

EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of East Staffordshire Borough Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall on Monday 18th March 2024

Present:

Councillor S A Hussain (Mayor) in the Chair

Councillors	M Ackroyd	Z Krupski
	A Afsar	Ms A J Legg
	G Allen	R Lock
	Mrs B Ashcroft	A Mansfield
	A Bailey	S McKiernan (Deputy Mayor)
	L Beech	S Sankey
	A A Chaudhry	M Shrive
	A Clarke	M Slater
	M T Fitzpatrick	S Slater
	D F Fletcher	C Smedley
	Mrs V J Gould	K Smith
	T Hadley	L Walker
	R Hawkins	P Walker
	M Holton	C V Whittaker
	M Huckerby	C D Wileman
	Mrs J Jones	
	P Krupski	

Officers Present:

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L Bullock, S P Gaskin. P Hudson and B G Peters.

84/24 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor A Afsar declared an interest in respect of item 7 on the agenda (minute number 89/24 refers), as he was employed in the Taxi trade, he left for the duration of this item and did not speak thereon.

85/24 **MINUTES**

The public minutes of the meeting of the Borough Council held on 19th February 2024 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
M Ackroyd		M Holton
A Afsar		K Smith BEM
G Allen		
Mrs B Ashcroft		
A Bailey		
L Beech		
A A Chaudhry		
A Clarke		
M T Fitzpatrick		
D F Fletcher		
Mrs V J Gould		
T Hadley		
R Hawkins		
M Huckerby		
S A Hussain		
Mrs J Jones		
P Krupski		
Z Krupski		
Ms A J Legg		
R Lock		
A Mansfield		
S McKiernan		
S Sankey		
M Shrive		
M Slater		
S Slater		
C Smedley		
L Walker		
P Walker		
C V Whittaker		
C D Wileman		

86/24 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor conveyed his best wishes for a Happy Ramadan and a Happy Easter to the residents of East Staffordshire.

He added that two East Staffordshire entries had reached the 2024 RHS Britain in Bloom finals, with Burton upon Trent and Winhill contesting the small city and urban categories, following a run of 25 consecutive gold medals between them at the regional Heart of England in Bloom awards.

The Mayor reminded Councillors present to use their microphones when speaking at the meeting.

87/24 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business for consideration at the meeting.

88/24 **MOTION ON NOTICE**

Councillor M T Fitzpatrick had put forward the following motion, in accordance with Rule 14, which had been duly seconded by Councillor G Allen:

“That the Mayor present a medal to a long serving officer in recognition of their service to the Council of 35 years and above”.

Andrew Tuck (Office Administrator) was presented with a certificate and medal. He responded accordingly to the presentation.

89/24 **HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE POLICY REVIEW 2024-29**

At this juncture Councillor A Afsar, having declared an interest as he was employed in the Taxi industry, left the meeting for the duration of this item and did not speak or vote thereon.

The report of the Head of Legal and Regulatory Services on the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy Review 2024-2029 was considered. The following appendices had been circulated with the report:

- Appendix 1: Taxi and Private Hire Statutory Standards;
- Appendix 2: Taxi and Private Hire Policy 2024-2029;
- Appendix 3: Benchmarking exercise: age limits stipulated neighbouring Authorities;
- Appendix 4: Matrix of Responses;
- Appendix 5: Equality and Health Impact Assessment (EHIA).

Council noted that the changes proposed as part of the review were detailed within the report and in summary the changes formed three sections:

- The first section were changes recommended through the Department for Transport Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards first published in June 2020;
- The second were legislative changes;
- The third were technical changes to update policy, refine administrative processes and engage the Council’s corporate priorities and targets.

