

EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of East Staffordshire Borough Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Burton upon Trent on Monday 3rd July 2023.

Present:

Councillor S A Hussain (Mayor) in the Chair

Councillors	M Ackroyd	Z Krupski
	A Afsar	Ms A J Legg
	A Bailey	A Mansfield
	L Bullock	S McKiernan (Deputy Mayor)
	A A Chaudhry	B G Peters
	A Clarke	S Sankey
	M T Fitzpatrick	M Shrive
	D F Fletcher	M Slater
	S P Gaskin	S Slater
	R Hawkins	C Smedley
	M Holton	K Smith BEM
	M Huckerby	L Walker
	P Hudson	P Walker
	Mrs J Jones	C D Wileman
	P Krupski	

Officers Present:

The Chief Executive, the Head of Corporate and Environment Services, the Interim Head of Regeneration and Development, the Interim Chief Financial Officer, the Head of Legal and Regulatory Services and Monitoring Officer, the Corporate and Commercial Manager, the Digital Communications Officer and the Principal Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G Allen, Mrs B Ashcroft, L Beech, Mrs V J Gould, T Hadley and R Lock.

22/23 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest at the commencement of the meeting.

23/23 **MINUTES**

The public minutes of the annual meeting of the Borough Council held on 26th May 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

THOSE VOTING FOR THE MOTION Councillor	THOSE VOTING AGAINST Councillor	THOSE ABSTAINING Councillor
A Afsar		M Ackroyd
A Bailey		D F Fletcher
L Bullock		S Sankey
A A Chaudhry		
A Clarke		
M T Fitzpatrick		
S P Gaskin		
R Hawkins		
M Holton		
M Huckerby		
P Hudson		
S A Hussain		
Mrs J Jones		
P Krupski		
Z Krupski		
Ms A J Legg		
A Mansfield		
S McKiernan		
B G Peters		
M Shrive		
M Slater		
S Slater		
C Smedley		
K Smith BEM		
L Walker		
P Walker		
C Wileman		

24/23 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor congratulated Councillor K Smith BEM on being awarded the British Empire Medal for services to the community.

25/23 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business for consideration at the meeting.

26/23 **AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION AND INCLUSION OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION DURING SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**

The report of the Head of Legal and Regulatory Services and Monitoring Officer on the amendments made to the Constitution was considered. Appendix A – revised parts of the Constitution had been circulated with the report.

Council noted the summary of the proposed changes as follows:

- Part 1: the Constitution had been amended to reflect the Council's current number of Members;
 - Removal of reference to Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise partnership (GBSLEP), also.
- Within Part 3A, Member speaking time had been increased to ten minutes, (and it remains that the Mayor has discretion to extend speaking time further);
- Also within Part 3A, the paragraph '*any motion of which notice comes solely within the powers, duties and responsibilities of Cabinet shall, once debated by Full Council, stand referred to Cabinet to determine*' had been removed, along with subsequent and associated paragraphs;
- Public participation had been introduced during the Council's Scrutiny Committees and a new Part 3le had been created as a protocol to reflect this;
- The removal of the word 'vexatious' from Part 4J, the Council's Petition Scheme;
- Throughout the attached Parts, amendments to reflect the Council's Scrutiny arrangements had been incorporated. For example, to reflect that there were now 4 Scrutiny Committees instead of 3, alongside the re-naming of those committees;
- General review of typo's, spacing, grammar and formatting for those Parts appended to the report.

It was proposed and duly seconded that:

"1) the amended parts of the Constitution (Appendix A) be adopted, to include public participation during the Audit Committee, in addition to the Council's Scrutiny Committees;

2) that the Monitoring Officer be authorised to make any necessary further changes to the draft document in relation to formatting, numbering or such other changes consequential to or incidental to the intentions of Full Council;

3) Subsequent to the above, that the revised Constitution becomes effective following any such changes being implemented by the Monitoring Officer"

The Mayor invited Council to debate the motion under Rule 16 (Rules of debate).

Upon a vote being taken the Mayor declared the motion was carried.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

THOSE VOTING FOR THE MOTION Councillor	THOSE VOTING AGAINST Councillor	THOSE ABSTAINING Councillor
M Ackroyd		
A Afsar		
A Bailey		
L Bullock		
A A Chaudhry		
A Clarke		
M T Fitzpatrick		
D F Fletcher		
S P Gaskin		
R Hawkins		
M Holton		
M Huckerby		
P Hudson		
S A Hussain		
Mrs J Jones		
P Krupski		
Z Krupski		
Ms A J Legg		
A Mansfield		
S McKiernan		
B G Peters		
S Sankey		
M Shrive		
M Slater		
S Slater		
C Smedley		
K Smith BEM		
L Walker		
P Walker		
C Wileman		

27/23 **CORPORATE PLAN 2023/24**

The report of the Chief Executive on the new Corporate Plan for 2023/24 was considered. Appendix 1: New Corporate Plan 2023/24 had been circulated with the report.

