

Minutes of the Cabinet held at the Civic Centre, Riverside, Stafford on Thursday 5 December 2024

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

R Kenney - Deputy Leader and Town Centres Regeneration

Portfolio

A N Pearce - Climate Action and Nature Recovery Portfolio
A F Reid - Economic Development and Planning Portfolio

Also present - Councillor B McKeown

Officers in attendance:

T Clegg - Chief Executive

C Forrester - Deputy Chief Executive - Resources
J Aupers - Head of Transformation and Assurance

D Piper - Head of Economic Development and Planning

J Dean - Democratic Services Officer

CAB39 Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2024 as published on 8 November 2024 were agreed as a correct record.

CAB40 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Hood and G P K Pardesi.

CAB41 Fulford Parish Neighbourhood Area Application

Considered a report seeking approval to designate Fulford Parish as a Neighbourhood Area for the purpose of producing a Neighbourhood Plan within the remit of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by the Localism Act 2011 and further following such designation, to publish details of the same.

The Cabinet Member, Economic Development and Planning Portfolio, introduced the report noting the detail as set out in paragraphs 3 and 5.

Councillor Reid concluded his comments by encouraging parish councils to work closely with the appropriate council Officers on such matters before 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) Fulford Parish be designated as a Neighbourhood Area;
- (b) publishing of the information set out below (subparagraphs (i) to (ii)) on the Council's website and in such other manner so as to ensure that the designation is brought to the attention of people who live, work or carry on business in the neighbourhood area be authorised:
 - (i) the name of the neighbourhood area;
 - (ii) a map which identifies the area; and
 - (iii) the name of the relevant body who applied for the designation.

CAB42 Section 106 Monitoring Fee

Considered a report:-

- setting out a charging schedule for the monitoring of Section 106 Agreements (S106) and;
- seeking approval to authorise a charging schedule for S106 monitoring fees and late payment of S106 obligations.

The Cabinet Member, Economic Development and Planning Portfolio, introduced the report noting the detail as set out in paragraphs 3 and 5 and 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) a S106 monitoring fee charging schedule as follows be approved:
 - 5% fee per financial obligation, capped at £20,000
 - £900 fee per non-financial obligation, subject to officer assessment
 - £500 per additional and / or amended obligation in a Deed of Variation subject to officer assessment
- (b) a S106 late payment surcharge equal to 2.5%, or £500, whichever is the greater amount, be chargeable for all S106 invoices that are not paid by the stipulated due date;
- (c) implementation of the charging schedule and late payment surcharge be linked to the Fees and Charges 2025 / 2026 onwards, with the specific date delegated to the Head of Economic Development and Planning in liaison with the Economic Development and Planning Portfolio Holder.

CAB43 Proposed Charging Scheme for Development Management Pre-Application Advice

Considered a report seeking approval for the introduction of charges for the provision of Development Management pre-application advice.

The Cabinet Member, Economic Development and Planning Portfolio, introduced the report noting the detail as set out in paragraphs 3 and 5, and stated that the associated benefits were not only financial, but also aimed to improve efficiencies.

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) introduction of a charged for pre-application planning advice service be approved;
- (b) implementation of the fee charging schedule as set out in appendix 1 of the report be approved;

- (c) the Head of Economic Development and Planning in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Planning be authorised to review and update the Development Management Preapplication Charging Schedule as necessary;
- (d) the date of implementation to be agreed by the Head of Economic Development and Planning in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Planning.

Councillor R Kenney reiterated that the proposals were welcomed by developers and local land agents.

CAB44 Corporate Plan 2025-26 to 2028-29 - Proposals

Considered a report:-

- setting out the proposed vision, priorities and objectives that will form the basis of the new Corporate Plan for 2025-26 to 2028-29 and;
- setting out the timeline for the production of the new plan and an outline
 of how engagement w This report sets out the proposed vision,
 priorities and objectives that will form

The Leader of the Council introduced the report highlighting its importance before noting its purpose as set out in paragraph 1. Councillor Godfrey reiterated that the Plan was very much an 'evolving document' and Cabinet colleagues encouraged stakeholders to respond with their views.