It was proposed by Councillor M Ackroyd and duly seconded by Councillor Mrs J Jones:

“that Council approve the recommendation from the Council’s Licensing Committee to adopt:

- An 8 year vehicle age limit (no upper age limit, but ,just be Euro 6 compliant) and;
- The remainder of the policy, which included a requirement for an annual medical examination for all drivers when they reached the age of 65”

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 defeated.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

THOSE VOTING FOR THE MOTION Councillor	THOSE VOTING AGAINST Councillor	THOSE ABSTAINING Councillor
M Ackroyd	A Bailey	Ms A J Legg
G Allen	A A Chaudhry	
Mrs B Ashcroft	M T Fitzpatrick	
L Beech	D F Fletcher	
A Clarke	T Hadley	
Mrs V J Gould	R Hawkins	
Mrs J Jones	M Holton	
R Lock	M Huckerby	
S Sankey	S A Hussain	
C Smedley	P Krupski	
C V Whittaker	Z Krupski	
C D Wileman	A Mansfield	
	S McKiernan	
	M Shrive	
	M Slater	
	S Slater	
	K Smith BEM	
	L Walker	
	P Walker	

Referring to the Taxi and Private Hire Policy 2024-2029, Councillor S Slater put forward the following motion, which had been duly seconded by Councillor A A Chaudhry:

- “1. Remove the requirements of annual medical checks for over 65s;
2. Remove the age limit for new vehicles entering the fleet which comply with all of the other conditions”

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

An amendment had been put forward by Councillor G Allen, which had been duly seconded by Councillor Mrs J Jones.

The amendment read as follows:

“that it be a requirement for Taxi Drivers to submit a medical report should they be above the age of 70 years of age on an annual basis.”

The Mayor invited Council to debate the amendment.

Upon a vote being taken the Mayor declared the amendment was defeated.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

THOSE VOTING FOR THE MOTION Councillor	THOSE VOTING AGAINST Councillor	THOSE ABSTAINING Councillor
M Ackroyd	A Bailey	
G Allen	A A Chaudhry	
Mrs B Ashcroft	M T Fitzpatrick	
L Beech	D F Fletcher	
A Clarke	T Hadley	
Mrs V J Gould	R Hawkins	
Mrs J Jones	M Holton	
Ms A J Legg	M Huckerby	
R Lock	S A Hussain	
S Sankey	P Krupski	
C Smedley	Z Krupski	
C V Whittaker	A Mansfield	
C D Wileman	S McKiernan	
	M Shrive	
	M Slater	
	S Slater	
	K Smith BEM	
	L Walker	
	P Walker	

The motion put forward by Councillor S Slater became the substantive motion.

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 Bailey	M Ackroyd	
A A Chaudhry	G Allen	
M T Fitzpatrick	Mrs B Ashcroft	
D F Fletcher	L Beech	
T Hadley	A Clarke	
R Hawkins	Mrs V J Gould	
M Holton	Mrs J Jones	
M Huckerby	R Lock	
S A Hussain	S Sankey	
Ms A J Legg	C Smedley	
P Krupski	C V Whittaker	
Z Krupski	C D Wileman	
A Mansfield		
S McKiernan		
M Shrive		
M Slater		
S Slater		
K Smith BEM		
L Walker		
P Walker		

90/24 **MONITORING OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT**

At this juncture, Councillor A Afsar re-joined the meeting.

The report of the Monitoring Officer on the annual review of the arrangements for the discharge of the Monitoring Officer's duties and proposals for amendments was considered.

Council noted that since the last annual report of the Monitoring officer in March 2023, there had been 4 Standards Complaints received and that by comparison to the previous year, the number of Standards complaints received had reduced dramatically, indicating a deeper awareness of the process and the Code.

NOTED

91/24 **LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER STATEMENTS**

The following Councillors submitted their Annual Statements to Council, copies of which had been circulated at the meeting:

Leader of the Council

Councillor M T Fitzpatrick

Cabinet Member

(Communities and Regulatory Services) Councillor S Slater

Cabinet Member
(Environment and Climate Change) Councillor D Fletcher

Cabinet Member
(Finance and Treasury Management) Councillor A A Chaudhry

Cabinet Member
(Regeneration and Development) Councillor R Hawkins

Cabinet Member
(Tourism and Cultural Development) Councillor P Walker

The Statements were received and noted.

