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**NEWCASTLE
UNDER LYME**
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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 **Queen Elizabeth II & Astley Rooms - Castle House, Barracks Road, Newcastle, Staffs. ST5 1BL** on **Wednesday, 5th April, 2023** at **7.00 pm**.

BUSINESS

- 6 STATEMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (Pages 3 - 6)**
To receive a statement by the Leader of the Council on the activities and decisions of Cabinet and items included on the Forward Plan.
- 7 REPORTS OF THE CHAIRS OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEES (Pages 7 - 8)**
A verbal update will be given for the Finance, Assets and Performance Scrutiny Committee.
- 8 REPORTS OF THE CHAIRS OF THE REGULATORY COMMITTEES (Pages 9 - 10)**
- 9 QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR, CABINET MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS (Pages 11 - 12)**

Yours faithfully



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. Mobile Phones

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

3. Notice of Motion

A Notice of Motion other than those listed in Procedure Rule 14 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 B5, Rule 4 of the Constitution of the Council.

Officers will be in attendance prior to the meeting for informal discussions on agenda items.

STATEMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL TO FULL COUNCIL – 5th APRIL 2023

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

1. **Cabinet Meetings**

Cabinet met on 14th March 2023; detailed below is a selection of decisions and other actions of the Leader and Cabinet since the last Leader's Statement.

2. **One Council Update**

The Council has won a raft of awards, which recognise the resilience, innovation and dedication to high quality services that are central to our One Council Priority.

First up was a Bronze at the iESE Transformation Awards for the One Council Transformation Programme. The judges said: 'The One Council Transformation Programme continues to achieve success in efficiency, cultural improvement and people focussed value to its services.'

Next up was the Enjoy Staffordshire Tourism & Good Food Awards, where the Council picked up another four accolades. The Resilience and Innovation Gold Award went to Newcastle's Market - "The Stones" - in recognition of the push to launch fledgling businesses, its ability to continually diversify and adapt when conditions change, the hard-work keeping the market open for residents, traders and events during the Covid lockdowns and the support provided to traders.

The Brampton Museum landed a trio of awards and commendations in its first year of entering the Staffordshire Tourism Awards. The Museum went on to win Silver in the 'Best Small Visitor Attraction of the Year Awards' and also the 'Ethical, Sustainable and Responsible Tourism Awards' and a Highly Commended in the 'Accessible and Inclusive Tourism Awards'. The awards recognise the achievements of the best tourism attractions

and businesses operating in our county and reflect their hard work and professionalism in contributing to an industry which generates a huge economic impact for our area.

3. **Coronation and 850 celebrations**

The Council has worked with partners on a schedule of events to mark the Coronation of King Charles III over the Coronation Bank Holiday weekend at the beginning of May. These include coronation themed bunting in Queens Gardens and around the Guildhall, a special Market and entertainment in the town centre, live screening of the Coronation at the Brampton Museum and craft activities run by volunteers.

A number of community events have been organised across the borough and it is not too late for residents to organise their own street parties. Applications can be made to the council for road closures via the website: www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/roadclosure

The celebration of the 850th anniversary since the Borough gained its first charter gathers pace. Congratulations to the winners of the first Borough Heroes Awards that will be announced at the Mayor's Charity Ball. 850 Lyme forest trees are being planted in Silverdale and a number of talks and film shows are planned throughout April.

Updates on the Coronation and 850 celebrations can be found on the Council's website.

4. **Housing Assistance Policy 2023**

Cabinet has approved a Housing Assistance Policy that will provide financial assistance to eligible residents to help them make modifications to their homes. £1.7m of grant funding will enable individuals who have experienced an accident or illness, or are suffering from a degenerative condition, to adapt their homes to better suit their needs.

The modifications could include fitting easy-access showers, access ramps, stairlifts, or through-floor lifts, among others. The support is also available to residents whose health is at risk from hazards in the home. The funding will help people stay in their homes for longer, particularly given that the latest data shows people in the Borough start experiencing poor health in their 60s and require aid and assistance to live their lives to the fullest.

5. **Support With The Cost Of living And High Energy Prices**

The Cabinet has reaffirmed its commitment to financial support and practical advice for residents facing issues with cost of living and rising energy bills. The Council will distribute around £212,000 as part of the Government's Council Tax Support Fund and is seeking to award a three-year contract worth £210,000 to provide debt and benefit advice services showing a commitment to support those most in need.

