

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 **Astley Room - Castle House** on **Wednesday, 5th September, 2018** at **7.00 pm**.

BUSINESS

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| 5a CRACKLEY PLAYING FIELDS PETITION | (Page 3) |
| 6a STATEMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL | (Pages 5 - 6) |
| 7a REPORTS OF THE CHAIRS OF THE REGULATORY COMMITTEES | (Pages 7 - 9) |

Written reports are attached for:

- Licensing and Public Protection Committee
- Audit and Standards Committee

A verbal report will be given for the Planning Committee.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Tradenell'.

Acting Chief Executive / Head of Paid Service

Save Crackley Playing Fields Petition Chesterton Community

To: Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council and Aspire Housing

Crackley is an ex-mining estate in Chesterton. Once the area had a pub, shops and a community centre. All those have now gone. All that is left is our big playing field in the centre of the estate. There is currently a consultation to consider partly building housing on the field, making the area even smaller for the local families and dog walkers.

We don't want to lose even more of our community facilities, instead we want them to be invested in and made better. We know housing is needed but we are already having new housing built on the site of the pub, shops and community centre - and there is land elsewhere locally for more houses so we do not need to build on the fields. Please sign and help us save our playing field.

We ask that the plan to build on Crackley Playing Fields is rejected and that Section 106 monies, raised by building on other land nearby, is spent on improving the playing field and providing community facilities.

Petition Starters:

Karen Blacknell, 119 Heath St, Chesterton, Newcastle, Staffs, ST5 7ND
karobr@aol.com

Allison Gardner 3 Portland Grove, Newcastle-under-Lyme, ST5 4JH
a.gardner@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk

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STATEMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL TO FULL COUNCIL – 5TH SEPTEMBER 2018

Submitted by: Councillor Simon Tagg

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 Leader & Cabinet and to allow questions and comments to be made on the Statement.

1. **Cabinet Meetings**

Cabinet has not met since the last Full Council of 19th July 2018.

2. **Grot Spot Environmental Clean-Up Team**

In response to complaints received from residents who experience problems with fly tipping on privately owned land such as rear alleyways and other accessible spaces, a successful trial was conducted in April this year targeting known grot spots in the Town and Wolstanton Wards. It is now intended that this approach is rolled out across the Borough on a 4 week cyclical basis starting in September this year. A prioritised list of the worst affected areas will be compiled and a team deployed for a day to clear as much of the waste as possible in the allotted time. Requests for clean ups from members and residents when received will be added to the list for the next scheduled clearance day. Issues should be reported through the Council's Customer Service Centre in the usual way.

3. **In Bloom & Champion of Champions Finals**

2018 has been the biggest year for the Borough's In Bloom campaign yet. Not only did the Council compete in the Heart of England Region but also for the first time ever, the National Champion of Champions Finals, which is the absolute pinnacle of the competition. This meant that there has been huge efforts put in by our residents, businesses and staff in preparing and ensuring the Borough looked its best. I would like to thank everyone involved this year and we now await the Regional competition results on 20th September and then the Champion of Champions results on 19th October.

4. **Modern Slavery Charter**

Following the successful motion at last Full Council to subscribe to the Anti-Slavery International's Anti-Slavery Charter a report has been drafted for the Finance, Assets & Performance Scrutiny Committee taking place on 20th September.

The Council reaffirms its commitment to work towards greater transparency toward the people/officers working in the Council's supply chain and to developing a supply chain code of practice to which all our strategies and high value suppliers will need to abide by.

5. **2018 Heatwave**

This spring and summer heatwave placed additional pressure on our staff who worked in the extreme temperatures for an almost unprecedented period. I would like to place on record my thanks to teams such as Streetscene, Recycling and Waste, Parking Enforcement and many others who put up with the sweltering conditions to ensure that services were delivered to residents without disruption.

6. **A new deal between Newcastle Borough Council & Staffordshire County Council**

I had a very productive meeting with the Leader of Staffordshire County Council, Philip Atkins, and officers from both authorities relating to key joint priorities between the two Councils. These are focused around our Town Centres, Keele University, Knutton and Kidsgrove. Details will now be worked up with a view to a report being presented to both Cabinets in due course.

7. **Constitution and Member Support Working Group**

The first meeting of the Constitution and Member Support Working Group took place in August. The Group is tasked with reviewing the Council's Constitution with its findings being brought back to a future Full Council.

8. **Guildhall**

The Council has launched an on-line consultation to help inform the future community based use of the building. Discussions continue to go well with organisations that have expressed an interest of being located in The Guildhall. The consultation can be accessed via the Council's website – www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk.

9. **Forward Plan**

The Forward Plan covering the period from 1/9/18 to 31/12/18 can be found at:

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

**Councillor Simon Tagg
Leader of the Council**

Report to Full Council (August 2018) from the Chair of Licensing & Public Protection

A meeting of the full Licensing & Public Protection Committee was held on 31st July 2018. Members received reports on the following principle headings:

- Gambling Act 2005 – Review of Statemen of Licencing Principles (Gambling Policy).

The updated policy will now be subject to a ten week consultation period. Responses will be considered at the October Licencing Committee.

- Public Space Protection Orders Variation.

Members were advised that Cabinet had previously approved this variation, but formal approval was required by the Lic and PP Committee. The variations related to the issuing of fixed penalty notices to target persistent and aggressive beggars. The variations were approved by committee.

- Institute of Licencing – Creation of Guidelines on How to Treat Taxi Applicants with Convictions.

Consideration was given to a report notifying Members of the model Convictions Guidelines that have been created by various associations. The Councils Current Taxi Policy is under review, and is anticipated that the model guidelines will be included in the revised NBC policy when it is presented at the next PP Committee.

- Public Protection Sub Committees

There have been issues with Members not being able to attend meetings of the above held during the daytime on Tuesdays.

The Head of Environmental Health Nesta Barker Informed Members that she would review the arrangements and report back to the next meeting.

Cllr Mark Olszewski

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Audit and Standards Committee

The committee has met once since the last full council meeting, on Monday 30th July 2018.

Members considered a report seeking Member approval of the Statement of Accounts and agreement to two documents from the external Auditors these being the Audit Findings Report for 2017/18 and the Letter of Representation to the Auditor.

The Statement of Accounts had been presented at the previous meeting and Members had no further comments to make.

Paul Harvey of Grant Thornton presented their documents together with some minor amendments from the Head of Finance and were able to report that no significant issues had been found during the course of the audit.

Members resolved that the Statement of Accounts be approved, together with the Letter of Representation and that the Audit Findings Report 2017/18 be received.

Members then looked at the Internal Audit Section Annual Report 2017/18, paying particular attention to the areas categorised as High Risk Business Critical Systems. All of these reviews had been completed satisfactorily, subject to a small number of recommendations.

Next Meeting 24th September 2018.

Paul Waring (Chair)

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