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure as three hours had elapsed since the start of the meeting, it was proposed by the Mayor and seconded by Councillor M T Fitzpatrick that the meeting time be extended.

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	L Beech	M Ackroyd
A Bailey	A Clarke	G Allen
A A Chaudhry	Mrs B Ashcroft	S Sankey
M T Fitzpatrick		R Lock
D F Fletcher		
Mrs V J Gould		
T Hadley		
R Hawkins		
M Holton		
M Huckerby		
S A Hussain		
Mrs J Jones		
P Krupski		
Z Krupski		
Ms A J Legg		
A Mansfield		
S McKiernan		
M Shrive		
M Slater		
S Slater		
C Smedley		
K Smith BEM		
L Walker		
P Walker		
C V Whittaker		
C D Wileman		

92/24 **CORPORATE PLAN REFRESH**

Resolved:

That the Corporate Plan 2023/24 be approved.

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	G Allen	
A A Chaudhry	Mrs B Ashcroft	
M T Fitzpatrick	L Beech	
D F Fletcher	A Clarke	
T Hadley	Mrs V J Gould	
R Hawkins	Mrs J Jones	
M Holton	R Lock	
M Huckerby	S Sankey	
S A Hussain	C Smedley	
P Krupski	C D Wileman	
Z Krupski		
Ms A J Legg		
A Mansfield		
S McKiernan		
M Shrive		
M Slater		
S Slater		
K Smith BEM		
L Walker		
P Walker		
C V Whittaker		

93/24 **ANNUAL REPORTS OF CHAIRMEN OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**

The following Councillors submitted their Annual Scrutiny Committee reports to the Council:-

Scrutiny (Climate Change and Environment) Committee	Councillor M Slater
Scrutiny (Health and Well Being) Committee	Councillor T Hadley
Scrutiny (Regeneration and Market Hall) Committee	Councillor K Smith BEM
Scrutiny (Value for Money Council Services) Committee	Councillor Z Krupski

The reports were received and noted.

NOTED.

94/24 **QUESTIONS**

No questions had been received in advance of the meeting.

95/24 **ELECTION OF MAYOR 2024/25**

The Council received one nomination for the appointment of Mayor 2024/25.

It was proposed and duly seconded that
“Councillor S McKiernan be nominated for appointment as Mayor at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 17th May 2024”.

Upon a vote being taken the proposal 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		
G Allen		
Mrs B Ashcroft		
A Bailey		
L Beech		
A A Chaudhry		
A Clarke		
M T Fitzpatrick		
D F Fletcher		
Mrs V J Gould		
T Hadley		
R Hawkins		
M Holton		
M Huckerby		
S A Hussain		
Mrs J Jones		
P Krupski		
Z Krupski		
Ms A J Legg		
R Lock		
A Mansfield		
S McKiernan		
S Sankey		
M Shrive		
M Slater		
S Slater		
C Smedley		
K Smith BEM		
L Walker		
P Walker		
C V Whittaker		
C D Wileman		

96/24 **ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR 2024/25**

The Council received one nomination for the appointment of Deputy Mayor 2024/25.

It was proposed and duly seconded that
 “Councillor Kim Smith BEM be nominated for appointment as Deputy Mayor at the
 Annual Meeting of the Council on 17th May 2024”.

Upon a vote being taken the proposal 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		
G Allen		
Mrs B Ashcroft		
A Bailey		
L Beech		
A A Chaudhry		
A Clarke		
M T Fitzpatrick		
D F Fletcher		
Mrs V J Gould		
T Hadley		
R Hawkins		
M Holton		
M Huckerby		
S A Hussain		
Mrs J Jones		
P Krupski		
Z Krupski		
Ms A J Legg		
R Lock		
A Mansfield		
S McKiernan		
S Sankey		
M Shrive		
M Slater		
S Slater		
C Smedley		
K Smith BEM		
L Walker		
P Walker		
C V Whittaker		
C D Wileman		

97/24 **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.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

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

Mayor