

# 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 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, 3rd April, 2019** at **7.00 pm**.

### BUSINESS

8a STATEMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (Pages 5 - 8)

12a QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR, CABINET MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS (Pages 9 - 10)

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin T. Handley'.

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..

Fire exits are to be found at the side of the room leading into Queens Gardens.

On exiting the building Members, Officers and the Public must assemble at the statue of Queen Victoria. DO NOT re-enter the building until advised to by the Controlling Officer.

### **2. Attendance Record**

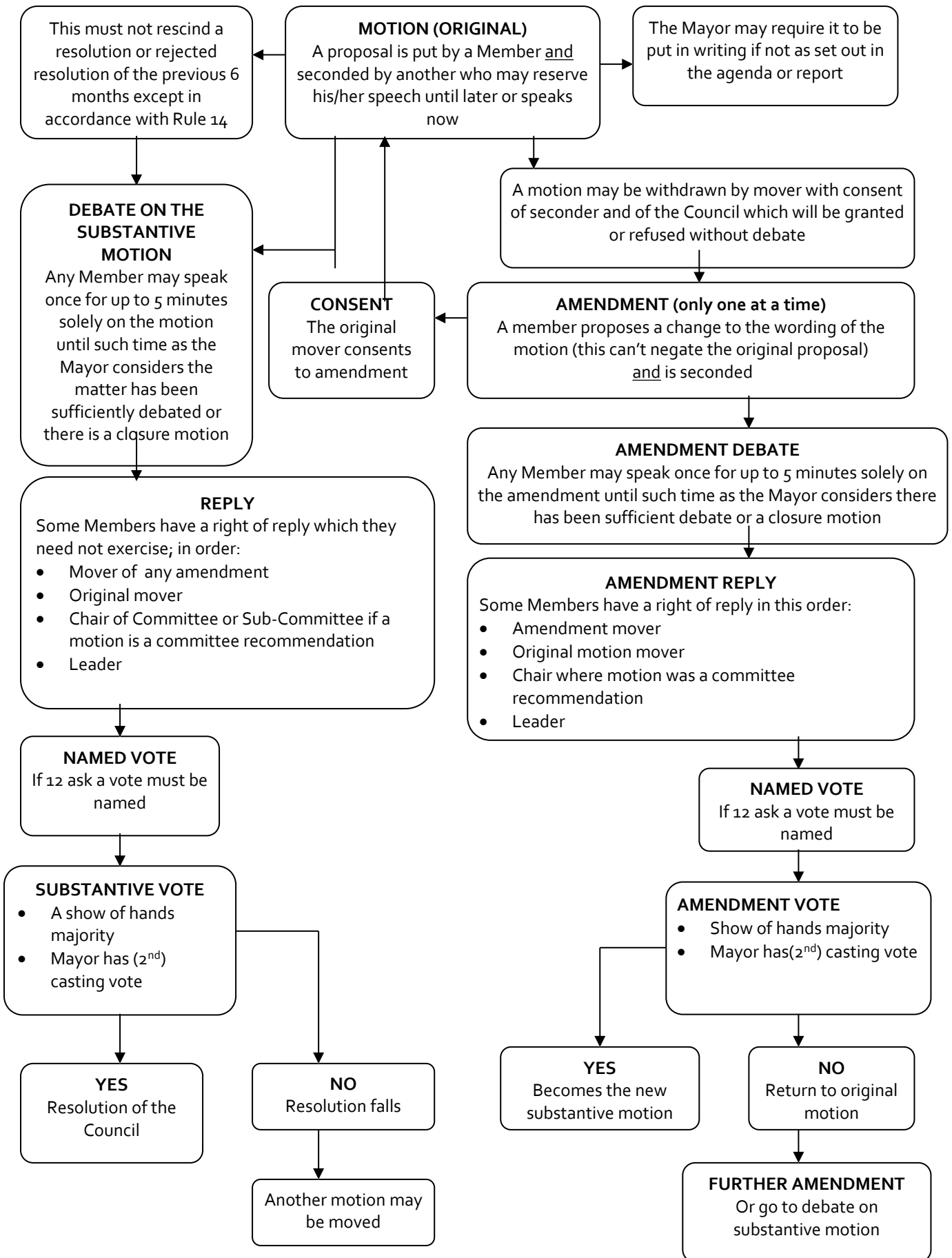
Please sign the Attendance Record sheet on entering the building. This will be located at the reception desk.

### **3. Mobile Phones**

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

### **4. 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 – 3<sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2019

**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 met twice since the last Full Council of 30<sup>th</sup> January 2019 (6<sup>th</sup> February and 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019). Decisions are detailed under items 2 and 3 of this report.

## 2. **6<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

### 2.1 **Air Quality Ministerial Direction (and again on 20<sup>th</sup> March)**

Cabinet Members discussed the ministerial direction served by DEFRA on Stoke-on-Trent City Council and the Borough Council with regards to reducing nitrogen dioxide levels and to implement a bus engine retrofit scheme to busses travelling on the A53.

