

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

Also present - Councillors A P Edgeller, J M Pert and  
M J Winnington

Officers in attendance:

- T Clegg - Chief Executive
- G Stott - Deputy Chief Executive - Place
- D Piper - Head of Economic Development and Planning
- J Aupers - Head of Transformation and Assurance
- A Nevin - Head of Wellbeing
- M Smith - Economic Growth and Strategic Projects  
Manager
- W Conaghan - Press and Communication Manager
- J Dean - Democratic Services Officer

#### **CAB39 Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2023 as published on 3 November 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

#### **CAB40 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor I D Fordham.

#### **CAB41 Removal of Restrictions**

Considered a report seeking approval to remove the restrictions on the sale price of the property numbered 8 Brooklime Gardens, Stafford.

The Cabinet Member, Community Portfolio introduced the report noting the detail as contained within paragraphs 1, 3 and 5.

Councillor Hood concluded her 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, Community Portfolio, be approved as follows:

the removal of the Council's restriction on 8 Brooklime Gardens be agreed and authority be delegated to the Head of Wellbeing to approve the removal of similar restrictions, where appropriate.

#### **CAB42 Quarter 2 Performance Report for 2023-24**

Considered a report advising Members on the progress in delivering the Council's priorities and performance at the end of the Quarter 2 for 2023-24.

The Cabinet Member, Resources Portfolio introduced the report noting its consideration at the various Scrutiny Committees before referring colleagues to the detail contained within paragraphs 1, 3 and 5 and the associated appendices.

Councillor Cooke reiterated the Council's commitment to the regeneration of its town centres and was pleased to demonstrate the major projects taking place in Stafford, noting the recent ministerial visit by Michael Gove MP Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. Cabinet colleagues took this opportunity to thank Officers for their efforts in securing the major funding to allow said projects to take place.

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

Councillors Hood and Pardesi paid tribute to those groups and individuals involved in efforts to alleviate the effects of the continuing cost of living crisis, in particular the provision of food banks and warm spaces.

The 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:-

- (a) the progress made during Quarter 2 in the delivery of the Council's priorities and performance be noted;
- (b) (i) it be noted that the workforce plan had been deferred to 2024/25, and
  - (ii) a report outlining the revised timetable for the Local Plan be submitted to a future meeting of Cabinet.

**CAB43 Future High Streets Fund - Capital Programme Change - Part Confidential**

Considered a report recommending approval to amend the capital programme to reflect the purchase of the Guildhall Shopping Centre as part of the Stafford Town Centre Transformation Programme supported by the Future High Streets Fund and investment from Stafford Borough and Staffordshire County Councils.

The Deputy Leader introduced the report by echoing the previous comments of Councillor Cooke in reaffirming the Councils commitment to the regeneration of the Borough's town centres, which was indeed the Cabinet's top priority. Councillor Kenney paid tribute to Officers for their work in bringing another exiting project forward before referring colleagues to the detail contained within paragraphs 3 and 5 and the associated confidential appendices.

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

The Leader of the Council was excited to see the recommendation brought before Cabinet and reiterated that said proposals formed part of an overall 'Project Stafford' which encompassed the other development projects previously mentioned. Councillor Godfrey was pleased to see Stafford being talked about in such a positive manner and looked forward to work commencing at the earliest opportunity to allow the Cabinet to deliver on its highest priority of town centre regeneration.

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

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

it be agreed that:-

- (a) the capital programme be updated to reflect the acquisition of the Guildhall Shopping Centre, Stafford;
- (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 and the Council Section 151 Officer) to take all necessary steps to complete the acquisition of the Guildhall Shopping Centre, 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 regeneration of

the Guildhall Shopping Centre, Stafford, to include appointment of external contractors, preparation and submission of regulatory approval applications, conducting relevant surveys and entering into any necessary license agreements to deliver the programme as a whole;

- (d) authority be delegated to the Head of Economic Development and Planning (in consultation with the Deputy Leader, 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.

#### **CAB44 Shakespeare Production 2024 - Part Confidential**

Considered a report presenting the evaluation of A Midsummer Night's Dream at the Gatehouse Theatre in June 2023 and seeking approval to hold the annual Shakespeare production to be staged at the Gatehouse Theatre in 2024.

The Cabinet Member, Leisure Portfolio introduced the report noting the continuing financial pressures experienced by Freedom Leisure. Councillor Pardesi referred colleagues to the detail contained within paragraphs 1, 3 and 5 and the associated confidential appendix.

Councillor Pardesi concluded her 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 proposal of the Cabinet Member, Leisure Portfolio, be approved as follows:

that:-

- (a) the content of the report be noted, in particular the evaluation of the 2023 production of A Midsummer Night's Dream;
- (b) holding of the 2024 Shakespeare production at the Gatehouse Theatre be agreed;
- (c) authority be delegated to the Head of Wellbeing (in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Leisure) to determine the location of the Shakespeare production in future years following consideration of the budget implications.

CHAIR