

EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Cabinet held in the Coltman VC Room at the Town Hall, Burton upon Trent on Monday 22nd July 2024.

Present:

Councillors M T Fitzpatrick (Chairman), D F Fletcher, R Hawkins, S Slater and P Walker.

Officers Present:

The Chief Executive, the Head of Environment and Corporate Services, the Head of Legal and Regulatory Services and Monitoring Officer, the Head of Regeneration and Development, the Interim Chief Accountant, the Corporate and Communications Team Leader, the Democratic Services Officer and the Principal Democratic Services Officer.

Also Present:

Councillor Z Krupski (Chairman of the Scrutiny (Value for Money Council) Committee)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A A Chaudhry and L Walker.

PART II

109/24 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

110/24 **MINUTES**

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 17th June 2024 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 M T Fitzpatrick		Councillor P Walker
Councillor D F Fletcher		
Councillor R Hawkins		
Councillor S Slater		

112/24 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business prior to the commencement of the meeting.

113/24 **FORWARD PLAN**

The Forward Plan from 1st July 2024 to 31st October 2024 was submitted for information.

NOTED.

114/24

SCRUTINY REVIEW OF CAR PARKING CHARGES 2023

The report of the Scrutiny (Value for Money Council Services) Committee on the review of Car Parking Charges 2023 was considered. The following appendices had been circulated with the report:

- Appendix 1: ESBC Car Parks;
- Appendix 2: Community Civil Enforcement Officer Duties;
- Appendix 3: ESBC Car Parking Fines Issued;
- Appendix 4: Competitor Car Parks & Capacities with Tariff Comparison.

Councillor Z Krupski (Chairman of the Scrutiny (Value for Money Council) Committee) presented the report.

Resolved:

- 1) That in respect of recommendation 6.2: Cabinet note the recommendation and restate that the Corporate Plan target PES02 “Review of Car Parking Enforcement” would address this recommendation. The review would take place during the budget setting process for 2025/26, beginning in October 2024;
- 2) That in respect of recommendation 6.3: Cabinet note the recommendation and restate that the Corporate Plan target PES01 “Conclude the feasibility of introducing ANPR into ESBC Car Parks” is scheduled to be considered by Cabinet in October 2024;
- 3) That in respect of recommendation 6.4: Cabinet note the recommendation and clarify that financial performance for the year would be undertaken during the budget setting process, starting in October 2024;
- 4) That in respect of recommendations 6.5 and 6.6: Cabinet recognise that the Council’s fees and charges policy states car parking charges be reviewed in the first year of each four yearly Administrative cycle; Parking Charges were most recently approved by Cabinet in December 2023; Cabinet would therefore consider the variation of parking charges as described in recommendation 6.5 and 6.6 at the appropriate time;
- 5) That in respect of recommendation 6.7: Cabinet note the recommendation and propose that the Council consider adopting an environmentally sustainable approach to the refurbishment or construction of car park infrastructure at the appropriate time as is being undertaken in relation to the Uttoxeter Maltings work, including EV Charging and beyond;
- 6) That in respect of recommendation 6.8: Cabinet note that where there was an IT failure, there were currently other payment options available to customers to allow them to pay for parking. In terms of customer data provided to any IT Parking payment App then the relevant App provider would be the Data Owner in those circumstances and they would have their own processes in place to ensure security of such data and appropriate protocols relating to IT failure;

- 7) That in respect of recommendation 6.9: Cabinet note the recommendation and advise that officers from the relevant team(s) would review this information to support the Council in the delivery of its Climate Change Action Plan. Members would be informed through the regular briefing of the responsible Cabinet Member and Member Briefing updates when ready.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

Those voting for the motion	Those voting against	Those abstaining
Councillor M T Fitzpatrick		
Councillor D F Fletcher		
Councillor R Hawkins		
Councillor S Slater		
Councillor P Walker		

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SCRUTINY REVIEW OF GROUNDS MAINTENANCE 2023

The report of the Scrutiny (Value for Money Council Services) Committee on the review of Grounds Maintenance 2023 was considered. The following appendices had been circulated with the report:

- Appendix 1: VFM Scrutiny - GM Appendix 1 - Rectifications & Defaults;
- Appendix 2: VFM Scrutiny - GM Appendix 2 - Contract Costs

Councillor Z Krupski (Chairman of the Scrutiny (Value for Money Council) Committee) presented the report.

