

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 26th June 2023.

Present:

Councillors M T Fitzpatrick (Chairman), A A Chaudhry, D F Fletcher, R Hawkins, S Slater and P Walker (via Zoom).

Officers Present:

The Chief Executive, the Head of Environment and Corporate Services, the Head of Legal and Regulatory Services, the interim Head of Regeneration and Development, the Interim Chief Finance Officer, the Communities, Open Spaces and Facilities Manager, the Programmes and Transformation Manager and the Principal Democratic Services Officer.

Also Present:

Cabinet Support Members Councillors S McKiernan and L Walker (via Zoom).

PART II

01/23 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations at the commencement of the meeting.

02/23 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th April 2023 were noted by Cabinet and would be checked by officers for accuracy.

The Leader announced that the minute number 288/22 of the Cabinet meeting held on 16th August 2022 did not accurately reflect the resolution which was made at that meeting in relation to the report "Review of Options for Cemetery Expansion". The original minutes of the meeting included the first recommendation of the report only, however all three recommendations had been agreed at the meeting. Cabinet noted that the minutes had since been updated accordingly.

NOTED.

03/23 **URGENT BUSINESS**

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

04/23 **SCRUTINY REVIEW OF WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN**

The report of the Scrutiny (Environment and Health and Well Being) Committee on the review of the White Ribbon Campaign was considered.

Michael Hovers (Communities, Open Spaces and Facilities Manager) presented the report.

It was proposed and seconded:

“That the proposals contained within the report be accepted”.

In accordance with the voting the Chairman declared the motion was carried.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

Those voting for the motion	Those voting against	Those abstaining
Councillor M T Fitzpatrick		
A A Chaudhry		
D F Fletcher		
R Hawkins		
S Slater		

05/23

APPRENTICESHIP UPDATE REPORT

The report of the Chief Executive on the update on ESBC progress against the apprenticeship target for public bodies was considered. Appendix 1: New starters' spreadsheet had been circulated with the report.

Cabinet noted that as at 31 March 2023 the headcount was 250 employees (not including casuals), with 226 Full time equivalent; the total number of new starters on the establishment was 25. None of these were new apprentices; the total new apprentice starts for 2022/23 was 4 and that these were all existing staff, previous apprentices, continuing in their development and career at ESBC.

NOTED.

06/23

REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUTTURN REPORT – FINAL OUTTURN 2022/23

The report of the Interim Chief Financial Officer on the final outturn position in relation to the Council's revenue budget, capital programme of expenditure and treasury management activities was considered. The following appendices had been circulated with the report:

- Appendix A: Variances against budget at outturn 22/23;
- Appendix B: Summary of Capital Expenditure against Programme 22/23;
- Appendix C: Investments at 31st March 2023;
- Appendix D: Corporate Risks;
- Appendix E: Carry Forward Requests 23/24.

Cabinet noted that despite some significant ongoing financial pressures as a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic and the current economic conditions, these had been offset by an increase in returns on investment income and recycling income exceeding expectations due to higher commodity prices, meaning that after taking into account corporate budgets, including the provision for

ongoing Covid-19 pressures, this had resulted in an overall net windfall underspend of £0.564m for the year.

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

Resolved:

- a) That the revenue outturn position for 2022/23 be noted;
- b) That, in relation to the revenue outturn, the carry forward amounts outlined in Appendix E of the report (£0.130m) be approved;
- c) That, in relation to the revenue outturn, the carrying forward of items totaling £0.238m be approved, as outlined in Paragraph 4.6 for allocation during the course of 2023/24 or as part of the development of the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2024/25 onwards in line with a revised Corporate Plan;
- d) That, in relation to the revenue outturn, the risks associated with supported housing providers be noted and the setting aside of the remaining underspend of £0.564m towards mitigating risks associated with supported housing claims/disputes be approved;
- e) That, in relation to the revenue outturn, the windfall business rates sum of £0.2m be approved and be made available for allocation during 2023/24 in line with the revised Corporate Plan;
- f) That the capital outturn position for 2022/23, including funding re-allocations to UKSPF as shown in Section 6 of the report be noted;
- g) That, in relation to the capital outturn, the budgets for outstanding projects from 2022/23 totaling £6.770m to be carried forward to 2023/24 (Para. 6.2 and 6.3 of the report refers) be approved;
- h) That the position in relation to the council's investments and borrowings as at 31st March 2023 (Section 5 of the report refers) be noted;
- i) That the scale of financial risk associated with supported housing claims and disputes (Para.2.2 of the report refers) be noted;
- j) That the position in respect of the Council's general balances and earmarked reserves as at 31st March 2023 (Para.2.6 of the report refers) be noted;
- k) That the draft outturn position in relation to the Business Rates Retention Scheme for 2023/24. (Section 7 of the report refers) be noted;
- l) That the significant risks facing the authority and associated mitigations or control measures in place be noted, as outlined within Appendix D.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

Those voting for the motion	Those voting against	Those abstaining
Councillor M T Fitzpatrick		
A A Chaudhry		
D F Fletcher		
R Hawkins		
S Slater		

07/23

**CORPORATE PLAN AND LEISURE PERFORMANCE REPORT 2022/23:
END OF YEAR**

The report of the Head of Environment and Corporate Services on the progress at the end of the 2022/23 financial year 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: Spreadsheet of end of year updates for Corporate Plan targets;
- Appendix 2a: Planning & Recycling Quartile Data;
- Appendix 2b: Quarter 3 2022/23 benchmarking exercise using LG Inform

Cabinet also noted the contents of Appendix 3: Quarter 4 Leisure Services Contract Performance Summary.

Cabinet noted that out of the 129 targets: 120 were green status; 1 was amber status; 7 were red status and 1 was deferred. Of the 128 'live' targets: 93.75% were green status; 0.78% were amber status; 5.47% were red status. Overall the Leisure Operator continued to be compliant with the services specification and that a small number of actions had been identified for ongoing review. At the end of Quarter 4 a review of the scorecard's RAG ratings for the Key Performance Indicators showed statuses as follows; 75 Green, 1 Amber, and 2 Red.

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

Resolved:

- a) That performance at the end of the 2022/23 financial year towards achieving the Council's Corporate Priorities and Leisure Services Contract be considered;
- b) That the 2023-24 targets for VFM29c & VFM01 as detailed in Table 4 of the report be agreed; (Cabinet noted that these targets would be included within the new Corporate Plan to be submitted to Council on 3rd July 2023, with a different reference number).

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

Those voting for the motion	Those voting against	Those abstaining
Councillor M T Fitzpatrick		
A A Chaudhry		
D F Fletcher		
R Hawkins		
S Slater		

Chairman