



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
C V Trowbridge	Leisure Portfolio
M J Winnington	Environment Portfolio

Officers in attendance

Mr I Curran	Head of Law and Administration
Mr C Jordan	Interim Head of Development
Dr T Redpath	Interim Head of Corporate Business and Partnerships
Mr J Dean	Democratic Services Officer

CAB46 Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2022 as published on 2 December 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

CAB47 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R M Smith and Mr T Clegg, Chief Executive.

CAB48 Staffordshire Leaders Board Amendment to Terms of Reference

Considered a submission seeking endorsement to a change to the Terms of Reference (as set out in the associated appendix to the report) that had been agreed by the Staffordshire Leaders Board.

The Leader of the Council introduced the report and highlighted the detail contained within Paragraph 4 before concluding 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 Leader of the Council be approved as follows:-

That the amended Terms of Reference for the Staffordshire Leaders Board set out in the appendix to the report be endorsed.

CAB49 General Fund Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 2023-26

Considered a report proposing to the Council the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2023-24, the updated Capital Programme 2023-26 and indicative budgets for 2024-25 to 2025-26.

The Leader of the Council, on behalf of the Cabinet Member, Resources Portfolio introduced the report and was pleased to announce that in line with the administrations aims since 2003 Council Tax remained below inflation, and several fees and charges had been frozen to minimise the impact on residents during the continued cost of living crisis. Through prudent management of the Councils finances services were maintained despite the ongoing severe external pressures and the Council was debt free and continued to invest in capital schemes across the Borough, several of which were detailed.

The Leader was pleased to report receipt of greater than anticipated financial support from central Government which would go some way in assisting with future financial pressures.

In concluding his comments the Leader of the Council highlighted that the Councils finances were in a healthy position and the authority was well placed to thrive in the longer term, before moving the proposals as set out in paragraph 2 of the report.

In seconding the motion to approve the recommendations the Deputy Leader paid tribute to Councillor Smith for his report which had been prepared under continuing global issues of recovery from the Coronavirus pandemic, increased levels of inflation, the continuing war in Ukraine and the world wide cost of living crisis. The budget demonstrated that the Council offered great value for money for its residents and continued to deliver excellent levels of service.

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 the following be recommended to Council for approval:-

- (a) the Budget Requirement for the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2023- 24 be set at £16.199 million;

- (b) the indicative General Fund Revenue Budgets be set at £15.095 million for 2024-25 and £15.826 million for 2025-26;
- (c) the budget pressures, savings and income generation as set out in paragraphs 5.5 - 5.6 of the report be approved;
- (d) the General Fund working balance be set at a minimum of £1.0 million;
- (e) the detailed capital programme as set out in appendix 2 of the report be approved;
- (f) the Council Tax for 2023-24 be increased by 1.9% to £168.52;
- (g) the Council's Tax Base be set at 48,863.55 (as determined by the Head of Finance);
- (h) it be noted that the inflation parameter for fees and charges for 2023-24 was generally set at 5%.

Members of the Cabinet extended their thanks to the Cabinet Member and the Section 151 Officer and his colleagues for their continued efforts in this area of work.

THIS ITEM IS NOT SUBJECT TO CALL IN AND WILL BE REFERRED TO COUNCIL ON 24 JANUARY 2023.

CAB50 Stafford Station Gateway - Updated Strategic Regeneration Framework

Considered a report:-

- Updating Members on the consultation feedback received in respect of the draft Strategic Regeneration Framework (SRF) for the Stafford Station Gateway and the subsequent revisions made to the document;
- Presenting the Consultation Statement and a revised version of the SRF to Members for consideration;
- Seeking agreement for a process to enable minor amendments to the text and images within the final document to accurately reflect updated information.

The Cabinet Member, Economic Development and Planning Portfolio introduced the report and was pleased to note the excellent response to said consultation, the results of which would be considered when forming the associated proposals.

Councillor Beatty detailed a typographical error in Paragraph 5.15 which should read:-

“There were a limited number of TPOs in place within the site...”

Continuing, the Cabinet Member highlighted the detail contained within Paragraphs 3 and 5 before concluding her comments by recommending that the proposals as set out in Paragraph 2 be approved.

The Leader of the Council reiterated how this development was one of a number of significant capital projects taking shape across the Borough, and paid tribute to Councillor Beatty and the associated Officers in their efforts.

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 analysis of and commentary on the consultation process and the views presented on the draft SRF be noted;
- (b) the Consultation Statement and updated SRF be endorsed and referred to full Council for adoption;
- (c) authority be delegated to the Head of Development (in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Planning) to update the adopted SRF to make minor amendments to the text and images within the final document to accurately reflect updated information.

THIS ITEM IS NOT SUBJECT TO CALL IN AND WILL BE REFERRED TO COUNCIL ON 24 JANUARY 2023.

CHAIR