

Chairman - Councillor P M M Farrington

Present (for all or part of the meeting):-

Councillors:

F Beatty	Economic Development and Planning Portfolio
J M Pert	Deputy Leader and Community Portfolio
J K Price	Climate Change Portfolio
R M Smith	Resources Portfolio
C V Trowbridge	Leisure Portfolio
M J Winnington	Environment Portfolio

Officers in attendance:-

Mr T Clegg	Chief Executive
Mr I Curran	Head of Law and Administration
Mrs J Aupers	Head of Governance
Mr N Clifton	Interim Head of Operations
Dr T Redpath	Interim Head of Corporate Business and Partnerships
Mr W Conaghan	Press and Communications Manager
Mr J Dean	Democratic Services Officer

CAB32 Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2022 as published on 7 October 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

CAB33 Proposals for an Increase in Fares: Hackney Carriage Vehicles

Considered a report seeking approval of a request from the Stafford Taxi Association on behalf of the Hackney Carriage proprietors for an increase in fares.

Councillor M J Winnington introduced the report and highlighted the detail contained within Paragraphs 3 and 5 before concluding his comments by recommending that the proposals as set out in Paragraph 2 be approved.

The Cabinet subsequently voted on the recommendation, which was declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that the proposals of the Cabinet Member, Environment Portfolio be approved as follows:

That:-

- (a) the revised scale of charges set out in appendix 1 of the report for Hackney Carriages licensed by the Council be approved;
- (b) the revised charges be implemented from Monday 7 November 2022.

CAB34 Fees and Charges Review 2023

Considered a report proposing the Fees and Charges for 2023 for submission to the 22 November meeting of the Council.

The Cabinet Member, Resources Portfolio introduced the report by detailing the content of Paragraphs 3 and 5, noting that the general increase of 5% was less than half the current rate of inflation.

Continuing, Councillor Smith was pleased to announce freezes to the following charges:-

- All car parking;
- Hackney carriage and private hire licenses and associated charges;
- Garden waste collection;
- Market charges

Continuing, the Portfolio holder stated that the Cabinet were mindful of the suggested increases which were modest when compared to the Retail Price Index, before concluding his comments by recommending that the proposal as set out in Paragraph 2 be approved.

The Leader of the Council paid tribute to Councillor Smith and the associated Officers for preparing the report and welcomed the proposed 'freezing' of certain charges.

Councillor J M Pert noted the importance of striking the right balance when setting fees and charges, particularly during the ongoing cost of living crisis and reaffirmed the Council's commitment to support town centres and businesses in the Borough.

Councillor M J Winnington was pleased to note the discounted fee for electric/hybrid/plug-in Hackney carriage and private hire vehicles.

Cabinet subsequently voted on the recommendation, which was declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that the proposal of the Cabinet Member, Resources Portfolio be approved as follows:-

That the proposed Fees and Charges for 2023 be recommended to Council for approval, specifically the new charges in as set out paragraph 5.5 and the increases above 12.3% as detailed in paragraph 5.6 of the report.

THIS ITEM IS NOT SUBJECT TO CALL IN AND WILL BE REFERRED TO THE VARIOUS SCRUTINY COMMITTEES PRIOR TO COUNCIL ON 22 NOVEMBER 2022.

CAB35 Strategic Risk Register

Considered a report setting out details of the Council's Strategic Risk Register as at 30 September 2022.

The Cabinet Member, Resources Portfolio introduced the report by detailing the content of Paragraphs 3 and 5 before providing detail relating to Risk C1 and the importance of continued lobbying of Central Government on this matter. Councillor Smith concluded his comments by recommending that the proposals as set out in Paragraph 2 be approved.

Cabinet subsequently voted on the recommendation, which was declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that the proposals of the Cabinet Member, Resources Portfolio be approved as follows:-

That the draft Strategic Risk Register be approved and the progress made in the identification and management of the strategic risks be noted.

CAB36 Climate Change and Green Recovery - Annual Update

Considered a report providing an update on the activities undertaken by the Council in relation to climate change and green recovery.

The Cabinet Member, Climate Change Portfolio introduced the report by detailing the content of Paragraphs 3 and 5 and was pleased to report the progress made despite the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and the continuing cost of living crisis; Councillor Price paid tribute to Dr Tracy Redpath and her Team for their efforts in this area of work which was subsequently detailed. The Portfolio holder concluded his comments by recommending that the proposal as set out in Paragraph 2 be approved.

Councillor R M Smith was pleased to support the report and reiterated that tackling climate change was the responsibility of all, and went on to detail several tree planting schemes in the Borough.

Councillor J M Pert noted the significant work carried out which cut across all areas of Council activity.

Cabinet subsequently voted on the recommendation, which was declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that the proposal of the Cabinet Member, Climate Change Portfolio be approved as follows:-

That progress be noted and the report be submitted to Council in November as the annual update on climate change and green recovery.

CAB37 Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) in the Private Rented Sector - Penalty Charges

Considered a report requesting adoption of a proposed scheme of penalty charges to support enforcement activity around minimum energy efficiency standards in the private rented sector by the Council's Health and Housing Team.

The Deputy Leader introduced the report by detailing the content of Paragraphs 3 and 5 before noting the importance of recognising the impact of increased energy prices on all households across the Borough.

Councillor Pert concluded his comments by recommending that the proposal as set out in Paragraph 2 be approved.

Cabinet subsequently voted on the recommendation, which was declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that the proposal of the Deputy Leader be approved as follows:-

That the scheme of penalty charges relating to domestic minimum energy efficiency in the private rented sector be adopted.

CHAIR