



**EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
Extraordinary Council Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

Urgent Question received from Councillor R G W Grosvenor and response from the Leader of the Council Councillor D Goodfellow.

17/21 **We learn from various media publications that ESBC is drawing up plans to pursue a “County Deal” with government under its levelling up agenda. Could Cllr Goodfellow advise what this means for ESBC and why is Stoke-On-Trent City Council not involved?**

Since 2019/20, the County Council and district council leaders have come to value collaboration. A “County Deal” allows all councils to accelerate changes and make progress on important priorities such as climate change, social care workforce recruitment and further developing Staffordshire as a logistics hub. Through the joint working the Staffordshire family will continue to strengthen waste and recycling services, create the right conditions for economic growth and reduce health inequalities.

Stoke on Trent is in discussions with the Staffordshire authorities but at the moment does not sit inside the county deal arrangements.

Urgent Question received from Councillor R G W Grosvenor and response from the Leader of the Council Councillor D Goodfellow.

18/21 **We learn that Cllr Goodfellow wrote to the Leader of SCC on November 8<sup>th</sup> saying that he asks the County Council Cabinet to support the proposal to relocate the library into the Market Hall. Had Councillor Goodfellow seen the business case or consultation results behind this proposal before he sent this letter to the Leader of the County Council?**

You have not quoted correctly from my letter to Cllr Alan White. It stated:

“With this in mind, I would ask that the County Council Cabinet supports the proposal to relocate the library into the Market Hall, ***if the whole business case for Project E is positive*** . This comment is in line with the Heads of Terms agreed with Government and as such it is not revelatory.

I would add that consultation results are one element of the business case process (not the sole decision making criteria) and the business case must stack up against HM Treasury's Green Book Headings.



In my role as a member of the Towns Fund board partnership I was and am able to see progress being made by the County Council and the relevant Towns Fund board members.

19/21 Urgent Question received from Councillor P Walker and response from the Leader of the Council Councillor D Goodfellow

**Taxi drivers across Burton have suffered greatly due to the loss of trade seen during the pandemic. As many struggle to find their feet again, the last thing around a 106 drivers expected was to be forced into paying money that they do not have for a new vehicle with a Euro six engine.**

**Whilst the trade acknowledges the need to tackle climate change and are not broadly opposed to the introduction of Euro six engines drivers would like to see a delay into their mandatory introduction until 2025 in line with other authorities in order to allow for revenue to recover. Does the Leader of the Council agree that the Taxi trade should be given the extension they are looking for and give taxi drivers the extra time needed to rebuild their livelihoods?'**

The implementation of compliance with the Euro 4/6 emissions regulations was approved at full Council in February 2020 as part of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy (which you voted in favour of). On November 17<sup>th</sup> 2021, a report was taken to the Licencing Committee providing an option to either continue with the implementation date or temporarily suspend the implementation whilst the current Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy is reviewed. A petition on the subject has also been received from the taxi trade and will be heard by the Licencing committee this Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> 2021, and as such I wouldn't want to pre-judge the members response to that.