

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 Wednesday 21st September 2022.

Present:

Councillors G Allen (Chairman), Mrs B Ashcroft, B G Peters and S Sankey.

Officers Present:

The Chief Executive, the Heads of Service (Sal Khan, Mark Rizk and Thomas Deery), the Monitoring Officer and the Programmes and Transformation Officer.

Also Present:

Cabinet Support Members Councillor M Metcalfe.

Apologies for absence received from Councillor R A Faulkner and Cabinet Support Member Councillor A Clarke.

PART II

290/22 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations at the commencement of the meeting.

291/22 **MINUTES**

Resolved:

That the public minutes of the meeting held on 16th August 2022 be approved as a correct record.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

Those voting for the motion	Those voting against	Those abstaining
Councillor G Allen		
Councillor Mrs B Ashcroft		
Councillor B G Peters		
Councillor S Sankey		

292/22 **URGENT BUSINESS**

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

293/22 **FORWARD PLAN**

The Forward Plan for the period 1st September 2022 to 31st December 2022 was submitted for information.

NOTED

294/22

COVID-19 EMERGENCY PLANNING RECOVERY UPDATE

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

The recovery aspects up to September had been summarised in this quarterly 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 work continuing to take place across the organisation and contributing to recovery from the pandemic, with key developments this quarter including work to administer grants including the CARF and energy rebate scheme; regeneration projects and work to develop a tourism brand for the Borough and place branding for Burton upon Trent; the Queen's Baton Relay and other events including the Family Play Day; and resources made available to staff to help with health and wellbeing.

NOTED

295/22

REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS OUTTURN – QUARTER 1

The report of the Head of Service (Sal Khan) on the forecast 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 2022/23
- Appendix B: Investments at 30th June 2022
- Appendix C: Corporate and Strategic Risks – Quarter 1 2022/23

Cabinet noted an overall forecast net windfall underspend of £0.549m for the full financial year against the budget of £13.138m. It was highlighted that whilst this position is extremely favourable, there is a high degree of uncertainty and volatility within the forecast due to ongoing and emerging risks as well as fast changing economic circumstances.

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

Resolved:

1. That in relation to the revenue and capital budgets, the forecast financial position at quarter one of 2022/23, together with the financial impact and degree of financial uncertainty that exists due to the current economic circumstances be noted;
2. That setting aside the forecast underspend (in percentage terms) to contribute towards known/emerging pressures as outlined in Paragraph 2.3 and below be approved;
 - i. Medium term price cost pressures that may prove to be temporary in nature (for example, fuel and energy) 30%;
 - ii. Cost pressures arising following the recent procurement exercise in relation to the Washlands 30%;
 - iii. A package to support the community 30%; and
 - iv. Funding to facilitate projects towards improving energy efficiency/cost reduction and supporting the climate change programme 10%.
3. That the ring-fencing of any windfall investment income associated with Towns Fund or future levelling up funds to provide additional support/resilience for these programmes of investment (Paragraph 2.4) be approved;
4. That the latest position in respect of the Council's investments and borrowing be noted;
5. That the corporate and strategic risks, together with actions being taken to manage be noted.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

Those voting for the motion	Those voting against	Those abstaining
Councillor G Allen		
Councillor Mrs B Ashcroft		
Councillor B G Peters		
Councillor S Sankey		

296/22

PERFORMANCE REPORT QUARTER 1 2022/23 – CORPORATE PLAN & LEISURE

The report of the Head of Service (Sal Khan) on the update on progress at the end of quarter one 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 – Quarter 1 updates for Corporate Plan targets

- Appendix 2 – Quarter 1 2022/23 benchmarking exercise coordinated by East Staffordshire Borough Council

Cabinet noted that out of the 129 Corporate Plan targets, 85 were green status; 1 were amber status; 2 were red status and 41 were not yet due to be reported, and of the 88 live targets, 96.59% were green status, 1.1% were amber status and 2.27% were red status.

Cabinet considered the three targets with Red and Amber statuses: CR26 – the Regional Learning Hub project will no longer form part of the Towns Fund programme but it is believed the government will allow the funding to be incorporated into the other existing projects to assist with inflationary pressures; CR30 – The Washlands Enhancement Project will not meet the target date as tender submissions were over budget but a report is due to Council in December to consider a course of action; CR20a – major planning applications processing performance expected to improve during the course of the year.

A summary of the Leisure Contract Performance showed the contractor to be performing well, with 73 of the contract scorecard Key Performance Indicators reported as green status and 4 reported at amber status.

NOTED

297/22

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.