

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 14th March 2022.

Present:

Councillors G Allen (Vice Chairman), Mrs B Ashcroft, R A Faulkner, B G Peters and S Sankey.

Officers Present:

The Chief Executive, the Heads of Service (Sal Khan and Mark Rizk), the Monitoring Officer, the Enterprise Manager, the Programmes and Transformation Team Leader, and the Principal Democratic Services Officer.

Also Present:

Cabinet Support Member Councillor M Metcalfe;
Scrutiny (Community Regeneration, Environment and Health and Well Being)
Committee Chairman, Councillor C Wileman and Committee member, Councillor A Clarke.

PART II

251/22 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations at the commencement of the meeting.

252/22 **MINUTES**

Resolved:

That the public minutes of the meeting held on 14th February 2022 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 | | B G Peters |
| Mrs B Ashcroft | | |
| R A Faulkner | | |
| S Sankey | | |

253/22 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business for consideration at the meeting.

254/22 **FORWARD PLAN**

The Forward Plan for the period 1st March 2022 to 30th June 2022 was submitted for information.

NOTED.

255/22

SCRUTINY REVIEW OF SUPPORTING AND ENGAGING COMMUNITIES

The report of the Scrutiny (Community Regeneration, Environment and Health and Well Being) Committee on the review of Supporting and Engaging Communities was considered.

Councillor C Wileman (Chairman of the Scrutiny (Community Regeneration, Environment and Health and Well Being) Committee) and Councillor A Clarke (Committee member and lead Councillor for this review) presented the report.

Resolved:

That the report and recommendations be accepted.

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 | | |
| S Sankey | | |

255/22

QUARTER 3 REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUTTURN REPORT 2021/22

The report of the Head of Service (Sal Khan) on the forecast financial outturn position in relation to the Council's revenue budget, capital programme of expenditure, treasury and risk management activities was considered.

The following appendices had been circulated with the report:

- Appendix A: Forecast variances against budget at outturn 2021/22;
- Appendix B: Investments at 31st December 2021;
- Appendix C: Corporate and Strategic Risks – Quarter 3 2021/22

The report highlighted that overall there remained some significant forecast net pressures against the pre-covid-19 service budgets, however after taking into account corporate budgets, including the provision for Covid-19 pressures, this resulted in an overall forecast which would only require a minimal draw down from reserves of £15k.

Cabinet noted the following:

- The forecast financial position at quarter three of 2021/22 in relation to revenue and capital budgets together with the financial impact and uncertainty that had arisen due to the Covid-19 Pandemic;
- The latest position in respect of the Council's investments and borrowing;
- The corporate and strategic risks, together with actions being taken to manage these.

NOTED.

256/22

CORPORATE PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT QUARTER 3

The report of the Head of Service (Sal Khan) on the update on progress at the end of Quarter three of the 2021/22 financial year towards achieving the priorities set out in the Corporate Plan was considered.

The following appendices had been circulated with the report:

- Appendix 1: Contains comprehensive data on all Corporate Indicators;
- Appendix 2: Contains comprehensive data for Quarter 3 2021/22 from the benchmarking exercise coordinated by East Staffordshire Borough Council.

Cabinet noted that out of the 129 targets, 112 were green status; 1 was amber status; 9 were red status; 5 were not yet due to be reported and 2 had been deferred and that of the 122 "live" targets, 91.8% were green status; 0.82% were amber status and 7.38% were red status.

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

Resolved:

- 1) That performance at the end of the second quarter of the 2021/22 financial year towards achieving the Council's Corporate Priorities be considered;
- 2) That the targets as listed in Table 4 of the report be deferred;
- 3) That the targets as listed in Table 5 of the report be deleted.

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 | | |
| S Sankey | | |

257/22

EMERGENCY PLANNING RECOVERY UPDATE REPORT (MARCH 2022)

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.

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.

Cabinet noted the update detailed within the report.

NOTED.

258/22

BROWNFIELD REGENERATION FRAMEWORK

The report of the Chief Executive on the Brownfield Regeneration framework and proposed approach to Brownfield Regeneration in East Staffordshire was considered.

The following appendices had been circulated with the report:

- Appendix 1: Brownfield Regeneration Framework 2022;
- Appendix 2: BRF Equalities and Health Impact Assessment.

Cabinet noted that the Brownfield Regeneration Framework followed the 2017 Brownfield Strategy, in considering how the Council could utilise S106 Commuted Sums to gap fund affordable housing developments, but it also outlined guidance for how the Council could directly deliver affordable housing using those funds as well. The guidance set out the principles through which the Council would undertake, or facilitate, interventions that regenerate brownfield land and deliver quality places.

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

Resolved:

That the Brownfield Regeneration Framework 2022, which superseded the Brownfield and Infill Regeneration Strategy 2017, be approved.

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 | | |
| S Sankey | | |

UTTOXETER BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

The report of the Chief Executive on the overview of how a Business Improvement District (BID) could operate in Uttoxeter was considered.

Cabinet noted that a BID was a business led local partnership that covered a defined local area, typically found in town centres and High Streets. BIDs were created through a formal ballot process, to deliver additional services to local businesses and encourage more direct involvement from businesses in the betterment of the area in question. Where a BID was formed, all business rate payers within the BID area would pay an additional levy on top of their business rate bills, which would then be used to deliver projects that benefit the businesses in the local area. The levy would be mandatory for businesses within the area, unless they were granted a specific relief, such as charities. BIDs could be created by any business rate payer, or company, in the proposed BID area, but they should have the support of the Local Authority. A BID must provide services that were above and beyond what the public sector could achieve. Cabinet noted the details provided as to what a Uttoxeter BID could look like and the next steps in exploring a BID.

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

Resolved:

That the principle of commissioning a full feasibility study that explored the possibility of a BID in Uttoxeter, working in partnership with local organisations, be approved.

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 | | |
| S Sankey | | |

REVIEW OF CUSTOMER ACCESS (CUSTOMER SERVICES CENTRE)

The report of the Head of Service (Sal Khan) on the proposal to cease the operation of generic face to face services at the Customer Services Centres in Burton upon Trent and Uttoxeter was considered. Appendix 1: EHIA had been circulated with the report.

Cabinet noted that since the closure of both Customer Service Centres in March 2020, customers had been accessing Council Services through different channels, namely telephone and email/web forms. This had meant that customers had been able to access information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week online at a time to suit them. ESBC website hits had increased by 347,536 from 2020-2021 to 2,484,238, further highlighting the desire for information to be provided digitally. Councillors noted the detailed information provided within the report on Accessing Council services; E services and supporting ESBC's Digital Strategy; Management of RBCC Resources; CSC re-openings; Support for vulnerable groups and the delivery of the Housing Options service.

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

Resolved:

- 1) That the operation of face to face service delivery at Burton and Uttoxeter Customer Service Centres cease from April 2022;
- 2) That a further evaluation on the best use of the Customer Service Centre building in Burton upon Trent be carried out;
- 3) That a further evaluation of the impact of the channel shift towards digitalisation of services on current staffing resources be carried out.

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 | | |
| S Sankey | | |

261/22

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.

