

## COUNCIL

16 September 2009

**Present:-** The Worshipful the Mayor

(Councillor Miss Marion Reddish) in the Chair

### COUNCILLORS

Bannister, James MacKenzie	Heames, Mrs Ann
Barber, Christian Stephen	Heesom, John
Becket, David William	Huckfield, Derrick, CC
Beech, Mrs Ann Elizabeth	Johnson, Mrs Hilda
Bishop, Mrs Elizabeth Ellen	Jones, William Nigel
Blair, Stephen Paul	MacMillan John
Blake, Mrs Elaine Elizabeth	Maskery, Philip
Bowyer, Mrs Sandra Phyllis	Matthews, Ian John
Braithwaite, Mrs Eileen	Maxfield, Mrs Mary Cynthia, CC
Burgess, Mrs Silvia	Morrey, Mrs Tina
Burke, Mrs Yvonne Carmel	Morris, Mrs Helen Mary JP
Clarke, David	Moss, Mrs Mary, MBE
Cooley, Andrew Robin	Myatt, Mrs Freda Dorothea
Cooper, Miss Julie Margaret	Naylon, Mrs Wenslie
Cooper, John, CC	Nixon, David Ernest, CC
Cornes, Mrs C Dylis, JP CC	Richards, Dennis John
Daniels, David Ephraim	Simpson, Mrs Sandra Jean
Fear, Andrew Thomas	Simpson, William Thomas
Foy, Michael	Studd, Robin
Gilmore, Ian David	Sweeney, Stephen J M, CC
Gorton, Richard Lloyd, CC	Tagg, John Henry
Hailstones, Mrs Linda	Tagg, Simon John, CC
Hailstones, Peter James, JP	Tomkins, Brian Ronald
Hambleton, Mrs Sandra	Walklate, Miss June
Hambleton, Trevor	Woolley, David Anthony

300. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors Holland, Mrs Lewis, Mrs Salt, Mrs Shenton, Slater, Wemyss, Williams, Mrs Williams and Wilkes

301. **COUNCILLOR RAY SLATER**

The Mayor informed Members that Councillor Slater had suffered an accident at home that prevented him from attending this meeting.

**Resolved:-** That a letter be sent to Councillor Slater wishing him a speedy recovery.

**302. ADOPTION OF CORE SPATIAL STRATEGY**

Consideration was given to the adoption of the Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stoke-on-Trent Core Spatial Strategy which incorporated the changes recommended in the Government Inspector's report of June 2009.

The document was part of the Newcastle-under-Lyme Local Development Framework and all local authorities were required by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 to produce such a strategy. It would provide a framework to develop and support detailed planning policies, guidance and programmes to secure the sustainable regeneration of the Borough and covered the period 2006-2026.

It was indicated that Stoke-on-Trent City Council was expected to adopt the Strategy on 1 October 2009.

However, Members expressed concerns over the intentions of the City Council with regard to a particular planning application which may be detrimental to Newcastle Town Centre and appeared to be contrary to the joint Core Spatial Strategy.

**Resolved:-** That consideration of the adoption of the Core Spatial Strategy be deferred to the next Council meeting.

**303. COMPLETED OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REPORT – SUPPORTING LOCAL POST OFFICES WITHIN THE BOROUGH**

Consideration was given to a report and recommendations of the Active and Cohesive Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee following completion of the review 'Supporting Local Post Offices within the Borough'.

The report had also been considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 9 September last.

**Resolved:-** That the Council note the report.

**304. ANNUAL REPORT 2008/09**

Consideration was given to the Council's 2008/09 Annual Report which provided information on the Council's performance and resources used to deliver it.

There was no legal requirement on the Council to produce a report but it was perceived as best practice and was recognised in the Audit Commission's Use of Resources criteria as part of the comprehensive area organisational assessment.

In addition the report reflected the Council's aim to promote external accountability.

The Audit Commission had recognised this Council as the most improved in the country due in part to its improved performance in the areas of Revenues and Benefits, Planning, Waste and Recycling and Streetscene.

**Resolved:-** That the Annual Report for 2008/09 be received and the thanks of Members conveyed to all employees for their achievements in the progress of the Council.

305. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**Resolved:-** That the following resolutions of meetings be adopted:-

Res 222/10; 226/10 and 278/10 – Public Protection Committee – 20 July 2009  
Res 279/10 – Conservation Advisory Working Party – 18 August 2009

306. **MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR S J TAGG, THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

A Motion was submitted by the Leader of the Council requesting Council to agree to receive a statement at each Council meeting on the activities and decisions of Cabinet and items included in the Forward Plan.

After debating the motion, Members gave their support to the proposal subject to changes as indicated below.

**Resolved:-** That Council agrees to receive a statement prepared by the Leader of the Council in consultation with other Cabinet Members at each Council meeting on the activities and decisions of Cabinet and items included in the Forward Plan.

307. **REPORTS OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

The reports of the Chairs of the Scrutiny Committees were presented to Council for consideration.

Members expressed concern at the level of scrutiny support which may be provided following the appointment of the Scrutiny Officer to the post of Member Services Manager and requested a report on the matter.

**Resolved:-** That a report be submitted to the Transformation and Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the position in respect of continued scrutiny support.

308. **PETITIONS**

Pursuant to Standing Order No 17, the Mayor received the following petition:-

From residents of Stanier Street, Newcastle regarding the replacement of current parking restrictions (double yellow lines) by the designation of a Residents' Parking Zone in the road.

309. **URGENT ITEMS**

**Resolved:-** In accordance with Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chair expressed the opinion that the following items should be taken as urgent business.

**310. MOTION SUBMITTED BY A MEMBER**

A motion was submitted by Councillor Becket requesting Members to support representations being made to the County Council concerning the ongoing roadworks at the roundabout at Gallowstree Lane/Cemetery Road/A525 and in particular significant traffic congestion and potential safety issues for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians.

After debating the motion, Members gave their support to the proposals.

**Resolved:-** (a) That the County Council be requested to take the following actions in respect of the roadworks:-

- (i) Conduct a safety audit in respect of pedestrian and cyclist use at the site, including a review of the speed limit.
- (ii) Use all means available to ensure that BT and their contractors work continually on the Fibre Optic relocation.
- (iii) Make use of weekend and evening working.
- (iv) Keep internal roads free of mud (currently pedestrians are showered with mud and dust by HGVs using the Cemetery Road end of the site).
- (v) Monitor the effect at potential congestion points (e.g. town centre ring road) and dangerous points (e.g. A53 Whitmore Cross Roads).
- (vi) Provide adequate street lighting in the pedestrian area that is not now covered by streetlights.

(b) That a letter be sent to the leadership of the Staffordshire County Council requesting a review of the management and practices of the Northern Area Highways Office concerning consultation issues and seeking regular progress updates on this project.

**311. BRITAIN IN BLOOM**

Councillor Mrs Maxfield informed Members of the success of the Council at the recent Heart of England Awards Ceremony when the Council had been awarded the Gold Award in the Large Town category.

The National Britain in Bloom Awards Ceremony was to be held in Torbay on 23 September 2009.

**Resolved:-** That the congratulations of the Council be sent to all employees involved in the event.

**MISS M L REDDISH**  
**Chair**