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SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

Dear Sir/Madam,

You are summoned to attend the meeting of the Borough Council of Newcastle-under-Lyme to be held in the **Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Merrial Street, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire, ST5 2AG** on **Wednesday, 25th November, 2015** at **7.00 pm**.

B U S I N E S S

(i) Apologies

9 STATEMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (Pages 5 - 8)

To receive a statement by the Leader of the Council on the activities and decisions of Cabinet and items included on the Forward Plan.

10 REPORTS OF THE CHAIRS OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEES (Pages 9 - 10)

Chairs are requested to submit written reports to the Democratic Services Manager at least 2 clear days before the meeting.

e) Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

11 REPORTS OF THE CHAIRS OF THE REGULATORY COMMITTEES (Pages 11 - 12)

Chairs are requested to submit written reports to the Democratic Services Manager at least 2 clear days before the meeting.

a) Audit and Risk Committee - November 2015

Yours faithfully

Chief Executive

NOTICE FOR COUNCILLORS

1. Fire/Bomb Alerts

In the event of the fire alarm sounding, leave the building immediately, following the fire exit signs. Do not stop to collect personal belongings, do not use the lifts.

Fire exits are to be found either side of the rear of the Council Chamber and at the rear of the Public Gallery.

On exiting the building Members, Officers and the Public must assemble at the car park at the rear of the Aspire Housing Office opposite to the Civic Offices. DO NOT re-enter the building until advised to by the Controlling Officer.

2. Attendance Record

Please sign the Attendance Record sheet, which will be circulating around the Council Chamber. Please ensure that the sheet is signed before leaving the meeting.

3. Mobile Phones

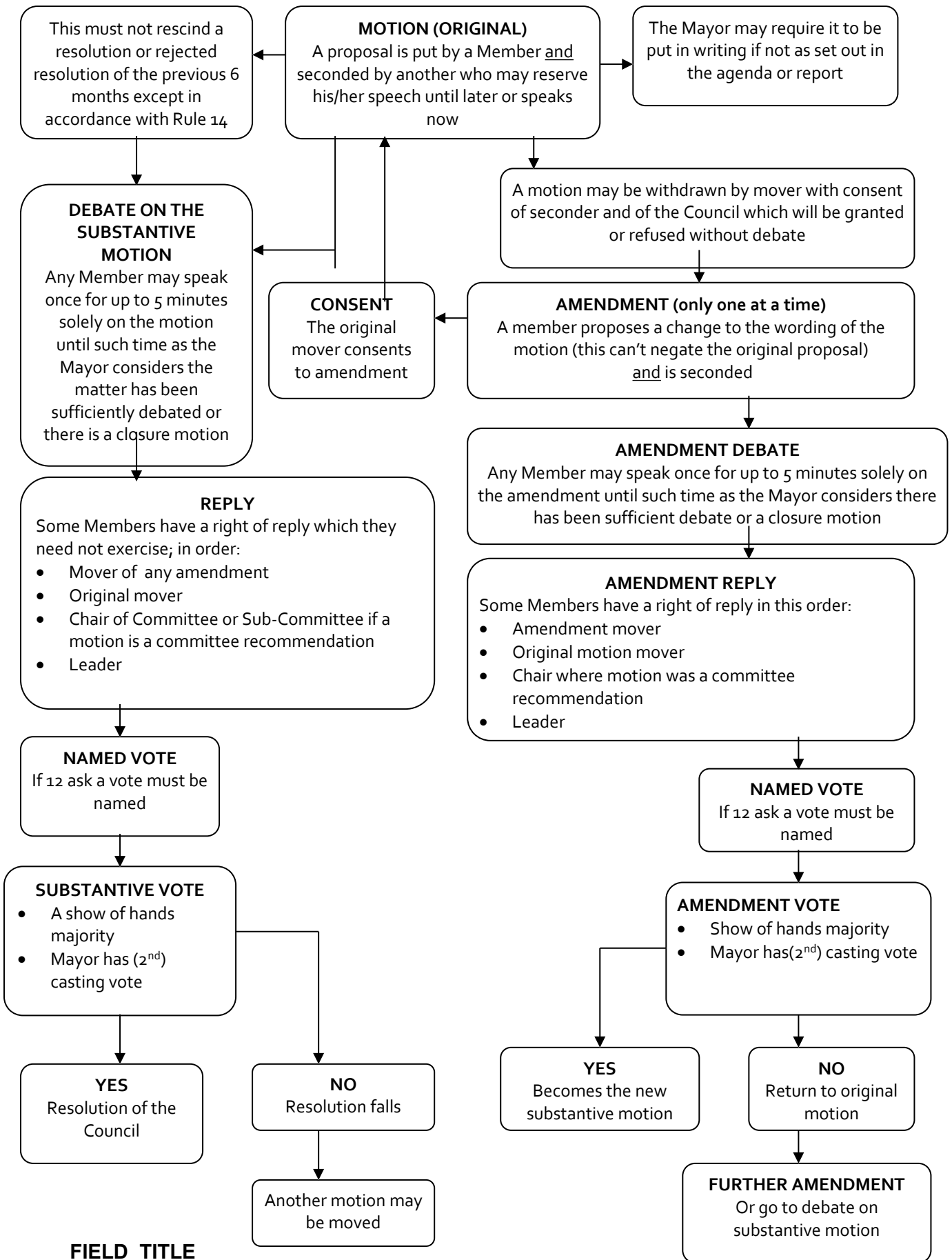
Please switch off all mobile phones before entering the Council Chamber.

