

Public Document Pack



PLEASE NOTE THAT PRAYERS WILL BE HELD AT 6.50PM BEFORE THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL.

THE MAYOR REQUESTS THAT ANY MEMBER WISHING TO PARTICIPATE IN PRAYERS BE IN ATTENDANCE IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER BY NO LATER THAN 6.45PM.

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, 24th February, 2016** at **7.00 pm**.

BUSINESS

- (i) Apologies
 - 10a Statement of the Leader of the Council (Pages 5 - 6)
 - 11a Reports of the Chairs of the Scrutiny Committees (Pages 7 - 10)
 - 12a Reports of the Chairs of the Regulatory Committees (Pages 11 - 14)

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. M.', written over a horizontal line.

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

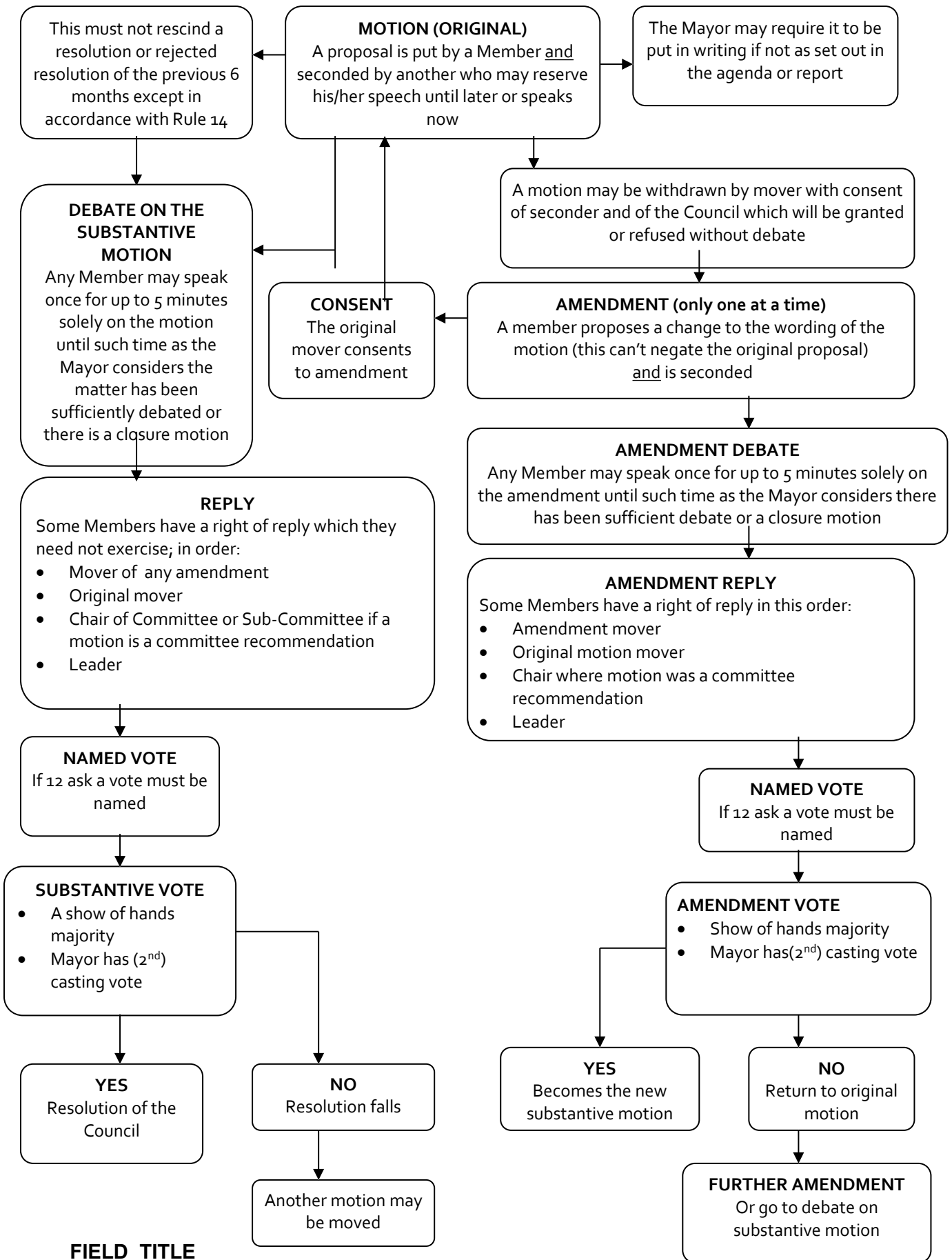
Please switch off all mobile phones before entering the Council Chamber.