The Leader 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 the proposed vision, priorities and objectives and the commencement of consultation on the proposals in preparation for a new Corporate Plan 2025-26 to 2028-29 be approved.

CAB45 VFM Progress Report - Quarter 2 2024/25

Considered a report advising on the progress in the delivery of the VFM Improvement Plan at the end of Quarter 2 2024/25.

The Cabinet Member, Resources Portfolio, introduced the report noting the detail as set out in paragraphs 1, 2 and 5 and 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 progress at the end of Quarter 2 2024/25 in the delivery of the VFM Improvement Plan set out in appendix 1 of the report be noted;
- (b) the revised target timescales set out in the improvement plan in appendix 1 of the report be approved..

CAB46 Quarter 2 Performance Report for 204-25

Considered a report advising on the progress in delivering the Council's priorities and performance at the end of the quarter 2 for 2024-25.

The Cabinet Member, Resources Portfolio, introduced the report noting the detail as set out in paragraphs 1, 2 and 5 (plus the associated appendices) and 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 progress made during quarter 2 in the delivery of the Council's priorities and performance as set out in appendices 1 and 2 of the report be noted.

CAB47 Transformation and Digital Strategies

Considered a report:-

- setting out the Transformation and Digital strategies that would drive the transformation work across the Council and support the delivery of shared services;
- outlining the structure for the new Transformation Team that would lead on the co-ordination and delivery of the strategy and work programme.

The Cabinet Member, Resources Portfolio, introduced the report noting the detail as set out in paragraphs 1, 2, and 5 (plus the associated appendices) and concluded his comments by recommending that the proposals as set out in paragraph 2 be approved.

Councillor A N Pearce stated that it was vital that this process was implemented correctly, and it was proper to bring in the additional resources required to do this.

Councillor A F Reid fully endorsed the report, in particular the detail as set out on pages 130 and 136 of the agenda.

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 approved:-
 - (i) the Transformation Strategy (as detailed in appendix 1 of the report);
 - (ii) the Transformation Plan (as detailed in appendix 2 of the report); and
 - (iii) the Digital Strategy (as detailed in appendix 3 of the report);
- (b) the governance arrangements for the delivery of the transformation programme (as set out in paragraph 3.4 of the report) be approved;
- (c) the staffing structure for the new Transformation Team (as set out in paragraph 3.5 of the report) which would lead on the co-ordination and delivery of the work programme be noted.

CAB48 Risk Management Policy, Strategy and Risk Appetite Statement

Considered a report seeking approval of the Council's revised Risk Management Policy and Strategy.

The Cabinet Member, Resources Portfolio, introduced the report noting the detail as set out in paragraphs 1, 2, 5 and 6 (plus the associated appendices) and 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 Risk Management Policy and Strategy set out in appendix 1 of the report be approved;
- (b) the Risk Appetite Statement be approved and the risk appetite be set at Moderate.

CAB49 Strategic Risk Register

Considered a report setting out details of the Council's Strategic Risk Register as at 30 September 2024.

The Cabinet Member, Resources Portfolio, introduced the report noting the detail as set out in paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 5 (plus the associated appendices) and concluded his comments by recommending that the proposal as set out in paragraph 2 be approved.

Councillor A N Pearce referred to Risk C5 - Key Contractors, where it was pleasing to see a reduction in both energy costs and the carbon footprint of the associated buildings.

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 the draft Strategic Risk Register be approved and progress made in the identification and management of the strategic risks be noted.

CAB50 Revenues and Benefits Collection Report - Quarter 2 - 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 half of the financial year;
- the collection of Business Rates during the first half of the financial year;
- the recovery of overpaid Housing Benefit during the first half of the 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.

At the conclusion of the meeting the Leader of the Council wished all present the compliments of the season.

CHAIR