

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 17th January 2023.

Present:

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

Officers Present:

The Chief Executive, the Heads of Service (Sal Khan, Mark Rizk and Thomas Deery), the Monitoring Officer; the Environment Manager; the Communities, Open Spaces and Facilities Manager; the Corporate and Commercial Manager; the Programmes and Transformation Team Leader; and the Principal Democratic Services Officer.

Also Present:

Cabinet Support Member Councillor M Metcalfe.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor B G Peters.

PART II

333/23 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations at the commencement of the meeting.

334/23 **MINUTES**

Resolved:

That the public minutes of the meeting held on 13th December 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 A Clarke		
Councillor R A Faulkner		
Councillor S Sankey		

335/23 **URGENT BUSINESS**

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

336/23 **FORWARD PLAN**

The Forward Plan for the period 1st January 2023 to 30th April 2023 was submitted for information.

NOTED

337/23

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 December 2022 had been summarised in the 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.

NOTED.

338/23

APPOINTMENT OF CONTRACTOR TO PROVIDE GAS AND ELECTRICITY TO THE COUNCIL

The report of the Head of Service (Sal Khan) on the appointment of Total Energies as the Councils electricity and gas supplier via an ESPO framework was considered. Appendix 1: Benefits of the Flexible Basket had been circulated with the report.

Cabinet noted that the Council's current gas and electricity contracts were with Total Energies, procured via an ESPO Framework. The current gas contract would expire on the 31st March 2023, however the Council had secured a 12 month fixed price contract with Total Energies, via an ESPO Framework, for gas supply from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024. The Council's electricity contract would expire on 30th September 2024. Throughout the current contract periods, the Council had benefited from ESPO's Flexible Basket purchasing approach which aggregated baskets with many other Public Sector customers, providing cheaper rates than fixed price contracts, including the option to choose brown or green energy prior to the commencement of each contract.

The current European energy market carried a great deal of uncertainty over recent months which would be likely to continue. As a result of this volatility in the market, it was highlighted that it was important for the Council to consider its utility contracts as soon as possible, to maximise value for money as far as possible.

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

Resolved:

- 1) That ESPO be informed that the Council would join their Flexible Basket for gas and enter a contract with Total Energies via the ESPO Framework for gas supply for the three year period 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2027;
- 2) That ESPO be informed that the Council would join their Flexible Basket for electricity and enter into a contract with Total Energies via the ESPO

Framework for electricity supply for the four year period 1st October 2024 to 30th September 2028;

- 3) That it be noted that the Council would choose whether its gas and/or electricity supply would be green or brown ahead of a contract year, as indicated at paragraph 4.9.3 of the report.

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 A Clarke		
Councillor R A Faulkner		
Councillor S Sankey		

339/23

2ND YEAR PARKS DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The report of the Head of Service (Mark Rizk) on the second year review of the Parks Development Plan was considered. The following appendices had been circulated with the report Appendix 1: Parks Development Plan and Appendix 2: Play Area audit

Cabinet noted that the Parks Development Plan, created in December 2020, set out a series of objectives for the development and enhancement of parks across East Staffordshire for the next 10 years. The Plan sought to achieve these enhancements through the following five categories: Volunteering and Community; Visual Amenity; Climate Change and Biodiversity; Operations and Market and Promotions.

Cabinet noted that Burton had entered the “In Bloom” nationals for the first time, reaching a silver gilt level and recognition for the innovative partnership working that has led to the development of the Potting Shed with Fountains School. This project not only won the best young person’s project award in the West Midlands, but was one of only four to be honoured with a judge’s award in the UK. An audit of play equipment had been conducted to help establish priorities for investment. To combat dog fouling issued within communities, a number of dog bag dispensers had been erected at hotspot locations identified by the Community & Civil Enforcement team. Other investments would see the toilets at Branston Water Park replaced with a new modular building complete with modern facilities. A number of carbon capture areas had been identified by working alongside local communities. The Council had adopted a shift in approach towards tree planting, with larger mature trees being planted.

NOTED

340/23

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.