Over the last year, the Council implemented several support schemes, including the Energy Support payment, which offered £150 to residents living in council tax property bands A-D. This payment helped alleviate the financial burden on eligible residents and improve their living conditions.

The Council is re-procuring its debt and benefit advice service which aims to stop problems from escalating by offering support ranging from self-help online to phone conversations and face-to-face meetings. Advice and support at the early stages of a personal financial crisis can help prevent further financial hardship and help individuals regain control of their finance.

6. **Procurement of new street sweepers**

Cabinet approved five replacement street sweepers which will be on the street of the borough by the summer. They will be more efficient, covering more ground at a faster pace, and will have a greater capacity, requiring fewer emptying stops per day. The proposal also includes the replacement of 14 bin collection vehicles, which would result in lower running costs and increased reliability.

The new sweepers would be particularly effective in the autumn, with their ability to remove fallen leaves reducing the risk of slippery pavements and blocked drains causing flooding. Additionally, the new fleet of vehicles collecting household, garden and trade waste will largely run on hydrogenated vegetable oil, reducing CO2 emissions by up to 90% of diesel engine output.

These will greatly enhance street cleaning capabilities and have a positive environmental impact.

7. **Financial & Performance Review Report – 3rd Quarter 2022-23**

Cabinet received a report detailing Quarter 3 performance. At the end of December 2022, the Council had 80% of measures on track to meet the 2022-23 target and 75% of all measures show improved performance compared to Q3 of last year.

This is the first quarter that performance is measured against the more ambitious targets set out in the new Council Plan. Across the Council's priority areas, performance remains strong.

Although sickness absence is not meeting its target, support and management processes have been put in place which will help to keep staff in work and, where suitable, redeploy them into alternative roles which support their ability to remain in work. Sickness absence is a national problem which many organisations are experiencing post pandemic.

Referrals into occupational health are now quicker and more thorough and managers are using the advice given to ensure that absence is minimised.

The Council has achieved the Thrive Foundation accreditation which recognises the quality processes and support packages in place to assess the health and wellbeing of staff. This process involves health assessments, wellbeing days and other activities. The next step will be to attain bronze accreditation in the coming year.

8. **Forward Plan**

The Forward Plan can be found at:-

<http://svmma/mgListPlans.aspx?RPId=118&RD=0&bcr=1>

Councillor Simon Tagg
Leader of the Council

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SCRUTINY COMMITTEES CHAIR'S REPORTS

Health, Wellbeing and Environment Scrutiny Committee

The Committee met on 6 March, 2023 and the following matters were considered:

- The Committee considered a report on the Urban Tree Planting Strategy including consultation responses and the 850 Lyme Forest proposal on the former Keele Golf Course site.
- The Committee considered the latest report to Cabinet on odour issues at Walleys Quarry.
- Members received a presentation regarding the conversion of the disused bowling green at Clough Hall Park into allotments.
- The committee considered the regular reports from the County Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Police, Fire and Crime Panel and notes of a meeting with the Integrated Care Board.
- The Work Programme was discussed and Members suggested topics including looking at the Charter for Safer Places for Women and Girls; leisure centre programmes to reduce obesity in children; projects around homelessness, mental health and wellbeing.

Cllr Ian Wilkes

Chair

Economy and Place Scrutiny Committee

Since the last Full Council meeting, the committee has met once on Thursday, 16th March.

At this meeting there was an update from Cabinet, an ongoing update on the Future High Street and Town Deal's Fund projects and an overview of progress on the Borough Local Plan.

An update was given on the Housing Provision Working Group, which has met once and set an agenda for its first full meeting this month.

There was also supposed to be a strategic management of the town centre update from the BID. However, for the second time there was no representative and therefore no update given. The Chair will now take this up directly with the manager of the BID as this is unacceptable.

Cllr Gary White

Chair

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REGULATORY COMMITTEES CHAIR'S REPORTS

Licensing and Public Protection Committee

The Licensing and Public Protection Committee met on 21st March, 2023.

There was one substantive item of business – for Members to receive the Private Hire & Hackney Carriage Fees and Charges for 2023/2024. The Committee agreed and approved the recommendation that was set out in the report.

The minutes for the previous Licensing and Public Protection Committee Meeting were made available to Members and were agreed as a correct record.