4. Tea/Coffee

Refreshments will be available at the conclusion of the meeting, or in the event of a break occurring, during that break.

5. Notice of Motion

A Notice of Motion other than those listed in Standing Order 19 must reach the Chief Executive ten clear days before the relevant Meeting of the Council. Further information on Notices of Motion can be found in Section 5, Standing Order 20 of the Constitution of the Council.



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STATEMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL TO FULL COUNCIL – 25TH NOVEMBER 2015

Submitted by: Councillor Elizabeth Shenton

Portfolio: All

Wards affected: All

Purpose of the Report

To provide an update to Members on the activities and decisions of Cabinet together with the Forward Plan.

Recommendation

That the statement of the Leader of the Council be received and noted.

Reasons

To update Council Members on the activities and decisions of the Cabinet and to allow questions and comments on the Statement to the relevant Portfolio Holders.

1. Cabinet Meetings

Cabinet has met once since the last meeting of Full Council, in September 2015. Below is a summary of actions and decisions taken, along with a link to the Forward Plan. (For further background to the Cabinet's decisions please refer to the actual published Cabinet agenda and Minutes on the website).

2. Medium Term Financial Strategy

Consideration was given to a report providing background on the financial strategy for the Council over the next 5 years in light of the national and local financial situation. Cabinet approved the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2016/17 to 2020/21.

3. Financial and Performance Management Report

Cabinet noted the Financial and Performance Reports for the second quarter 2015/16.

4. Asset Disposals

Cabinet approved the disposal of land at Knype Way, Bradwell, subject to securing outline planning permission. Cabinet also considered a report on land at Sheldon Grove, Chesterton. Cabinet agreed to the principle of a partial disposal of this piece of land subject to several conditions including retaining a significant amount of accessible public open space secured for the community in perpetuity by a covenant.

5. Safeguarding Children & Adults

A report was submitted to Cabinet reaffirming the Borough Council's role in safeguarding children and adults at risk of abuse. Cabinet approved the policy and the accompanying procedure for introduction and delivery in the Borough.

6. **Planning Peer Review**

Cabinet noted the progress made in implementing the proposals previously agreed in July 2015.

7. **Bill Payment Services Contract**

A report was submitted to Cabinet seeking approval to enter into a contract for the Council's bill payment contract. Cabinet agreed to award the 5-year contract to allpay Limited.