Council noted that new targets had been added to the Corporate Plan to deliver the new objectives incorporated from the new controlling Groups manifesto; existing targets where there was little conflict of interest between the political parties had been retained; where necessary, target dates had been revised due to the transitional period; and targets had been replaced by new targets to reflect the revised priorities or extracted as appropriate.

In addition, the Corporate Plan set a target for reshaping the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to focus more on community needs (PB08) and approving new funding programmes (PB09) for delivery in 2023/24 and 2024/25. In order to facilitate the

delivery of PB08, it was proposed that the profile be changed as set out in Tables 2a and 2b below, subject to Government approval:

Table 2a: Proposed revised UKSPF funding profile (Capital)

Capital	Communities and Place		Supporting Local Business	People & Skills	Total
	Uttoxeter	Ward Enhancement			
2022/23	£58,829.34	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£58,829.34
2023/24	£341,170.66	£550,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£891,170.66
2024/25	£1,100,000.00	£850,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,950,000.00
Total	£1,500,000.00	£1,400,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£2,900,000.00

Table 2b: Proposed revised UKSPF funding profile (Revenue)

Revenue	Communities and Place		Supporting Local Business	People & Skills	Total
	Uttoxeter	Ward Enhancement			
2022/23	£0.00	£0.00	£70,448.55	£0.00	£70,448.55
2023/24	£0.00	£50,000.00	£321,380.45	£0.00	£371,380.45
2024/25	£0.00	£50,000.00	£381,062.00	£50,000.00	£481,062.00
Total	£0.00	£100,000.00	£772,891.00	£50,000.00	£922,891.00

Council noted that this funding profile change had been designed to facilitate greater funding towards the regeneration of Uttoxeter Town Centre (an increase of capital funding from £1m to £1.5m) as well as creating a Ward Enhancement Programme (WEP) with a combined budget of up to £1.5m by reallocating funding from the Supporting Local Business priority to the Communities & Place priority.

Resolved:

- 1) That the Corporate Plan 2023/24 be adopted;
- 2) That the revised funding profile of UKSPF, as set out in section 6 of the report and subject to government approval, the Medium Term Financial Strategy be updated accordingly.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

THOSE VOTING FOR THE MOTION Councillor	THOSE VOTING AGAINST Councillor	THOSE ABSTAINING Councillor
A Afsar		M Ackroyd
A Bailey		L Bullock
A A Chaudhry		A Clarke
M T Fitzpatrick		S P Gaskin
D F Fletcher		P Hudson
R Hawkins		Mrs J Jones
M Holton		B G Peters
M Huckerby		S Sankey
S A Hussain		C Smedley
P Krupski		C Wileman
Z Krupski		
Ms A J Legg		
A Mansfield		
S McKiernan		
M Shrive		
M Slater		
S Slater		
K Smith BEM		
L Walker		
P Walker		

28/23 **ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT**

The report of the Interim Chief Finance Officer on the review of treasury activities during the year against the approved Treasury Management Strategy Statement was considered. Appendix A – Annual Treasury Management Report had been circulated with the report.

Council noted the contents of the report as follows:

- The strategy for 2022/23 - a summary (Section 3);
- The Council’s treasury position as at 31st March 2023 (Section 4) ;
- Borrowing and Investments outturn (Sections 5 & 6);
- An update on the economy and interest rates (Section 7);
- Compliance with treasury limits and prudential indicators (Section 8);
- An update on other treasury matters (Section 9).

Resolved:

That the Annual Treasury Management Report for 2022/23 (and associated prudential indicators) be approved.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

THOSE VOTING FOR THE MOTION Councillor	THOSE VOTING AGAINST Councillor	THOSE ABSTAINING Councillor
M Ackroyd		
A Afsar		
A Bailey		
L Bullock		
A A Chaudhry		
A Clarke		
M T Fitzpatrick		
D F Fletcher		
S P Gaskin		
R Hawkins		
M Holton		
M Huckerby		
P Hudson		
S A Hussain		
Mrs J Jones		
P Krupski		
Z Krupski		
Ms A J Legg		
A Mansfield		
S McKiernan		
B G Peters		
S Sankey		
M Shrive		
M Slater		
S Slater		
C Smedley		
K Smith BEM		
L Walker		
P Walker		
C Wileman		

29/23 **COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP CHANGE**

The Leader of the Council proposed a change of membership to the Licensing Committee by replacing Councillor D F Fletcher with Councillor M Huckerby.

Resolved:

That Councillor M Huckerby be appointed to serve on the Licensing Committee to replace Councillor D F Fletcher.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

THOSE VOTING FOR THE MOTION Councillor	THOSE VOTING AGAINST Councillor	THOSE ABSTAINING Councillor
A Afsar		M Ackroyd
A Bailey		L Bullock
A A Chaudhry		A Clarke
M T Fitzpatrick		S P Gaskin
D F Fletcher		P Hudson
R Hawkins		Mrs J Jones
M Holton		B G Peters
M Huckerby		S Sankey
S A Hussain		C Smedley
P Krupski		C Wileman
Z Krupski		
Ms A J Legg		
A Mansfield		
S McKiernan		
M Shrive		
M Slater		
S Slater		
K Smith BEM		
L Walker		
P Walker		

30/23 **NOTICE OF MOTION**

Councillor P Walker had put forward the following motion, in accordance with Rule 14, which had been duly seconded:

“This Council condemns all business that use Fire and Rehire tactics on workers. We resolve to support unions lawfully engaged in protecting their members against Fire and Rehire tactics and call on business to instead enter meaningful negotiations with workers and their representatives.