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 – 24TH FEBRUARY 2016

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 January 2016. The next Cabinet meeting is on 16th March 2016. 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).

2. Ceramics Valley Enterprise Zone

Cabinet noted a report detailing the designation of an Enterprise Zone covering a number of sites along the A500, referred to as the Ceramics Valley Enterprise Zone. Cabinet agreed that officers should continue to work with their colleagues in the City and County Council to promote the Zone for investment; and with landowners and developers to help bring forward its development.

3. Capital Strategy

Cabinet discussed the recommendations of the Special Council meeting held on 27 January, 2016 in respect of the report of the Assets Policy Committee. Officers were requested to prepare a future report be brought back to Cabinet before any provision is made in future revenue budgets for prudential borrowing.

4. Asset Strategy

Cabinet considered the recommendations of Full Council and the report of the Assets Policy Committee. It was noted that Council was not proposing any substantive changes to the Asset Management Strategy, therefore Cabinet agreed to note the prioritisation of sites for disposal over the next two financial years and to take these into account only where such recommended sites are listed in the approved Asset Management Strategy. It was agreed to make two minor amendments to the existing Asset Management Strategy regarding consultation. Cabinet also agreed that further work be undertaken on developing an Asset Disposal Policy within the context provided by the approved Asset Management Strategy.

5. Land at Sheldon Grove, Chesterton

Following on from the Call-In, and in light of additional information received through the Asset Policy Committee process, Cabinet agreed that this site be retained within the Council's operational portfolio and continue to be maintained in the current manner.

6. Revenue and Capital Budgets

Cabinet reviewed the final version of the draft budget, which will be determined by Full Council on 24th February.

7. Budget Performance Monitoring Report – Quarter Three

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

8. Petition Objecting to the Proposed Demolition of the Former St. Giles and St. George's School, Barracks Road, Newcastle

Cabinet received and noted the petition. It was decided to reaffirm the decisions made by Full Council, Staffordshire County Council and the Planning Committee.

9. Corporate Complaints, Comments and Compliments Policy

Cabinet received a report on the Corporate Complaints, Comments and Compliments Policy and approved some minor amendments.

10. Governance Committee

Members may wish to note that the Governance Sub-Committee met on 15th February and received a presentation from the Boundary Commission regarding electoral reviews and the process that Council will need to follow.

11. Forward Plan

The Forward Plan covering the period from February to April 2016 can be found at:
<http://sviam/mgListPlanItems.aspx?PlanId=66&RP=118>

Councillor Elizabeth Shenton
Leader of the Council

Finance, Resources and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee Report to Full Council

Date: Thursday, 28th January 2016

Chairman: Cllr Mike Stubbs

The Committee welcomed Mr Elliot Ashton, the Chairman of Go Kidsgrove, to provide a verbal update on the project and to take questions from the Committee with regard to current and future possibilities the CiC is exploring. As Chair, I'm acutely aware that the Economic and Development Scrutiny Committee take the lead with Go Kidsgrove, so I asked that questions be limited to those under our purview, namely those of Financial, Resource or indeed the Partnership with the Borough and other Stakeholders.

After his verbal update, Mr Ashton received several questions surrounding the Go Kidsgrove Project, centred mostly around the perception of the lack of Partnership working with other Key Stakeholders in the area, including the local Town Council. Mr Ashton assured everyone that this was not the case and highlighted the newly established 'Chairs' Meeting, which includes the Borough Council, Town Council and CiC itself, as an initiative to strengthen Partnership working in the area. I did feel the need though to question Mr Elliot's use of social media at the end of the questioning as it has often brought him in to conflict with the Partners Go Kidsgrove needs to be successful.

The Committee also received the latest Financial and Performance Management Report from the Director of Resources, taking the Financial Position Quarter Three and the Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council Performance Report Quarter Three in turn.

The third item on the agenda for the evening was the second opportunity for the Finance, Resources and Partnerships Committee to scrutinise the Revenue and Capital Budgets 2016/17. Members were asked to add any comments in respect of the draft budget and council tax proposals, and assurances were made that these comments would be fed back to the Cabinet on the 10th February 2016.