Cabinet noted the content of the Strategic Outline Case, which includes options for: A City Centre / A53 traffic management scheme; Etruria Valley Link Road and A500 Improvements, plus Council boundary scale Low Emission Strategy.

Cabinet did not support options of: A City Centre / A53 or Council Boundary Scale Workplace Parking Levy; or a City Centre / A53 chargeable access restriction (clean air zone).

I have written to local MP Paul Farrelly to ask for his support in lobbying Central Government against any form of parking levy or chargeable clean air zone.

Cabinet firmly believes that there is a highway/transport solution to help reduce the pollution levels and that any form of parking levy or chargeable clean air zone will damage businesses and our town centre.

The Council is working closely with the City Council, Staffordshire County Council and DEFRA on a preferred policy solution that will come to Cabinet by October.

3. **20<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

3.1 **Lyme Lottery Review**

Cabinet have asked officers to look into ways of boosting the Lyme Lottery to help good causes.

The Lyme Lottery was set up in 2017 by the previous administration following the cut of £43,000 as a result of the scrapping of the Community Chest budget.

Over the last year the Lyme Lottery has raised just short of £27,000.

Cabinet have asked the Health & Wellbeing Partnership Scrutiny Committee to consider further development opportunities for the Lyme Lottery at its next meeting.

3.2 **Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Pledge (VCE)**

Cabinet has agreed to sign-up to the VCE Pledge which commits the Council to working in collaboration with the local voluntary, community and social enterprise sector.

The Pledge has been reviewed and is endorsed by “Team Staffordshire”, an umbrella organisation of voluntary sector bodies and District and County Council representatives.

A good example of the Pledge in practice is the Council’s partnership with the voluntary sector which is an integral part of securing the future of our iconic Guildhall.

3.3 **Financial and Performance Management Report to End of Quarter Three (October – December) 2018 – 2019**

Cabinet reviewed the Performance Data for Quarter Three and noted that a number of key indicators were above target.

Cabinet Members outlined measures that were in place where indicators were below target and actions taken to address those.

The Finance & Asset Performance Scrutiny Committee will review the Finance and Management Report at its meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

4. **Future High Streets Fund (FHSF) Bid**

The Council has now submitted its “expression of interest” bid to the Future High Streets Fund for a share of Government money aimed at revitalising the nation’s town centres.

The bid totalling £420,000 would be used for several pieces of work linked to the wider regeneration of the Ryecroft area in Newcastle town centre.

The bid is based around our new Corporate Priority of Creating A Town Centre For All and builds on the work already taking place to revitalise our historic market, reviewing the car parking strategy and CCTV with the aim of creating a vibrant and safe town centre that encompasses day and night-time populations to create footfall for the local businesses.

Our key local partners – Keele University, Newcastle and Stafford College Group; the Business Improvement District; Support Staffordshire; Staffordshire County Council and others have written letters of support for the bid.

It is expected that the Government will make an announcement in the summer about successful bids that will go through to a next phase of the process which involves submitting a detailed business case.

5. **Forward Plan**

**The Forward Plan January to April 2019 (01/02/2019 to 31/05/2019) can be found at:**

<https://moderngov.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/mgListPlanItems.aspx?PlanId=94&RP=118>

**Councillor Simon Tagg  
Leader of the Council**

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## QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR, CABINET MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

### To the Leader of the Council:

1. The Council recently implemented a reporting page on the website in response to increased public concern over 'fetid odours' being released from the Walleys Quarry landfill site. Would the Leader update Council on the number of contacts made through the website since its implementation?

**Cllr Dave Jones**  
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### To the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Wellbeing:

2. Could the cabinet member outline the activities undertaken by the Council in response to increased anti-social behaviour at the former Silverdale railway station site on the mineral line?

**Cllr Dave Jones**  
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### To the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Growth:

3. Could the cabinet member outline the process by which the council distributes money received in social housing contributions under 106 agreements for development of social housing?

**Cllr Dave Jones**  
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### To the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Efficiency:

4. Could the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Efficiency update the Council on the progress made with the sale of the Council Owned land at Deans Lane?

**Cllr Andy Fear**  
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### To the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Wellbeing:

5. Can the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Wellbeing explain to members what Newcastle Borough Council is doing to tackle rising knife crime in our communities?

**Cllr Kyle Robinson**  
.....

**To the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Growth:**

6. Can the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Growth please inform members when the joint local plan consultation process will begin again and is the council on track to consult residents on the draft joint local plan in autumn 2019?

**Cllr Kyle Robinson**  
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**To the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Efficiency:**

7. Given that your Administration operates under an 'open and transparent' modus operandi, and given that you share my belief that this Local Authority should be 'Member Led' wherever possible. Could the Portfolio Holder please inform the Council as to why, notwithstanding the latest meeting having been delayed to accommodate members of the Administration and Senior Management Team, that the request of the Finance, Assets & Performance Scrutiny Committee back in 2018, to scrutinise the council's Performance Reports has not be adhered to?

**Cllr Mike Stubbs**  
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