

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 18th September 2023.

Present:

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

Officers Present:

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

Also Present:

Cabinet Support Members Councillors S McKiernan and L Walker.

PART II

16/23 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations at the commencement of the meeting.

17/23 **MINUTES**

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 21st August 2023 be approved 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 M T Fitzpatrick		Councillor D F Fletcher
Councillor A A Chaudhry		
Councillor R Hawkins		
Councillor S Slater		
Councillor P Walker		

18/23 **URGENT BUSINESS**

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

19/23 **FORWARD PLAN**

The Forward Plan from 1st October 2023 to 31st January 2024 was submitted for information.

NOTED.

20/23

EAST STAFFORDSHIRE SPORTS COUNCIL REVIEW 2022/23

The report of the Head of Corporate and Environment Services on the review of the grant funding process that currently took place through the East Staffordshire Sports Council (ESSC) in line with Corporate Plan Target TCD15 was considered. Appendix 1 – Minutes from the monthly meeting on 20th July 2023 had been circulated with the report.

Cabinet noted that the review had been undertaken to ensure that the funding was adequate to meet the current needs of local clubs within the Borough and that the distribution process was effective. Detail provided within the report included the Distribution; promotion of funding and the financial situation.

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

Resolved:

- 1) That the Council increase the annual Leisure Grant Funding to £10,000 from year 24/25, to be agreed through the Annual Budget Setting process;
- 2) That the Council work with ESSC to support the targeted promotion of the funding and access to opportunities for the local clubs;
- 3) That a grant agreement be put in place between the Borough Council and ESSC, to be implemented from 24/25 in line with the increase in funding (to include periodic review of funding allocation and its distribution to clubs in the borough).

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

21/23

UKSPF WARD ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

The report of the interim Head of Regeneration and Development on the approach for taking forward the proposed UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) to finance East Staffordshire Ward Enhancement Programme (WEP) during the remainder of 2023/24 and 2024/25 was considered.

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

- Appendix 1: Ward Enhancement Programme Guidance and Application Form;

- Appendix 2: WEP Equalities and Health Impact Assessment.

Cabinet noted that the Council was originally awarded £3.8m from the UKSPF on the basis of £750,000 being used for initiatives under the Communities and Place priority, with the Ward Enhancement Programme being delivered under the E2 priority on a capital funding basis. The fund would be categorised against E2 - Funding for new, or improvements to existing, community/neighbourhood infrastructure projects.

Projects would be identified following an application and evaluation process and selected by a panel of five Councillors, comprised of two Cabinet Members, a Cabinet Support Member, a Member of the Opposition, and the Independent Member. The Panel would be supported by appropriate officers. The programme must be delivered by the end of March 2025 in order to comply with the UKSPF parameters

Cabinet noted the criteria, process and priority area for the programme (detailed at section 6 of the report), in addition to the types of projects that could be identified through the WEP which included:

- Funding towards enhancing local green spaces and play areas, installation of new equipment, planting schemes, furniture and lighting (but not maintenance and running costs);
- Funding towards tourism initiatives, such as the creation of local maps/information sheets, installation of way marking signage, and events including art and theatre performances;
- Funding towards upgrading existing community assets or introducing initiatives to promote and celebrate local culture and heritage;
- Funding towards capital projects for local sports facilities, tournaments and leagues to bring people together;
- Capital funding towards digital infrastructure for local community facilities, for example new computer servers.

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

Resolved:

- 1) That the launch of the Ward Enhancement Programme be approved, as set out in the report and at Appendix 1;
- 2) That the award of successful WEP projects be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Development and the Cabinet Member for Communities and Regulatory Services, on behalf of the proposed WEP panel.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

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

22/23

QUARTER 1 REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUTTURN REPORT

The report of the Interim Chief Finance Officer on the forecast outturn position in relation to the Council's revenue budget, capital programme of expenditure, treasury and risk management activities was considered.

The following appendices had been circulated with the report:

- Appendix A: Forecast variances against budget at outturn 2023/24;
- Appendix B: Investments at 30th June 2023
- Appendix C: Corporate and Strategic Risks – Quarter 1 2023/24

Cabinet noted the forecast financial position at quarter one of 2023/24 in relation to revenue and capital budgets together with the financial impact and degree of financial uncertainty that exists due to the current economic circumstances. In addition to the forecast revenue budget underspend being ring-fenced towards topping up capital resources which had been allocated in the current capital programme as approved in the Medium Term Financial Strategy February 2023. Councillors also noted the latest position in respect of the Council's investments and borrowing and the corporate and strategic risks, together with actions being taken to manage these.

NOTED.

23/23

QUARTER 1 CORPORATE PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT

The report of the Head of Corporate and Environment Services on the performance update on progress at the end of the first quarter of the 2023/24 financial year towards delivering East Staffordshire Borough Council's Corporate Plan; Leisure Services Contract Performance and the Towns Fund Programme was considered. Appendix 1: Spreadsheet of Quarter 1 updates for Corporate Plan targets had been circulated with the report.

Cabinet noted that of the 132 targets in total, 82 were green status; 6 were amber status; 0 were red status and 44 were not yet due to be reported and of the 88 'live' targets: 93.18% were green status; 6.82% were amber status and 0.00% were red status. Overall the Leisure Operator continued to be compliant with the services specification, with a small number of actions being identified for ongoing review. At the end of Quarter 1 of the 2023-24 contract year a review of the Outcomes Scorecard's RAG ratings for the Key Performance Indicators showed statuses as follows; 75 Green, 3 Amber, and 0 Red. The report an update on the Towns Fund programme as of 2023-24 Q1, providing a summary of project progress, key risks, current financial profiles, and claims for two projects: Cycle Network Enhancements (£780,049.76) and the College Project (£1,907,860). The six monthly returns to central government reported progress on delivering the Towns Fund Programme, which were informed by these quarterly reports

NOTED.

24/23

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.