The Committee was also happy to receive the Treasury Management Strategy 2016/17. It was pleasing to me as Chairman, that several questions were raised by members, most noteworthy those of Cllr Loades who challenged the fabric of the report itself. I hope that the response from the Director of Resources and myself allayed some, if not all, of the concerns expressed by some of the Councillor's present.

Finally, the Committee reviewed the Work Plan for forthcoming year and confirmed the inclusion of a 'Co-Operative Council' update much to the pleasure of the Committee at large. I feel I must add that the debate on the evening was excellent, especially with the interaction of the Assets Policy Committee and Full Council in the days before. Cabinet, having now given a clear steer on the Asset Management Strategy on the 10th of February, I hope that the Budget, Capital and Asset Strategies can move forward, of course allowing for the correct scrutiny along the way. Can I also suggest that any Members requiring more detail of the meeting review the minutes, when available.

Cllr M Stubbs – Chair of Finance, Resource & Partnerships Scrutiny Committee

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Meeting of the Economic Development and Enterprise Scrutiny Committee

December 2nd 2015

Call In regarding land adjacent to Maxims, Newcastle

This call-in was rejected by the Committee

Call In regarding Sheldon Grove Chesterton

This call-in was accepted by the Committee and Cabinet was requested to reconsider their decision regarding the sale of this land.

Community Infrastructure Levy

As the report was not ready for the meeting, this item was deferred to the March EDE Scrutiny meeting.

Tourism Awards

These are organised by Enjoy Staffordshire. It was agreed to support and promote the Tourism Awards within the Borough.

Newcastle-under-Lyme Homelessness Strategy

The Committee commented on and approved the Final Draft of the Strategy for 2016 to 2021 which is currently under consultation. The Committee also commented on and accepted the Homelessness Review and Action Plan from November 2015.

Newcastle Housing Advice Contract Progress

Statistics for Quarter 2 were presented. These were commented on and accepted.

Newcastle Town Centre Partnership

Performance Statistics for Quarter 2 were presented, commented on and accepted. There was also an update on the Partnership's activities leading up to Christmas and the Business Improvement District. As at November 4th approximately 33% of the eligible businesses had signed up to the scheme providing half of the income required.

NULBC no longer has any financial commitment to the Partnership but it was agreed to continue to request quarterly Performance Updates.

Kidsgrove Town Centre Partnership

An update was received. It is pleasing to note that the vast majority of the money allocated by the Borough has now been spent. Christmas lighting has been purchased and a revamped website has been re-launched.

Councillor Dave Stringer

Chair

Report from Chair of Audit and Risk Committee meeting 15th February 2016

At the meeting, the following reports were presented:

- Corporate Risk Management Report Oct- Dec 2015- One new risk had been identified which related to malicious cyber attacks via the email system. This was graded as a medium risk due to the robust anti virus software and firewalls in place. The situation is being monitored on an ongoing basis.
- Annual Audit Plan 2016/17 . This report was for information and detailed the areas that the Internal Audit section will review next year. The areas are those scheduled for review and those most at risk based on an audit matrix that takes account of the area, strength of the internal controls and likelihood of risk and the amount of money involved.
- Internal Audit Charter- This is a report is a formal document required under the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards. It is not a statutory report, more good practice. Internal Audit will be externally assessed next year so this report sets out the audit standards for the Borough.
- Internal Audit Quarterly report, adoption of Internal Audit High Risk Recommendations and Summary of Assurance- No audit recommendations were outstanding for quarter 3.
- Internal Audit Progress Report Quarter 3- the revised Audit Plan sees a reduction of 48 audit days. This is due to staffing issues. Because of this, 7 reviews have been moved in to the audit plan for 2016/17 and will be completed as a priority. The staff resources will be back to the normal level in August 2016.

At the end of the meeting, the Councils officers were commended for their work and the robustness of the reports .

Cllr Sarah Pickup

Chair of Audit and Risk Committee

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Public Protection Chairs Report - Wednesday 24th February

Immigration Bill – New Licensing Powers

The Government recently published its immigration bill that places additional responsibilities on local authorities to take action where taxi and private hire licence holders are found to not be entitled to work in the United Kingdom.

This will mean that licensing authorities will have to ensure all applicants have permission to work before being granted a licence. The driver and operator license will not be issues for a period any longer than the length of a person's permission to live and work in the UK. Immigration offences and penalties would be grounds for a licensing authority to revoke a license. It would be an offence for someone disqualified from continuing to hold a driver or operator licence for immigration reasons not to return their licence to the licensing authority.

The Committee accepted the report. The new powers should come into place late spring 2016.

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