Sankey		
C Sylvester		
C Wileman		

300/23 **ANNUAL REPORTS OF CHAIRMEN OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**

The following Councillors submitted their Annual Scrutiny Committee reports to the Council:-

Scrutiny (Community Regeneration) Committee	Councillor S McGarry
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Scrutiny (Environment, Health and Well Being) Committee	Councillor Mrs P L Ackroyd
Scrutiny (Value for Money Council) Committee	Councillor R Lock

The reports were received and noted.

## **NOTED**

### 301/23 **NOTICE OF MOTION**

The motion submitted at item 10 on the agenda had been withdrawn by Councillor D Florence-Jukes due to her absence from the meeting, this was confirmed by the seconder of the motion, Councillor M Shrive.

### 302/23 **NOTICE OF MOTION**

Councillor R G W Grosvenor had put forward the following motion, in accordance with Rule 14, which had been duly seconded:

“Given the new ESBC a place marketing strategy identified a strand as the Green, Blue and Sporting pedigree of the area and where the river was specifically referenced as a Blue Jewel, the council is concerned to note the recent evidence of potential pollution of the river at a brook around the Branston area. This turned the river a muddy orange colour for approximately a four mile distance into and beyond Stapenhill gardens. As such the Council calls on the Environment Agency and other relevant organisations to closely monitor this situation and to urgently carry out testing on all wildlife who use the river to note any Impacts on life. The council would ask that those organisations then publish the results of this to assuage resident”

The Mayor invited Council to debate the motion under Rule 16 (Rules of debate).

An amendment was proposed by Councillor G Allen and seconded by Councillor R A Faulkner. The amendment read as follows

“This Council is concerned to note the recent evidence of pollution of the river Trent at a brook around the Branston area and it acknowledges the efforts undertaken by the Environment Agency to identify the source of the pollution and associated remedial action. The Council asks the Environment Agency to publish the results of any enforcement action so residents can be assured any environmental offence has been enforced and offers any assistance in resolving this matter further. “

The amendment was debated.

Upon a vote being taken the Mayor declared the amendment was carried.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

<b>THOSE VOTING FOR THE MOTION Councillor</b>	<b>THOSE VOTING AGAINST Councillor</b>	<b>THOSE ABSTAINING Councillor</b>
Mrs P L Ackroyd	K J Builth	E W R Barker
G Allen	A A Chaudhry	Mrs J Jones
Mrs B Ashcroft	M T Fitzpatrick	
L Beech	D F Fletcher	
Mrs B Brady	R G W Grosvenor	
A Clarke	T Hadley	
R A Faulkner	H Hall	
S P Gaskin	S A Hussain	
D Goodfellow	Ms A J Legg	
Mrs V J Gould	S McKiernan	
P Hudson	M Shrive	
Mrs J A Killoran	L Walker	
R Lock	P Walker	
S McGarry	C V Whittaker	
M Metcalfe		
B G Peters		
S Sankey		
C Sylvester		
C Wileman		

The amendment became the substantive motion.

The substantive motion was debated.

An amendment to the substantive motion was proposed by Councillor M T Fitzpatrick and seconded by Councillor D F Fletcher. The amendment read as follows

“The Council calls on the Environment Agency and other relevant organisations to closely monitor the situation and to urgently carry out testing on all wildlife who use the river to note any impacts on life who use the river to note any impacts on life. The Council would ask that those organisations then publish the results of this to assuage residents’ concerns“

The amendment was debated.

Upon a vote being taken the Mayor declared the amendment was defeated.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

<b>THOSE VOTING FOR THE MOTION Councillor</b>	<b>THOSE VOTING AGAINST Councillor</b>	<b>THOSE ABSTAINING Councillor</b>
K J Builth	Mrs P L Ackroyd	E W R Barker
A A Chaudhry	G Allen	C Wileman
M T Fitzpatrick	Mrs B Ashcroft	
D F Fletcher	L Beech	
R G W Grosvenor	Mrs B Brady	
T Hadley	A Clarke	
H Hall	R A Faulkner	
S A Hussain	S P Gaskin	
Ms A J Legg	D Goodfellow	
S McKiernan	Mrs V J Gould	
M Shrive	P Hudson	
L Walker	Mrs J Jones	
P Walker	Mrs J A Killoran	
C V Whittaker	R Lock	
	S McGarry	
	M Metcalfe	
	B G Peters	
	S Sankey	
	C Sylvester	

At this juncture the Mayor informed Council there would be a brief adjournment.