8. **Applications for Discretionary Rate Relief**

A report was submitted to Cabinet to consider the granting of Discretionary Rate Relief in accordance with powers contained within the Local Govt. Finance Act 1988. The recommendations contained in the appendix to the report were agreed.

9. **Update on the Future of Kidsgrove Sports Centre**

A report was submitted to Cabinet providing an updated position statement on options available in respect of the future of Kidsgrove Sports Centre. Cabinet agreed that a Cabinet Panel be established to work on the replacement facility scheme. It was also agreed that detailed discussions would be entered into with Penda Partnership to establish a business case for the development of a replacement swimming pool, fitness centre and studio. Cabinet also agreed to extend the current agreement with the school and County Council for the management of the existing Kidsgrove Sports Centre.

10. **Nothern Gateway Development Zone**

A report was submitted to Cabinet detailing the recent concordat between the local Enterprise Partnerships of Stoke-on-Trent & Staffordshire and Cheshire & Warrington. Cabinet agreed that the Leader, relevant Portfolio Holders and officers engage with the emerging Northern gateway Development Zone initiative and the potential economic partnership that may arise.

11. **Implementation of New Housing Legislation**

Cabinet received a report on the new housing legislation in respect of the Redress Scheme and smoke/carbon monoxide alarms. Cabinet agreed that Housing Enforcement Policy would be revised to include the new legislation.

12. **Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme**

A report was submitted to Cabinet in respect of the proposals to work in partnership with the County Council to deliver the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme. Cabinet agreed the proposals within the report and resolved that the Borough Council accept 6 households in the first tranche.

13. **Petition to preserve land at Sandy Lane**

Cabinet received and noted the petition. It was agreed to reaffirm the decision of 12 November 2014.

14. **Selective Licensing**

A progress report was submitted to Cabinet on the proposal for Selective Licensing. Cabinet agreed to take forward in principle a Selective Landlord Licensing Scheme for the former Coal Board Estate in Kidsgrove, taking advice from another local authority which has successfully delivered such a scheme to ensure that the action plan is robust.

15. **Former Maxims Night Club**

Cabinet considered a report on the former Maxims nightclub site and adjacent land.

16. **Forward Plan**

The Forward Plan covering the period from November 2015 to February 2016 can be found at: <http://sviam/mgListPlanItems.aspx?PlanId=57&RP=118>

17. **European Local Democracy Week**

European Local Democracy was held 12th to 16th October. As part of this Emma, a young student was 'Leader for the Day' and she submitted a report to her own school council detailing her experiences. As she was Leader for a Day it is only fitting for an extract of her report to be included and so this is shown below.

Leader's Statement

European Local Democracy Week took place during 12-18 October 2015, with events taking place across the 23 member States of the Council of Europe. Newcastle Borough Council hosted a number of events some of which were attended by members of Madeley Parliament.

On Thursday 15 October I was lucky enough to be the Leader of Newcastle Borough Council for the whole day. I was joined by Edward who was the Chief Executive for the day.

Edward and I had the most amazing time; we shadowed the real Leader, Councillor Elizabeth Shenton and the Chief Executive, John Sellgren. Councillor Shenton was appointed as the Leader of Newcastle Borough Council in May 2015 and she is the first female Leader of the Borough.

Our day started with a tour of the Civic Offices in Newcastle where we were shown all the meeting rooms and the Leader's office. We then travelled to Stafford where we attended a meeting at the Staffordshire County Council buildings, where we met Councillor Philip Atkins, the Leader of Staffordshire County Council. The meeting took place in the Bremen Room which was very large with a long oak table in the centre and very comfortable oak chairs with red leather padding. I can't say too much more about the meeting because it was confidential, but I felt very privileged to be allowed to take part.

When we returned to Newcastle after the meeting, Mr Sellgren and Councillor Shenton took us to Newcastle for lunch, when they told us some more about their roles and me and Edward discussed some of our views on local issues.

