

Chair - Councillor A T A Godfrey

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

Councillors:

R Kenney	-	Deputy Leader
R P Cooke	-	Resources Portfolio
J Hood	-	Community Portfolio
G P K Pardesi	-	Leisure Portfolio
A F Reid	-	Economic Development and Planning Portfolio
A N Pearce	-	Climate Change Portfolio
I D Fordham	-	Environment Portfolio

Also present - Councillors P W Jones and L Nixon

Officers in attendance:

T Clegg	-	Chief Executive
C Forrester	-	Deputy Chief Executive - Resources
J Presland	-	Head of Operations
W Conaghan	-	Press and Communication Manager
J Dean	-	Democratic Services Officer
J Allen	-	Democratic Services Officer

### **CAB23 Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2023 as published on 8 September 2023 were agreed as a correct record, subject to the inclusion of Councillor I D Fordham.

### **CAB24 Future Summer Planting Provision**

Considered a report detailing options available regarding the annual summer provision of planting across the Borough, specifically the commercial procurement of mature plants.

The Cabinet Member, Environment Portfolio introduced the report referring colleagues to the detail contained within paragraphs 2 and 5. Councillor Fordham concluded his comments by recommending that the proposal as set out in Paragraph 2 be approved.

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

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

That the commercial procurement of mature plants ready for planting be agreed.

*Councillor A F Ried declared a prejudicial interest in the following item and remained at the meeting table, but took no part in the debate and voting thereon.*

**CAB25 Beech Road Play Area, Eccleshall**

Considered a report regarding the potential leasing of a play area located at Beech Road, Eccleshall.

The Cabinet Member, Leisure Portfolio introduced the report before referring colleagues to the detail contained within paragraphs 2 and 5 and the associated appendix.

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

The Cabinet subsequently voted on the recommendations, which were declared to be carried.

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

That:-

- (a) the play area at Beech Road, Eccleshall, be leased to Eccleshall Parish Council;
- (b) disposal of the open space be advertised in accordance with Section 123(2A) of the Local Government Act 1973.

**CAB26 Future High Streets Fund - Programme Change**

Considered a report recommending approval to amend the capital programme to reflect a change in the regeneration schemes within the Stafford Town Centre Transformation Programme.

The Deputy Leader introduced the report referring colleagues to the detail contained within paragraphs 2 and 5 and the associated appendices.

Councillor Kenney was pleased to propose the report for approval, the content of which formed one element of the overall redevelopment of Stafford Town Centre.

The Deputy Leader concluded his comments by recommending that the proposal as set out in Paragraph 2 be approved.

The Cabinet subsequently voted on the recommendations, which were declared to be carried.

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

That:-

- (a) the capital programme be updated to reflect the inclusion of the development scheme identified at the former Co-Op premises, Gaolgate Street, Stafford (subject to approval from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC));
- (b) authority be delegated to the Head of Economic Development and Planning (in consultation with the Deputy Leader, the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Planning, the Council Section 151 Officer) to take all necessary steps to complete the acquisition of the former Co-Op premises, Gaolgate Street, Stafford;
- (c) authority be delegated to the Head of Economic Development and Planning (in consultation with the Deputy Leader, the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Planning, the Council Section 151 Officer and the Stafford Town Centre Transformation Programme Board) to progress the proposals in accordance with the Future High Streets Fund (FHSF) change request documentation submitted to DLUHC, including the appointment of external contractors, preparation and submission of regulatory approval applications, conducting relevant surveys and entering into any necessary licence agreements to deliver the programme as a whole;
- (d) authority be delegated to the Head of Economic Development and Planning (in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Planning and the Council Section 151 Officer) to develop and implement a business case for the future use and management of sites within the FHSF programme.

The Leader of the Council and fellow Cabinet Members paid tribute to the associated Officers for bringing this exiting scheme to Cabinet for approval.

**CAB27 High Speed Rail 2 Announcement.**

The Leader of the Council referred to the recent announcement made by the Prime Minister that the northern leg of the above project was to be cancelled.

Councillor Godfrey confirmed that the large scale development projects with Stafford would continue to be implemented.

He would be asking the Government to address the construction damage that has already happened to people's properties, local wildlife habitats and the countryside generally, and that people be adequately compensated.

He also asked the Government to share details soon of improvements to rail services with better connections to the North and South.

CHAIR