

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