After lunch, I went to the Leader's office to do some of my Leader's work and Edward went off to do some Chief Executive work. I wrote a letter on the bus service between Madeley and Newcastle and then handed this to Councillor David Loades, because he is my local Councillor. Whilst I was writing my letter, I was given a plaque for the school, which has the Newcastle Borough Coat of Arms on it. This will hopefully be displayed in the school and if you look at it carefully you will notice three fishes at the bottom, this is where the new fish on the Jubilee roundabout comes from.

By Emma (aged 12)

**Councillor Elizabeth Shenton
Leader of the Council**

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Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

November 27th 2015

Sue Backnak from Staffordshire Healthwatch presented the committee with an update on the organisation's activities for the year, along with a report of an Enter and View visit carried out at a residential care home in Leek, which gave members an insight into how visits are carried out. Sue said she was happy to be contacted about issues which concerned the committee, but emphasised they needed to be specific and not in too general terms.

Victoria Rowley, Staffordshire Commissioning Manager, and Nicola Bucknall, North Staffordshire CCG Commissioning Manager, gave a presentation and answered questions on Dementia Care Across North Staffordshire. It was explained the two organisations were working on a joint North Staffordshire Dementia Plan 2015-19 which was at present out to consultation. It was agreed the committee would be kept up to date on progress and final outcomes of the plan. The committee also supported organisations locally becoming members of the Dementia Action Alliance. Cllr Wilkes said Audley was already getting involved, which the committee welcomed.

Joanne Halliday, Head of Housing, Regeneration and Assets, brought a report on the Better Care Fund to the committee. The fund is a mandatory national programme to be funded jointly by CCG's and Staffordshire County Council to reduce non-emergency hospital admissions and protect Adult Social Care. There is concern at the delay in its implementation and it was agreed Cllrs Eastwood and Loades, as members of the Staffordshire Healthy Select Committee, would be raising it at county level and would keep members informed.

Rob Foster, Head of Leisure, Culture and Localism Services gave a presentation and answered questions on physical activity for the elderly and physical activity in the deprived areas. It was emphasised individual staff were allocated certain responsibilities to ensure a wide range of people were properly catered for e.g. cardiac rehabilitation. Rob, together with his staff, were thanked for the positive work they provide improving the health and wellbeing of residents in the borough.

Cllr Colin Eastwood

Chair Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

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Report from Chair of Audit and Risk Committee meeting 16th November 2015

At the meeting, the following reports were presented:

- Health and Safety 6 monthly report- It was noted that there was a reduction in RIDDOR accidents but an increase in, 'near miss' incidents. This was viewed as a positive as it is alerting officers to potential problem areas before they become RIDDOR incidents. A Lone Working review is underway with business managers to ascertain if any further control measures are needed to protect staff
- Corporate Risk Management Report – An additional risk was reported re the TUPE transfer of waste operatives. This has now been resolved so the risk will not be reported in the next quarter.
- Treasury Management half yearly report- This is a statutory financial report. It showed that despite interest rates being low, officers are achieving a reasonable return on investments. Being debt free, there was nothing to report re interest being paid. 98% of the investment in the Heritable bank has been recovered to date
- The Annual Audit Letter from Grant Thornton- A representative from Grant Thornton delivered this report. This is a statutory requirement and no different to the findings of the Audit Report. The rules state that both the Audit report and the Audit letter have to be reported to the Audit and Risk Committee
- Internal Audit Progress report Quarter 2– All areas were adequately controlled. Planning will be added to the audit plan for 2016-17 so that further sampling can be done. Since May the audit section have been working with other Council's on detecting Corporate Fraud, Corporate Fraud is defined as any fraud other than housing benefit. The section now has a dedicated Corporate Fraud officer and since May, 31 cases have been investigated
- Internal Audit Quarterly report- Members were updated on the areas of risk outstanding following Internal Audit reviews. There were no significant recommendations outstanding

Cllr Sarah Pickup

Chair of Audit and Risk Committee

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