Resolved:

- 1) That in respect of recommendation 6.1: Cabinet note that the current contract with ID Verde had provision for addressing performance levels that fall below the specified contractual requirements. These would continue through the remainder of the contract to be overseen by the Communities and Open Spaces Manager;
- 2) That in respect of recommendation 6.2: Cabinet acknowledge the recommendation but note that there would always be a balance to be had between contractual conditions that were overly onerous and the contract price that could be expected from companies/contractors bidding for contract works. Where appropriate the responsible Cabinet member would always be involved in decisions around broad contractual issues of this nature;
- 3) That in respect of recommendation 6.3: Cabinet note the recommendation at 6.3 and restate that Corporate Plan target PES03, to “Agree the way forward for insourcing Council services”, would be considered by Cabinet this year;
- 4) That in respect of recommendation 6.4: Cabinet note the recommendation and direct that the Councillors involved in the review meetings with ID Verde liaise with the Communities and Open Spaces Manager to ensure those elements identified from a) to e) were included in future meeting. Noting that these topics had been covered in the past.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

Those voting for the motion	Those voting against	Those abstaining
Councillor M T Fitzpatrick		
Councillor D F Fletcher		
Councillor R Hawkins		
Councillor S Slater		
Councillor P Walker		

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CASHLESS CAR PARKING CONSULTATION

The report of the Head of Environment and Corporate Services on the results of a car parking consultation into customer payment methods and future options for service provision was considered. The following appendices had been circulated with the report:

- Appendix A: Car Park Survey;
- Appendix B: Car Park Survey results;
- Appendix C: Payment options outcomes.

Cabinet noted that the Survey results indicated that cash still remained a prominent form of payment on ESBC car parks. However, this was not a consistent picture with wide variations experienced both via location and in age groups. For example, the two leisure centre car parks (Meadowside and Uttoxeter Leisure Centres) had over 50% of users now using app-based payments. Based on a combination of qualitative and quantitative data, six options for future payment options had been presented to Cabinet as follows:

- Option 1: Do nothing;
- Option 2: Replace all 30 machines with new cash and card; Continue with app-based payments;
- Option 3: App-based payment only;
- Option 4: Replace all machines (28 machines) with cash and card. Due to low sales figures, leave the existing machines in situ at Bond Street car park and review;
- Option 5: Replace machines on Coopers Square (7), Burton Place (5) and Maltings (4) with cash and card machines. Continue with app-based payments for all three; All other machines switch to card and app (12); Due to low sales figures, leave the existing machines in situ at Bond Street car park and review;
- Option 6: Replace machines on Coopers Square (7), Burton Place (5) and Maltings (4) with cash and card machines; Fleet Street (2) and both leisure centres (4) to switch to app-based payment only. All remaining car parks card and app only (6); Due to low sales figures, leave the existing machines in situ at Bond Street car park and review.

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

Resolved:

- 1) That the results of the survey be noted;
- 2) That Option 4 be approved and capital funds, from available Capital receipts balances, be made available to procure new parking machines in 24/25;

- 3) That the Net impact on car parks budget overall (i.e. increased cost for machines less any additional income generated with reduced downtime) be monitored once the new machines were in place, prior to finalising the level of ongoing revenue investment to the service that was required, and that a final investment level be agreed as part of the MTFS refresh for 2025/26.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

Those voting for the motion	Those voting against	Those abstaining
Councillor M T Fitzpatrick		
Councillor D F Fletcher		
Councillor R Hawkins		
Councillor S Slater		
Councillor P Walker		

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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.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

Those voting for the motion	Those voting against	Those abstaining
Councillor M T Fitzpatrick		
Councillor D F Fletcher		
Councillor R Hawkins		
Councillor S Slater		
Councillor P Walker		

