

Councillor J M Pert - Deputy Leader in the Chair

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

Councillors:

F Beatty - Economic Development and Planning 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
Dr T Redpath - Interim Head of Corporate Business and Partnerships
Mr J Dean - Democratic Services Officer

CAB51 Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2023 as published on 20 January 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

CAB52 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor P M M Farrington.

CAB53 Final Accounts 2019/20

The Cabinet Member, Resources Portfolio noted that as the report had been included on the agenda in error it should not be considered further.

RESOLVED: that the matter not be considered further.

CAB54 Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2023-24

Considered a report:-

- outlining proposed changes to the Council's Local Council Tax Reduction (LCTR) scheme for the financial year beginning on 1 April 2023;
- reporting the outcome of the consultation process undertaken in respect of those changes;

- making provision for the updating of the Council's LCTR scheme on a timely basis in future, should this be necessary, as a result of changes to the wider benefit system or support made available to assist residents with cost of living or energy bill increases.

The Cabinet Member, Resources Portfolio introduced the report and summarised the associated responses before highlighting the detail contained within Paragraphs 3 and 5. Councillor Smith 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) Council be recommended to approve the removal of the 80% cap for working aged claimants, in respect of the LCTR scheme for 2023-24 only;
- (b) authority be delegated to the Section 151 Officer to make incidental changes to the scheme where such changes do not impact on the Council's budget or policies and are necessary to ensure that claimants' entitlement to LCTR is not reduced by receipt of payments made which are intended to assist with cost of living and energy bill increases.

THIS ITEM IS NOT SUBJECT TO CALL IN AND WILL BE REFERRED TO COUNCIL ON 21 FEBRUARY 2023.

CAB55 Treasury Management Strategy, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy, Annual Investment Strategy 2023/24

Considered a report seeking approval by Council of:-

- Prudential and Treasury Indicators;
- The Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy;
- Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2023/24;
- Annual Investment Strategy 2023/24

The Cabinet Member, Resources Portfolio introduced the report confirming its statutory nature before highlighting the detail contained within Paragraphs 3 and 5 and the associated appendices. Councillor Smith confirmed that the policy was scheduled for review in March 2024 before

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

The Deputy Leader noted the comments of the LGA Peer Review and the Councils external auditors relating to its continually well-run finances and lack of borrowing to fund large capital schemes.

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 following be recommended to Council for approval:-
 - (i) the Prudential and Treasury Indicators;
 - (ii) the MRP Policy Statement;
 - (iii) the Treasury Management Policy;
 - (iv) the Annual Investment Strategy for 2023/24;
- (b) it be noted that indicators may change in accordance with the final recommendations from Cabinet to Council in relation to both the General Fund Revenue Budget and the Capital Programme.

THIS ITEM IS NOT SUBJECT TO CALL IN AND WILL BE REFERRED TO THE AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE ON 20 FEBRUARY 2023 AND COUNCIL ON 21 FEBRUARY 2023.

CAB56 Anti-Social Behavior Update 2022

Considered a report providing an update on how the Council dealt with reports of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and discussed the current levels of ASB across the Borough and activities implemented to prevent and provide support to victims.

The Cabinet Member, Community Portfolio introduced the report and highlighted the continued close working between the Council and partner organisations in this area of work. Councillor Pert detailed the content of Paragraphs 3 and 5 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 Cabinet Member, Community Portfolio be approved as follows:

That the report be noted.

The Cabinet thanked Dr Tracy Redpath and her Team for their efforts relating to the installation of additional CCTV cameras in the Borough.

CAB57 Sale of North Walls, Stafford

Considered a report recommending the sale of the former Stafford District Voluntary Services (SDVS) offices at North Walls, Stafford.

The Cabinet Member, Community Portfolio introduced the report noting the options explored to re-use said buildings, which sadly had fallen into disrepair and did not offer good value for money by being refurbished. Councillor Pert highlighted the detail contained within Paragraphs 3 and 5 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 Cabinet Member, Community Portfolio be approved as follows:

That the former SDVS offices be sold on the open market (subject to obtaining a valuation prior to their sale) and the receipt be used to support the delivery of affordable housing to meet identified needs within the Borough.

CAB58 Government Grant Funding Stafford Borough UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)

Considered a report noting the Government's confirmation of the Council's funding allocation under the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and seeking delegated powers to spend the funding in line with the submitted Investment Plan. The report also sought the same delegated powers for funding under the Rural England Prosperity Fund, subject to this funding subsequently being confirmed.

The Cabinet Member, Economic Development and Planning Portfolio was pleased to submit this exiting report which would support a number of projects across the Borough and support a variety of business sectors. Councillor Beatty 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.

Cabinet colleagues were grateful to Councillor Beatty in bringing this matter to fruition which was cross cutting across all priorities of the Council and its communities.

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 UKSPF allocation of £4,673,295 awarded by Government to the Council be accepted and an additional £20,000 of funding to support the preparatory work required to deliver the programme awarded by Government to the Council as per the agreed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as set out in appendix 5 of the report;
- (b) the Head of Development be authorised to work with partners to develop and commence the commissioning of projects to be funded by UKSPF and commence commissioning on Council-led projects in accordance with the submitted and approved Investment Plan;
- (c) authority to spend the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) award of £487,936 if subsequently confirmed by Government be delegated to the Head of Development.;
- (d) the Head of Development and where relevant the S151 Officer be authorised in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Planning to agree any non-material project/programme changes;
- (e) authority to enter into any necessary legal agreements with grant recipients that are required to facilitate the delivery of the projects be delegated to the Head of Development in consultation with the Portfolio Holder;
- (f) the Head of Development be authorised to finalise the terms of reference and membership of the Stafford Shared Prosperity Board;
- (g) the Head of Development be authorised to produce and submit any financial and output returns and monitoring and evaluation information as required to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC);

- (h) the funding for capital projects to be brought into the capital budget be authorised being; £364,462 in year 2022/23, £625,538 for year 2023/24 and £2,376,363 in year 2024/25.

CAB59 Sustainability West Midlands Local Authority Sustainability Benchmark 2022

Considered a report providing an update to Members regarding the results of Sustainability West Midland's Local Authority Sustainability Benchmark 2022.

The Cabinet Member, Climate Change Portfolio was pleased to introduce the report and highlighted the detail contained within Paragraphs 3 and 5. Before concluding his comments, Councillor Price paid tribute to Dr Tracy Redpath and her Team for their efforts, noting that the Council was a recognised leader in the region in this area of work. The Cabinet Member duly recommended 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, Climate Change Portfolio be approved as follows:

That the report be noted.

CHAIR