

# **EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **Scrutiny (Climate Change and Environment) Committee**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Scrutiny (Climate Change and Environment) Committee held in the Coltman VC Room, Town Hall on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 6.30pm.

### **Present:**

Councillors M. Slater (Chairman), G Allen, Mrs B Ashcroft, A Bailey, Mrs V J Gould, M. Holton, M. Huckerby and K Smith BEM.

### **Officers Present:**

The Corporate and Commercial Manager (James Abbott), the Communities, Open Spaces and Facilities Manager (Michael Hovers), the Climate Change and Adaptation Officer (Mark Jeffcote), the Project officer (Paul Steed) and the Principal Democratic Services Officer (Andrea Davies).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs B. Ashcroft and K. Smith BEM.

#### **27/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

#### **28/24 URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business submitted to the meeting pursuant to Rule 12.

#### **29/24 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

There were no questions from members of the public submitted.

#### **30/24 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE**

There were no questions from members of the public submitted.

#### **31/24 PUBLIC MINUTES**

### **Resolved:**

That the Public Minutes of the Meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> September be approved by the Committee and signed as a correct record.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows.

Those voting for the motion	Those voting against	Those abstaining
-----------------------------	----------------------	------------------

Councillor	Councillor	Councillor
M. Slater		G Allen
A. Bailey		Mrs B Ashcroft
Mrs V J Gould		K Smith BEM
M. Holton		

32/24 **TREE PLANTING WITHIN THE BOROUGH**

At this juncture Councillor M Huckerby joined the meeting.

The Committee received a presentation from the Communities, Facilities and Open Spaces Manager on tree planting within the borough. Councillors noted the number of trees planted within the borough from 2021 and whether these were standard or whips, in addition to the breakdown of trees planted by species. It was noted the survival rate of tree whips was very low and that it was quality, not the quantity which was important. Space was limited and not all open space would be usable/suitable for tree planting within the borough. The team would continue to encourage volunteering, in addition to identifying suitable locations for tree planting within the borough. It was proposed that a tree nursery be established in 2024. Any tree species planted would be continually reviewed to reflect emerging guidance on adapting to climate change and it was proposed to forge alliances with other land owners and partners to aid nature recovery.

Councillors were invited to attend the Go Garden project and an invitation would be extended to all Councillors, to be included within the Member Briefing.

It was agreed that Councillor M Huckerby provide a list of questions he raised in relation to planning and Climate Change, with a view to inviting the relevant Cabinet Member and Departmental Manager to a future meeting.

An opportunity for questions followed.

**NOTED.**

33/24 **SCRUTINY REVIEW PROGRAMME**

It was agreed that representatives from the relevant organisations attend the next meeting to provide an update on flooding and sewage issues within the borough.

Councillors received an update from the Corporate and Commercial Manager on the review of Community Engagement Mechanisms in relation to Climate Change. It was noted that the scope had been agreed and that a draft report had been put together by the sub group.

**NOTED.**

34/24 **PUBLIC EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORDS**

Members received for information a list of Public Executive Decision Records

Councillor M Huckerby agreed to provide a list of questions under separate cover, in relation to EDR ref 42/23 (Staffordshire Sustainability Board Adaptation Strategy), so that a response could be provided by the relevant officer.

An opportunity for questions followed.

**NOTED.**

35/24 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee take place on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2024.

**NOTED.**

36/24 **CORPORATE PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT QUARTER 2**

The Report of the Head of Corporate and Environment Services, on the performance update on progress at the end of the second quarter of the 2023/24 financial year towards delivering East Staffordshire Borough Council's Corporate Plan, Leisure Services Contract Performance and Towns Fund Programme was considered. Appendix 2: Spreadsheet of Quarter 2 updates for Corporate Plan targets had been circulated with the report.

Councillors noted that out of 132 corporate targets, 114 were green, 2 were amber, 5 were red; 9 not yet due to be reported and 2 proposed for deletion; of the 121 live targets, 94.21% were green status, 1.65% were amber status and 4.13% red status; at the end of Quarter 2 of the Leisure Contract Performance, 78 performance indicators were green, 0 were amber and 0 red; project progress on the Towns Fund Programme including key risks, current financial profiles, and claims for Specialist College Offer Project: £3,494,864.26 (99.79% of grant award), with the following amounts being claimed but not yet paid: Cycle Network Project: £780,049.76 (41.1% of grant award). The total spend for the Council's own High Street project as of the end of Quarter Two was £6.1m from a total project budget of £20,259,335, representing 30% of the project budget.

An opportunity for questions followed.

**NOTED.**

37/24 **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 Meeting during discussion of the following items as it would 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 indicated in brackets before each item number on the Agenda

**APPENDIX 2 QUARTER 2 LEISURE SERVICES CONTRACT PERFORMANCE SUMMARY; APPENDIX 2a LEISURE SERVICES CONTRACT CLIMATE CHANGE ACTIONS; APPENDIX 3 QUARTER 2 TOWNS FUND PROGRAMME SUMMARY**

**PRIVATE MINUTES**

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

Those voting for the motion Councillor	Those voting against Councillor	Those abstaining Councillor
M. Slater		
G Allen		
Mrs B Ashcroft		
A. Bailey		
Mrs V J Gould		
M. Holton		
M. Huckerby		
K Smith BEM		