

STATEMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL TO FULL COUNCIL – 9TH SEPTEMBER 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 July 2015. There will be another Cabinet meeting next Wednesday. 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. **Petition re The Butts**

Cabinet received and noted the petition. It was decided to allow The Butts to go forward and be subject to the outcome of the joint local plan process, on the basis that this will guide future decision making as to the use of the land. The Portfolio Holder made a statement at the meeting to say that there were no plans in either the short, medium or long term to dispose of this site. It was felt that it should be retained as public open space. This position was reaffirmed in the latest edition of the report.

3. **Progress in Implementing the Planning Peer Review Action Plan**

Cabinet noted the progress that had been made and agreed to the proposals as set out in the report that was presented by the Portfolio Holder.

4. **Pilot Project for Collaborative Working on Print and Associated Services**

Cabinet approved proposals for a pilot project for collaborative working involving print and associated services. Cabinet also requested that a report be brought back in six months giving an overview and evaluation of this closer working relationship with a neighbouring authority.

5. **Cabinet Panels**

In order to achieve consistency, and enhance effectiveness, Cabinet agreed that all Cabinet Panels will be comprised of seven members in line with the rules on political balance.

6. **Financial and Performance Management Report**

Cabinet noted the Financial and Performance Reports for the fourth quarter 2014/15. It should be noted that since the Cabinet meeting the most recent financial and performance reports have been presented to the FRAPS Committee and will be reviewed again by Cabinet next week.

7. **Housing Renewal Loans**

Cabinet have authorised the development and subsequent delivery of an in-house home loans renewal programme. The current Housing Renewal Assistance Policy will be updated to reflect this decision.

8. **OPCC – Safer Neighbourhood Panels**

Cabinet agreed to support the Safer Neighbourhood Panels and made nominations for 2 Elected Members to represent the Borough Council.

9. **Forward Plan**

The Forward Plan covering the period from 3 September 2015 to 31 December 2015 can be found at:

<http://modern.gov.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/mgListPlans.aspx?RPId=118&RD=0>

I am still working with officers to improve the format of this report.

Councillor Elizabeth Shenton
Leader of the Council