

Chair - Councillor A T A Godfrey

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

Councillors:

| | | |
|---------------|---|---|
| R P Cooke | - | Resources Portfolio |
| I D Fordham | - | Environment Portfolio |
| J Hood | - | Community Portfolio |
| R Kenney | - | Deputy Leader |
| 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 and D P Rouxel

Officers in attendance:

| | | |
|------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| G Stott | - | Deputy Chief Executive (Place) |
| J Aupers | - | Head of Transformation and Assurance |
| W Conaghan | - | Press and Communication Manager |
| J Dean | - | Democratic Services Officer |

CAB61 Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2024 as published on 9 February 2024 were agreed as a correct record.

CAB62 Stafford Station Gateway - Part Confidential

Considered a report updating Cabinet on progress made in relation to the development of Stafford Station Gateway, following the recent award of funding from the Levelling Up Fund. The report also sought to secure appropriate delegations to enable the timely expenditure of recently awarded Levelling Up grant funding. The report concluded by setting out the context for immediate future reports relating to the formalisation of governance arrangements.

The Cabinet Member, Economic Development and Planning Portfolio stated that the Stafford Station Gateway project had significant implications for a part of the Borough which had had little attention in the past. The project essentially had two phases: firstly to clean up the site, and secondly to invite and enable development on the site. Due to the state of much of the Gateway site, the first phase of clean up and stabilisation was very significant and the Council had secured significant funding from the Government to make that happen. On behalf of our residents, many congratulations and thanks go to those who enabled that to happen.

Councillor Reid was today asking Cabinet to approve the five recommendations listed in the report and allow the project to proceed.

Continuing, the Cabinet Member drew attention to the fourth recommendation particularly. This concerned governance; with a further report to be submitted to Cabinet seeking approval of a new governance structure for the first phase. Councillor Reid would be seeking assurances that controls be put in place to enable good communications and involvement by the community - those currently on the land and those nearby.

Throughout the first phase it was imperative that the Council protect the health and livelihoods of the workers, tenants and the local community. Councillor Reid had received assurances and would seek appropriate controls to minimise the disruption to the existing businesses whilst ensuring safety for workers and members of the public, and the efficiency of the process. The Council wanted the project to be done well, done safely and with the minimal disruption to the Community.

Furthermore, Councillor Reid noted that the report made mention of the Strategic Regeneration Framework. This was the vision when the plan was submitted, and he was seeking ways in which the local community and businesses could continue to influence that vision. This was important, as over time the needs of, for example, 2040 may well be different from those imagined in 2021 or even today. The vision pertained to the future phase beyond this phase, and that work would have its own governance. The Cabinet Member felt that it was important to get the vision right, and the Council needed to understand the destination as it started this journey.

Councillor Reid concluded 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, Economic Development and Planning Portfolio, be approved as follows:

That:-

- (a) the £19,998,144 Levelling Up funding awarded by Government to Stafford Borough Council for the delivery of the Stafford Station Gateway Levelling Up Fund project be accepted;
- (b) it be recommended to Council that Stafford Station Gateway be included within the Council's Capital Programme;

- (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 and the Council Section 151 Officer) to commence negotiations to acquire the land within the Gateway site as identified on the plan within the confidential appendix to the report;
- (d) appropriate governance structures and programme/project management arrangements be developed to support the delivery of the Stafford Station Gateway, Levelling Up Fund project, including the establishment of a Stafford Station Gateway Programme Board, with a further report to be presented by the Head of Economic Development and Planning to Cabinet to approve those arrangements;
- (e) 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 Stafford Station Gateway Programme Board) to progress the Stafford Station Gateway, Levelling Up Fund project. This would include but not be limited to the appointment of external contractors, preparation, and submission of regulatory approval applications, conducting relevant surveys, demolition, site clearance land reclamation, relocation of existing tenants and entering into any necessary license agreements.

CAB63 Planning Obligations and DCLG Grant Allocation - Baswich, and Weeping Cross and Wildwood

Received a report considering the allocation of Section 106 funding plus DCLG grant monies towards the provision and enhancement of open spaces serving the communities of Baswich, and Weeping Cross and Wildwood and to be given permission to spend subject to the successful completion of the procurement process.

The Cabinet Member, Leisure Portfolio was delighted to introduce the report noting the detail as contained within paragraphs 1, 3 and 5.

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 proposals of the Cabinet Member, Leisure Portfolio, be approved as follows:

That:-

- (a) the allocation of an existing off-site contribution under the terms of a S106 agreement for the amount of £129,096 be approved for the enhancement of open space in Baswich ward;
- (b) £21,153 from a DCLG grant for Park Improvements received in 2018/2019 be approved for the enhancement of open space in the ward of Weeping Cross and Wildwood;
- (c) permission be given to progress to the procurement and spend stages of the project delivery process, based on the proposals described in section 5 of the report and the above funding allocations;
- (d) authority be delegated to the Head of Economic Development and Planning and Head of Operations (in conjunction with the Leisure Portfolio Holder and relevant Local Councillors) to approve the final plans and any further revisions to enable the projects to be delivered.

CAB64 Quarter 3 Performance Report for 2023-24

Considered a report advising Members of the progress in delivering the Council's priorities and performance at the end of the quarter 3 for 2023-24.

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

Councillor Cooke was pleased to report on those key performance indicators exceeding their targets and paid tribute to those Officers for said performance. Councillor A F Reid paid his own tribute to Officers of the Planning Department for their efforts.

Councillor A N Pearce was pleased to confirm that the funding pertaining to the Stafford Brooks Project had been awarded.

Councillor Cooke 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, Resources Portfolio, be approved as follows:

That progress made during quarter 3 in the delivery of the Council's priorities and the performance as set out within appendices 1 and 2 of the report be noted.

CAB65 Revenues and Benefits Collection Report - Quarter 3 - Part Confidential

Considered a report informing Cabinet of the performance of the Revenues and Benefits Service as regards:

- the collection of Council Tax during the first three quarters of the 2023/2024 financial year;
- the collection of Business Rates during the three quarters of the 2023/2024 financial year;
- the recovery of overpaid Housing Benefit during the first three quarters of the 2023/2024 financial year

and seeking approval to the write off of the arrears listed in the confidential appendices.

The Cabinet Member, Resources Portfolio introduced the report noting the detail as contained within paragraphs 1 to 7, together with the associated confidential appendices.

Councillor Cooke concluded 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, Resources Portfolio, be approved as follows:

That:-

- (a) the information regarding collections be noted;
- (b) the arrears listed in the confidential appendices to the report be written off.

CHAIR