

EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Cabinet held in the Main Hall at the Town Hall, Burton upon Trent on Monday 14th June 2021.

Present:

Councillors G Allen (Vice Chairman in the Chair), Mrs B Ashcroft, R A Faulkner and B G Peters.

Officers Present:

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

Also Present:

Cabinet Support Members Councillor M Metcalfe.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D Goodfellow and Cabinet Support Member Councillor S McGarry.

PART II

171/21 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

172/21 **MINUTES**

Resolved:

That the public minutes of the meeting held on 10th May 2021 be approved as a correct record.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

Those voting for the motion Councillor	Those voting against	Those abstaining
G Allen		
Mrs B Ashcroft		
R A Faulkner		
B G Peters		

173/21 **URGENT BUSINESS**

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

174/21 **FORWARD PLAN**

The Forward Plan for the period 1st June to 30th September 2021 was submitted for information.

NOTED.

175/21 **REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUTTURN REPORT FINAL OUTTURN 2020/21**

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

- Appendix A – Variances against Budget at Outturn 2020/21;
- Appendix B - Summary of Capital Expenditure against Programme 2020/21;
- Appendix C – Investments at 31st March 2021;
- Appendix D – Revenue budget carry forward requests 2021/21 outturn;
- Appendix E – Corporate Risks.

Cabinet noted that there were net pressures against the original budget of £2.4m for the full financial year against a net budget of £11.024m and that the vast majority of pressures had arisen due to the Covid-19 Pandemic and related lockdowns. The Government had provided a number of funding packages to Local Authorities to support them with the Covid-19 related financial pressures and once this actual and estimated additional funding of £2.7m was taken into consideration, there was a small net surplus of £0.3m.

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

Resolved:

- 1) That in relation to the revenue outturn, the revenue outturn position for 2020/21 be noted;
- 2) That in relation to the revenue outturn, the carry forward requests shown in Appendix D (£0.190m) of the report be approved;
- 3) That in relation to the revenue outturn, the remaining sum (£0.275m) be transferred to reserves in support of the ongoing Covid related pressure.
- 4) That in relation to the Capital outturn, the capital outturn position for 2020/21 be noted;

- 5) That in relation to the capital outturn, the budgets for outstanding projects from 2020/21 totaling £3.994m to be carried forward to 2021/22 (Para. 6.2 of the report refers) be approved;
- 6) That the position in relation to the council's investments and borrowings as at 31st March 2021 (Section 5 of the report refers) be noted;
- 7) That the position in respect of the Council's general balances and earmarked reserves as at 31st March 2021 (Para.2.6 of the report refers) be noted;
- 8) That the draft outturn position in relation to the Business Rates Retention Scheme for 2020/21, and the subsequent set aside to reserves (Section 7 of the report refers) be noted.
- 9) That the significant risks facing the authority and associated mitigations or control measures in place, as outlined within Appendix E of the report be noted.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

Those voting for the motion Councillor	Those voting against	Those abstaining
G Allen		
Mrs B Ashcroft		
R A Faulkner		
B G Peters		

176/21

CORPORATE PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT 2020/21 END OF YEAR

The report of the Head of Service (Sal Khan) on the update on progress at the end of the 2020/21 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 – Comprehensive Data on all Corporate Indicators;
- Appendix 2 – Benchmarking.

Cabinet noted that there were 109 indicators in total and that out of the 109 targets, 83 were green, 4 were amber, 7 were red and 13 had been deferred and that 2 had been deleted. Of the 94 live targets, 88.3% were green status; 4.26% were amber status and 7.45% were red status.

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

It was proposed and duly seconded that:

- 1) Performance at the end of the 2020/21 financial year towards achieving the Council's Corporate Priorities be considered;

- 2) The targets for 2021/22, as listed at section 5.9 of the report be approved;
- 3) Targets CR07, CR21, EHW23 and VFM34a be amended from amber to red, to reflect the end of year position.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

Those voting for the motion Councillor	Those voting against	Those abstaining
G Allen		
Mrs B Ashcroft		
R A Faulkner		
B G Peters		

177/21

PROJECT TO MAXIMISE VALUE FOR MONEY AND IMPROVE PATHWAYS OUT OF SUPPORTED HOUSING

The report of the Head of Service (Sla Khan) on an approach designed to maximise value for money and improve pathways out of supported housing was considered. Appendix 1: VFM from Supported Accommodation Project Plan had been circulated with the report.

Cabinet noted there was evidence of significant growth in the amount of shared supported accommodation, resulting in a relatively high number of complaints and an increase in lost Housing Benefit subsidy and that the Council was incurring a significant and growing cost for this provision. The proposed plan was designed to ensure that the sector provided value for money and that residents did not occupy this accommodation for any longer than would be beneficial in meeting their needs.

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

Resolved:

That the project plan at Appendix 1 of the report be implemented.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

Those voting for the motion	Those voting against	Those abstaining
G Allen		
Mrs B Ashcroft		
R A Faulkner		
B G Peters		

178/21

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.