A further amendment was proposed by Councillor G Allen and seconded by Councillor M T Fitzpatrick. The amendment read as follows

“The Council calls on the Environment Agency and other relevant organisations to closely monitor this situation and to urgently carry out testing on all wildlife who use the river to note any impacts on life. The Council asks the Environment Agency to publish the results of any enforcement action so residents can be assured any environmental offence has been enforced and offers any assistance in resolving this matter further.”

The amendment was debated.

Upon a vote being taken the Mayor declared the amendment was carried.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

<b>THOSE VOTING FOR THE MOTION Councillor</b>	<b>THOSE VOTING AGAINST Councillor</b>	<b>THOSE ABSTAINING Councillor</b>
Mrs P L Ackroyd		
G Allen		
Mrs B Ashcroft		
E W R Barker		
L Beech		
Mrs B Brady		
K J Builth		
A A Chaudhry		
A Clarke		
R A Faulkner		
M T Fitzpatrick		
D F Fletcher		
S P Gaskin		
D Goodfellow		
Mrs V J Gould		
R G W Grosvenor		
T Hadley		
H Hall		
P Hudson		
S A Hussain		
Mrs J Jones		
Mrs J A Killoran		
Ms A J Legg		
R Lock		
S McGarry		
S McKiernan		
M Metcalfe		
B G Peters		
S Sankey		
M Shrive		
C Sylvester		
L Walker		
P Walker		
C V Whittaker		
C Wileman		

The amendment therefore became the substantive motion.

Upon a vote being taken the Mayor declared the substantive motion was carried.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

<b>THOSE VOTING FOR THE MOTION Councillor</b>	<b>THOSE VOTING AGAINST Councillor</b>	<b>THOSE ABSTAINING Councillor</b>
Mrs P L Ackroyd		
G Allen		
Mrs B Ashcroft		
E W R Barker		
L Beech		
Mrs B Brady		
K J Builth		
A A Chaudhry		
A Clarke		
R A Faulkner		
M T Fitzpatrick		
D F Fletcher		
S P Gaskin		
D Goodfellow		
Mrs V J Gould		
R G W Grosvenor		
T Hadley		
H Hall		
P Hudson		
S A Hussain		
Mrs J Jones		
Mrs J A Killoran		
Ms A J Legg		
R Lock		
S McGarry		
S McKiernan		
M Metcalfe		
B G Peters		
S Sankey		
M Shrive		
C Sylvester		
L Walker		
P Walker		
C V Whittaker		
C Wileman		

**303/23 QUESTIONS**

One question had been received prior to the meeting pursuant to Rule 18, in addition to an urgent question. A copy of the questions and responses are appended to these minutes.

**304/23 ELECTION OF MAYOR 2023/24**

The Council received one nomination for the appointment of Mayor 2023/24.

It was proposed and duly seconded that

“Councillor C Sylvester be nominated for appointment as Mayor at the annual meeting of the Council on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023”.

Upon a vote being taken the proposal was carried.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows

<b>THOSE VOTING FOR THE MOTION Councillor</b>	<b>THOSE VOTING AGAINST Councillor</b>	<b>THOSE ABSTAINING Councillor</b>
Mrs P L Ackroyd	R G W Grosvenor	K J Builth
G Allen		A A Chaudhry
Mrs B Ashcroft		M T Fitzpatrick
E W R Barker		D F Fletcher
L Beech		T Hadley
Mrs B Brady		S A Hussain
A Clarke		Ms A J Legg
R A Faulkner		M Shrive
S P Gaskin		L Walker
D Goodfellow		P Walker
Mrs V J Gould		C V Whittaker
H Hall		
P Hudson		
Mrs J Jones		
Mrs J A Killoran		
R Lock		
S McGarry		
S McKiernan		
M Metcalfe		
B G Peters		
S Sankey		
C Sylvester		
C Wileman		

### **305/23 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR 2023/24**

The Council received one nomination for the appointment of Deputy Mayor 2023/24.