Since the last Full Council Meeting both the Licensing Sub Committee and the Public Protection Sub Committee have met once.

The minutes for the Public Protection Sub Committee Meetings held on the 18th January, 8th February and 8th March were made available to the main Committee and were noted.

Cllr Andrew Parker
Chair

Planning Committee

The Planning Committee has met twice since the last Full Council, namely the 28th of February and the 28th of March 2023

On the 28th of February the Committee included

APPLICATION FOR MAJOR DEVELOPMENT - MADELEY MANOR NURSING HOME, HEIGHLEY CASTLE WAY, MADELEY, MR G EMERY, 21/01175/FUL.

The main substantive item of the evening was considered. This application was made for the provision for 12 apartments and 2 houses within the site which lies within the green belt and that Madeley Manor House has Grade II listing status presently. It was debated at length the review mechanism of the affordable housing component of the S106 agreement was policy compliant. It was agreed and resolved: That the application be permitted subject to the aforementioned conditions

APPLICATION FOR OTHER DEVELOPMENT - AREA 13 WHITMORE APPLICATION 23B LAND IN THE VICINITY OF WHITMORE WOOD. HIGH SPEED TWO (HS2) LIMITED C/O ARUP. 23/00052/SCH17

It was also resolved that this Schedule 17 application be permitted also subject to conditions:

**LAND ADJACENT HOON AVENUE AND MILEHOUSE LANE, NEWCASTLE-
UNDER-LYME, STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, 20/01078/OUT**

This application had been heard at the previous meeting of the Planning Committee and it was resolved to refuse the application. Officers were requested to bring appropriate wording for the reason for refusal back to this Committee.

It was resolved by the committee an agreement of wording for the reason for refusal.

LAND AT DODDLESPool, BETLEY, 17/00186/207C2

Members were advised that enforcement action was now being proceeded with to get the matter resolved.

Resolved: That the information be received, and a further report be brought to the April meeting of this Committee.

The 28th March 2023 meeting included:

**APPLICATION FOR OTHER DEVELOPMENT - LAND ADJACENT PLAYING
FIELDS, MANOR ROAD, MADELEY. HIGH SPEED TWO (HS2) LIMITED.**

23/00114/SCH17 which sort permissions to negate mitigation from future HS2 development in building provision for the construction of a bat house

Resolved: That the Schedule 17 application be granted subject to conditions.

**APPLICATION FOR OTHER DEVELOPMENT - LAND TO THE NORTH OF
SNAPE HALL ROAD, BALDWINS GATE. HIGH SPEED TWO (HS2)**

LIMITED.23/00116/SCH17 This application was a similar application to the last item, and this was also for permission to construct a bat house at this location.

Resolved: That the Schedule 17 application be granted subject to conditions.

BOGGS COTTAGE, KEELE. 14/00036/207C3

Members were advised that there was a further update to the published reports in respect of Conditions 3 and 4. Planning applications had now been submitted and would be brought to the Committee in the near future.

Resolved: That the information be received.

Cllr Paul Northcott
Chair

QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR, CABINET MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

To the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Recycling:

1. I have been told that it is not the policy of the Borough Council to provide new bins for dog waste. Is this correct?

Cllr Richard Gorton

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To the Leader of the Council

2. As the Leader of the Council is aware, concerns were expressed at the Walley's Quarry Liaison Committee in November 2022 about the Thistleberry Residents Association (TRA) and their continued membership of the Liaison Committee. At the subsequent meeting on 16 March 2023, Walleys Quarry Ltd said they had carried out due diligence, which they refused to share, and said they were satisfied with the TRA and its membership of the Liaison Committee.

Since being elected to the Council last May for the Thistleberry Ward, local Borough Councillors have tried to make contact with the TRA but without success. The TRA have stated they will not provide the names and contact details of the Executive, to us or anyone else, and the TRA will not provide information on meetings and or their contact with residents.

Does the Leader agree with me that there is no evidence the TRA actually represents the residents of Thistleberry and that the Thistleberry Residents Association is being run by somebody who does not live in Thistleberry?

Cllr Joan Whieldon

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To the Leader of the Council

3. Many residents feel that the Sky building has suffered enough and wants putting out of its misery. The people of Newcastle are watching its daily deterioration with dismay, and many feel that it should be brought back into Council ownership. What options, including compulsory purchase, have been considered in order to make the best use of what's left of it?'

Cllr Wendy Brockie

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