To this end the council resolves, as far as it is legally possible to:

- i) Exclude from the councils list of authorised suppliers any business using Fire and Rehire tactics within a three year period of such a contract coming into force, updating our ethical procurement and social value policy to achieve this aim;
- ii) Notify the councils authorised suppliers of its intention to procure in accordance with (i) above and to further preclude procuring from business who themselves do business with those using such Fire and Rehire tactics;
- iii) Instruct the Chief Executive of the Council to identify the appropriate officer to liaise with Trade Unions and keep a record of business who have threatened workers with Fire and Rehire contracts.”

The Mayor invited Council to debate the motion under Rule 16 (Rules of debate).

Upon a vote being taken the Mayor declared the motion was carried.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

THOSE VOTING FOR THE MOTION Councillor	THOSE VOTING AGAINST Councillor	THOSE ABSTAINING Councillor
A Afsar	M Ackroyd	
A Bailey	L Bullock	
A A Chaudhry	A Clarke	
M T Fitzpatrick	S P Gaskin	
D F Fletcher	P Hudson	
R Hawkins	Mrs J Jones	
M Holton	B G Peters	
M Huckerby	S Sankey	
S A Hussain	C Smedley	
P Krupski	C Wileman	
Z Krupski		
Ms A J Legg		
A Mansfield		
S McKiernan		
M Shrive		
M Slater		
S Slater		
K Smith BEM		
L Walker		
P Walker		

31/23 **NOTICE OF MOTION**

Councillor M Holton had put forward the following motion, in accordance with Rule 14, which had been duly seconded:

“This Council expresses its concern over increasing levels of food poverty within our communities created through political choices and systematic failures over the past four decades. This crisis has now reached a tipping point in so many of our communities.

In May 2022 at least one member in almost one in 20 households went a day without food. As of last autumn, the TUC reported that 1 in 8 people have missed meals or gone without food in the parliamentary constituency alone with 2 in 5 cutting back on food spending.

This Council notes the increasing rates of poverty and inequality across our Borough emphasised by the fact that nearly a quarter of children in this area alone live in some form of poverty with some wards in Burton having a child poverty ration of over 50%, according to the House of Commons library. This Council is saddened to learn that the ongoing cost of living crisis is causing some local residents to request that only food parcels are provided that do not require a cooker, fridge or freezer. We are also aware that more residents are requesting other goods be provided at food banks, such as sanitary towels and other toiletries due to rising costs.

We know that food poverty leads to health inequality and lower life expectancy, adverse implications on children’s education and life chances and an impact on human dignity and social cohesion.

The Right To Food campaign believes that the estimated 11 million people currently living in food poverty must be a priority for the British government. Enshrining The Right to Food into law would clarify the State’s obligations regarding food poverty

and would provide a legal means for holding the Government to account for its implementation.

This Council supports the Right To Food campaign's five demands to Government and urges that these are delivered as a matter of urgency. These are:

- 1) Universal free school meals for every child
- 2) The Government must state what percentage of minimum wages and benefits (on which people are expected to live) is for food.
- 3) Independent enforcement of legislation. The Right To Food campaign must be enforced by an independent body that can hold the Government to account.
- 4) Community Kitchens. The Right To Food campaign believes these can form a sustainable solution to food poverty and that the Government should fund dining clubs, meals on wheels and school holiday meals for those in need and cookery clubs for the entire community.
- 5) Ensured food security. The Government must ensure food security and take this into account when setting competition, planning, transport, local government and all other policy.

We ask the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister to further this request and call on the new cabinet to place the right to food at the heart of its thinking and to explore options to implement community kitchens and to ensure universal school meals across the borough."

The Mayor invited Council to debate the motion under Rule 16 (Rules of debate).

Upon a vote being taken the Mayor declared the motion was carried.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

THOSE VOTING FOR THE MOTION Councillor	THOSE VOTING AGAINST Councillor	THOSE ABSTAINING Councillor
A Afsar		M Ackroyd
A Bailey		L Bullock
A A Chaudhry		A Clarke
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D F Fletcher		P Hudson
R Hawkins		Mrs J Jones
M Holton		B G Peters
M Huckerby		S Sankey
S A Hussain		C Smedley
P Krupski		
Z Krupski		
Ms A J Legg		
A Mansfield		
S McKiernan		
M Shrive		
M Slater		
S Slater		
K Smith BEM		
L Walker		
P Walker		
C Wileman		

32/23 **QUESTIONS**

No questions had been received in advance of the meeting.

33/23 **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 following item on the agenda for the Meeting as it is 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 paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.