It was proposed and duly seconded that  
 “Councillor Mrs P L Ackroyd be nominated for appointment as Deputy Mayor at the annual meeting of the Council on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023”.

Upon a vote being taken the proposal was carried.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows

<b>THOSE VOTING FOR THE MOTION Councillor</b>	<b>THOSE VOTING AGAINST Councillor</b>	<b>THOSE ABSTAINING Councillor</b>
Mrs P L Ackroyd	R G W Grosvenor	K J Builth
G Allen		A A Chaudhry
Mrs B Ashcroft		M T Fitzpatrick
E W R Barker		D F Fletcher
L Beech		T Hadley
Mrs B Brady		S A Hussain
A Clarke		Ms A J Legg
R A Faulkner		S McKiernan
S P Gaskin		M Shrive
D Goodfellow		L Walker
Mrs V J Gould		P Walker
H Hall		C V Whittaker
P Hudson		
Mrs J Jones		
Mrs J A Killoran		
R Lock		
S McGarry		
M Metcalfe		
B G Peters		
S Sankey		
C Sylvester		
C Wileman		

**Mayor**

## **EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2023**

### **QUESTION**

#### **Question received from Councillor R G W Grosvenor**

At the Council meeting held on 27th June 2022 motion 248/22 was debated and amended and the attached substantive motion was passed  
Could the cabinet member responsible for communities and housing advise when did they raise the issue with regards to the ambulance service as an urgent and important item with the county council health and care overview scrutiny committee in the last 9 months , what response they received and why it has not yet been reported back to this council in accordance with the motion that was passed.

#### **Response by the Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing**

I contacted the Chair of the County Councils Health Scrutiny Committee the day after our Full Council meeting. His response is detailed below -

The responsibility for scrutiny of the West Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS) lies with the commissioner of their services in the West Midlands as their services cover 14 different Local Authority areas, which is outside of Staffordshire.

Staffordshire's overall health system performance, which includes that of WMAS is a matter for Staffordshire's Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee and has been scrutinised a number of times including in October 2022 and December 2021. The minutes of the two meetings are available on line for all to see and the recording of the October 2022 meeting is also available for all to see.

It is clear that the performance of the overall system has been poor over that time, but it would be wrong to single out any part of the system and look at their performance in isolation to the rest of the system – for example delays to patient handover at Staffordshire's acute hospitals is not necessarily a performance issue from the ambulance service and with any delay there is a risk of knock-on impacts. Members of the Staffordshire Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee determine the forward agenda for items that concern them or their local residents and a risk based methodology is used to prioritise these areas so that there is sufficient committee time to review the issues involved as they are often complex and multifaceted issues.



**EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2023**

**URGENT QUESTION**

**Question received from Councillor P Walker**

Following the recent Press release in the Uttoxeter Echo, regarding the Leader confirming the sale agreement of the co-op building to ESBC. If this is correct, can he confirm the cost of the purchase and doesn't he think that if this is the case, that the decision on the price should have been presented to the full council before this went ahead

**Response by the Leader of the Council**

Last week, I issued a political statement to the Uttoxeter Echo regarding the progress of the Uttoxeter Masterplan since it was approved in December 2020. It is not unusual for an elected representative to issue a political statement to the local press, something opposition members will be all too familiar with.

In this statement, I gave an update on the four priority sites identified in the Masterplan, which included reference to the regeneration of the Maltings precinct and positive progress with the two landowners. This stated that the Council had reached an agreement with the Co-op for the building, not that the purchase had completed. I am delighted to further confirm that the terms have today been approved by the Co-op executive team and are now just subject to Co-op Board approval and Council approval.

The purchase of the Maltings precinct is firmly embedded in the 2022/23 Corporate Plan and a report recommending the approval of this transaction will be brought to the next appropriate Council meeting as per the usual practice, which is in 2023/24. It is disappointing that those complaining about the Council progressing the purchase with CPO powers now seem to be the ones complaining about the Council purchasing it by agreement.