

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 15th November 2021.

Present:

Councillors D Goodfellow (Chairman), G Allen, 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 Deputy Monitoring Officer, the Corporate and Commercial Manager, the Social Regeneration Officer, the Environmental Health Manager, the Housing Options Manager and the Principal Democratic Services Officer.

Also Present:

Cabinet Support Members Councillors M Metcalfe and S Sankey.

PART II

215/21 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor D Goodfellow declared an ordinary interest at agenda item 07 (minute number 221/21 - Fourth Annual Selective Licensing Scheme Evaluation) as a close family member owned a property within the selective licensing area. He left the meeting whilst this matter was discussed and did not vote thereon.

216/21 **MINUTES**

Resolved:

That the public minutes of the meeting held on 18th October 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 | | |
| D Goodfellow | | |
| B G Peters | | |

217/21 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business for consideration at the meeting.

218/21 **FORWARD PLAN**

The Forward Plan for the period 1st November to 28th February 2022 was submitted for information.

NOTED.

219/21 **COVID-19 EMERGENCY PLANNING RECOVERY UPDATE (NOVEMBER 2021)**

The report of the Head of Service (Sal Khan) on the review of the local framework of activities that contributed to the Borough's recovery from the impacts arising from the Covid-19 pandemic was considered.

Cabinet noted that the recovery aspects had been summarised in the report by considering the themes of Local Economy and Business; Infrastructure and the Environment; Physical and Psychological Health of the Community and Embedding new Best Practice and Supporting Communities to Adapt to New Norms of Behaviour.

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

Resolved:

- 1) That the update detailed within the report be noted;
- 2) That the Cabinet continue to receive bi-monthly recovery update reports throughout 2021/22, and to receive quarterly recovery update reports throughout 2022/23.

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 | | |
| D Goodfellow | | |
| B G Peters | | |

220/21 **REVIEW OF THE TOURISM PLAN**

The report of the Head of Service (Mark Rizk) on the progress with the Tourism plan during the first 12 months was considered. The following appendices had been circulated with the report:

- Appendix 1: Tourism Action Plan (updated);
- Appendix 2: Tourism Audit (working document).

Cabinet noted progress made in respect of each the following objectives:

- Objective 1: Tourism Audit;
- Objective 2: Partnership Working;
- Objective 3: Marcomms:

and that the plan and objectives would continue to underpin the work, creating a framework to support and promote tourism in the Borough.

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

Resolved:

- 1) That the contents of the report be noted;
- 2) That officers continue to work on identifying options for a business showcase event through engagement with local tourism businesses over the next 6 months.

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 | | |
| D Goodfellow | | |
| B G Peters | | |

221/21

FOURTH ANNUAL SELECTIVE LICENSING SCHEME EVALUATION

At this juncture Councillor D Goodfellow left the meeting and Councillor G Allen took the chair for the duration of this item only.

The report of the Head of Service (Mark Rizk) on the fourth year of operations of the Selective Licensing Scheme Pilot and the annual review of the Selective Licensing Fees was considered. Appendix 1: Selective Licensing Consultation Response had been circulated with the report.

Cabinet noted that the third and fourth years of the scheme aimed to focus on compliance inspections in properties that had improvements identified; however this had been significantly impacted by Covid-19. As an alternative, remote compliance checks had been undertaken which had identified a number of improvements made to properties. Any properties that failed to provide evidence of improvements would be inspected and enforcement action would be taken where required.

The current licensing designation would end on 11 September 2022, meaning all licences granted would end on this date, irrespective of the date on the licence. To consider whether the scheme should be continued it was proposed that a consultation should take place in January 2022. This would

provide sufficient time for a 10 week consultation to be completed and considered, followed by the 3 month designation process prior to the current designation ending. This would provide a seamless transition of the licensing scheme, enabling those licences with an end date after the 11 September 2022 to continue into the re-designated (extended) licensing scheme.

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

Resolved:

- 1) That the ongoing designation of the selective licensing pilot scheme be approved until 11 September 2022 and that an annual review be undertaken in 2022 in accordance with the Selective Licensing Policy;
- 2) That a consultation to consider re-designating (extending) the current selective licensing area in the eastern area of Anglesey for a further 5 year period be approved;
- 3) That a meeting for landlords be arranged and hosted, to discuss the future selective licensing designation with Leaders of the Council to be held during the 10 week consultation commencing in January 2022.

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 | | |

222/21

PROGRESS REPORT ON REDUCING THE NUMBER OF EMPTY HOMES IN THE BOROUGH

The report of the Head of Service (Sal Khan) on the review of the performance of the Council’s Empty Homes Service over the last 9 months and an assessment of the 44 empty homes where the escalating approach was nearing its end was considered.

Cabinet noted that since the last report in January 2021, the service had responded to a total of 324 empty homes, of these, 105 homes had been successfully brought back into use and a further 2 did not require intervention. Of the remaining 217 empty homes, 44 were at the late stages of intervention, meaning that the escalating approach was nearing its end. Cabinet noted the detailed analysis of these empty homes, provided at section 6 of the report and that it was noticeable how many of the properties were making tangible progress towards being occupied, resulting in only 10 of the 44 requiring more detailed consideration.

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

Resolved:

That progress that is being made in reducing the number of long term empty homes be endorsed, that the staff be thanked and the contractor be congratulated.

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 | | |
| D Goodfellow | | |
| B G Peters | | |

Chairman