

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 Tuesday 15th November 2022.

Present:

Councillors G Allen (Chairman), Mrs B Ashcroft, R A Faulkner (min nos 309/22-320/22 inclusive), 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; the Environmental Health Manager; the Housing Options Manager; the Communities, Open Spaces and Facilities Manager; the Environment Manager; the Social Regeneration Officer; the Waste Minimisation Officer; the Climate Change and Adaptation Officer and the Principal Democratic Services Officer.

Also Present:

Cabinet Support Members Councillors A Clarke and M Metcalfe.

PART II

309/22 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations at the commencement of the meeting.

310/22 **MINUTES**

Resolved:

That the public minutes of the meeting held on 18th October 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 R A Faulkner		
Councillor B G Peters		
Councillor S Sankey		

311/22 **URGENT BUSINESS**

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

312/22 **FORWARD PLAN**

The Forward Plan for the period 1st October 2022 to 31st January 2023 was submitted for information.

NOTED

313/22

TOURISM PLAN – YEAR 2 EVALUATION

The report of the Head of Service (Mark Rizk) on the second year update on progress with the Tourism Plan was considered.

The following appendices had been circulated with the report for the meeting:

- Appendix 1: Tourism Action Plan updated 2022;
- Appendix 2: Audit;
- Appendix 3: Tourism Marketing Plan.

Cabinet noted the summary of progress for each of the three objectives identified in the original tourism action plan: Objective 1: Tourism Audit; Objective 2: Partnership working and Objective 3: MarComms. A visitor audit had been completed which included data obtained from visitors to events and attractions in 2019 and 2020, indicating how important the visitor economy was to East Staffordshire. Work was being carried with a specialist tourism research agency (The Research Solution) to continue to compile up to date intelligence through a number of event impact assessments throughout 2022. In June 2022 the inaugural meeting of the Tourism Partnership Board had been held, which would provide an opportunity to shape the direction and impact of tourism within the Borough and create opportunities for improving communication with key partners and businesses. A survey would be circulated during Autumn 2022 to the Board relating to tourism branding proposals, with a view to creating a brand identity for East Staffordshire.

Cabinet noted that future plans and work to be completed during 2022/23 included: New brand and website for tourism; ongoing programme of research; Recruitment of two new tourism officers; Seasonal Campaigns and an Events Fund.

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

Resolved:

That the findings within the report be approved and endorsed.

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

314/22

SELECTIVE LICENSING SCHEME EVALUATION – 5TH YEAR

The report of the Head of Service (Mark Rizk) on the update on the fifth year of the Selective Licensing Scheme Pilot was considered.

Cabinet noted that the scheme had been reviewed annually and demonstrated ongoing compliance with the licensing requirements, with the vast majority of

properties being granted a licence. Whilst the third and fourth years of the scheme were significantly affected by Covid, the final year secured a high number of inspections and revisits which found a high number of cat 2 hazards but a reduction in cat 1 hazards. It was highlighted that several properties had been identified that remained unlicensed at the end of the scheme, along with some properties that had not complied with the improvements raised during earlier inspections. These would be progressed as a priority in the new selective licensing scheme and enforcement action would be taken where required.

Since the start of the scheme, 371 Selective Licenses had been granted and 539 inspections and revisits been undertaken. 71% of inspections identified hazards, with fire safety, damp and mould, electrical hazards and falls being the most common hazard identified. 67 properties were found to be unsatisfactory and 318 properties required improvements. 7 enforcement notices had been served along with 4 Civil Penalties as an alternative to prosecution. The scheme had been found to have improved the working relationship between council officers, landlords and tenants.

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

Resolved:

That the contents of the report be noted and that the annual review of the new selective licensing scheme, in accordance with the selective licensing policy, be approved.

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

315/22

CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURE ACTION PLAN INTERIM REPORT OF PROGRESS 2022/23

The report of the Head of Service (Mark Rizk) on the interim progress on the Climate Change and Nature Action Plan midway through the 2022/23, to accommodate the change of reporting period from financial year to calendar year, was considered. The following appendices had been circulated with the report Appendix 1: Climate Change and Nature Action Plan Progress; Appendix 2: East Staffordshire Borough Council Climate Change and Nature Strategy.

Cabinet noted progress made since the last Climate Change and Nature Action Plan monitoring report as detailed at section 6.1 of the report, which had been summarised as follows:

- GREEN – 42 actions (34 on-track and 8 achieved)
- AMBER – 0 actions
- RED – 1 actions
- GREY (not yet started) - 14 actions

It was highlighted that the refreshed ESBC Climate Change Strategy included a target for the Borough to become carbon neutral by 2050 rather than 2040

(as stated in the original Climate Emergency pledge) which had been in response to the publication of the government's Net Zero Strategy. In 2019, data provided by BEIS showed that the total CO₂ emissions for the Borough were 692.5 kilotonnes, representing a 35.1% reduction from 1066.4 kilotonnes in 2005. In 2009/10, the council produced a total of 3547 tonnes of CO₂e. In 2021/22, that amount had reduced to 2122 tonnes of CO₂e (provisional figure), representing a 40.2% reduction.

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

Resolved:

- That overall positive progress with the implementation of the Climate Change and Nature Action Plan be noted;
- That the continued downward trend in annual CO₂ emissions for both the Borough and the council be noted;
- That the Climate Change and Nature Action Plan be revised to include the new nature recovery actions;
- That the Climate Change and Nature Strategy (completed in October and approved by EDR) be noted.

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

316/22

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.

Chairman