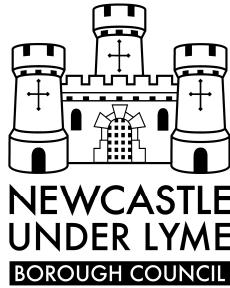


Public Document Pack



Dear Sir/Madam,

You are summoned to attend the meeting of the Borough Council of Newcastle-under-Lyme to be held in the **Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Merrial Street, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire, ST5 2AG** on **Wednesday, 9th September, 2015** at **7.30 pm** or as soon as the Special Council for the Appointment of Aldermen has concluded.

BUSINESS

1 Apologies

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive declarations of interest from Members on items contained within this agenda.

3 MINUTES

(Pages 7 - 12)

To consider the minutes of the previous meeting(s)

4 Mayors Announcements

5 Revised Financial Regulations

(Pages 13 - 16)

6 Governance Review Sub Committee Update

(Pages 17 - 20)

7 STATEMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

(Pages 21 - 22)

To receive a statement by the Leader of the Council on the activities and decisions of Cabinet and items included on the Forward Plan.

8 REPORTS OF THE CHAIRS OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

Chairs are requested to submit written reports to the Democratic Services Manager at least 48 hours before the meeting.

- a) Finance, Resources and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee
- b) Active and Cohesive Communities Scrutiny Committee
- c) Cleaner, Greener and Safer Communities Scrutiny Committee
- d) Economic Development and Enterprise Scrutiny Committee
- e) Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

9 REPORTS OF THE CHAIRS OF THE REGULATORY COMMITTEES

Chairs are requested to submit written reports to the Democratic Services Manager at least 48 hours before the meeting.

- a) Audit and Risk Committee
- b) Planning Committee
- c) Licensing Committee
- d) Public Protection Committee

10 QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR, CABINET MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

In accordance with Procedure Rule 11, questions must be submitted at least 24 hours before the meeting. Any questions considered urgent will only be accepted with the agreement of the Mayor prior to the meeting.

11 MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

A notice of motion other than those listed in Appendix 7 Section 10 of the Constitution must reach the Chief Executive ten clear days before the relevant Meeting of the Council.

12 RECEIPT OF PETITIONS

A petition has been received in relation to land at Sheldon Grove, Chesterton also known as 'The Grumbles'.

The Petition Organiser will be given 5 minutes to present the petition following which Council will have 15 minutes to discuss the petition and decide how to respond.

The petition is available for Members to view in the Democratic Services Office.

13 Update on Previous Petitions Received.

14 URGENT BUSINESS

To consider any communications which pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 7 in Appendix 7 of the Constitution are, in the opinion of the Mayor, of an urgent nature and to pass thereon such resolutions as may be deemed necessary.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. M.', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

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. Do not stop to collect personal belongings, do not use the lifts.

Fire exits are to be found either side of the rear of the Council Chamber and at the rear of the Public Gallery.

On exiting the building Members, Officers and the Public must assemble at the car park at the rear of the Aspire Housing Office opposite to the Civic Offices. DO NOT re-enter the building until advised to by the Controlling Officer.

2. Attendance Record

Please sign the Attendance Record sheet, which will be circulating around the Council Chamber. Please ensure that the sheet is signed before leaving the meeting.

3. Mobile Phones

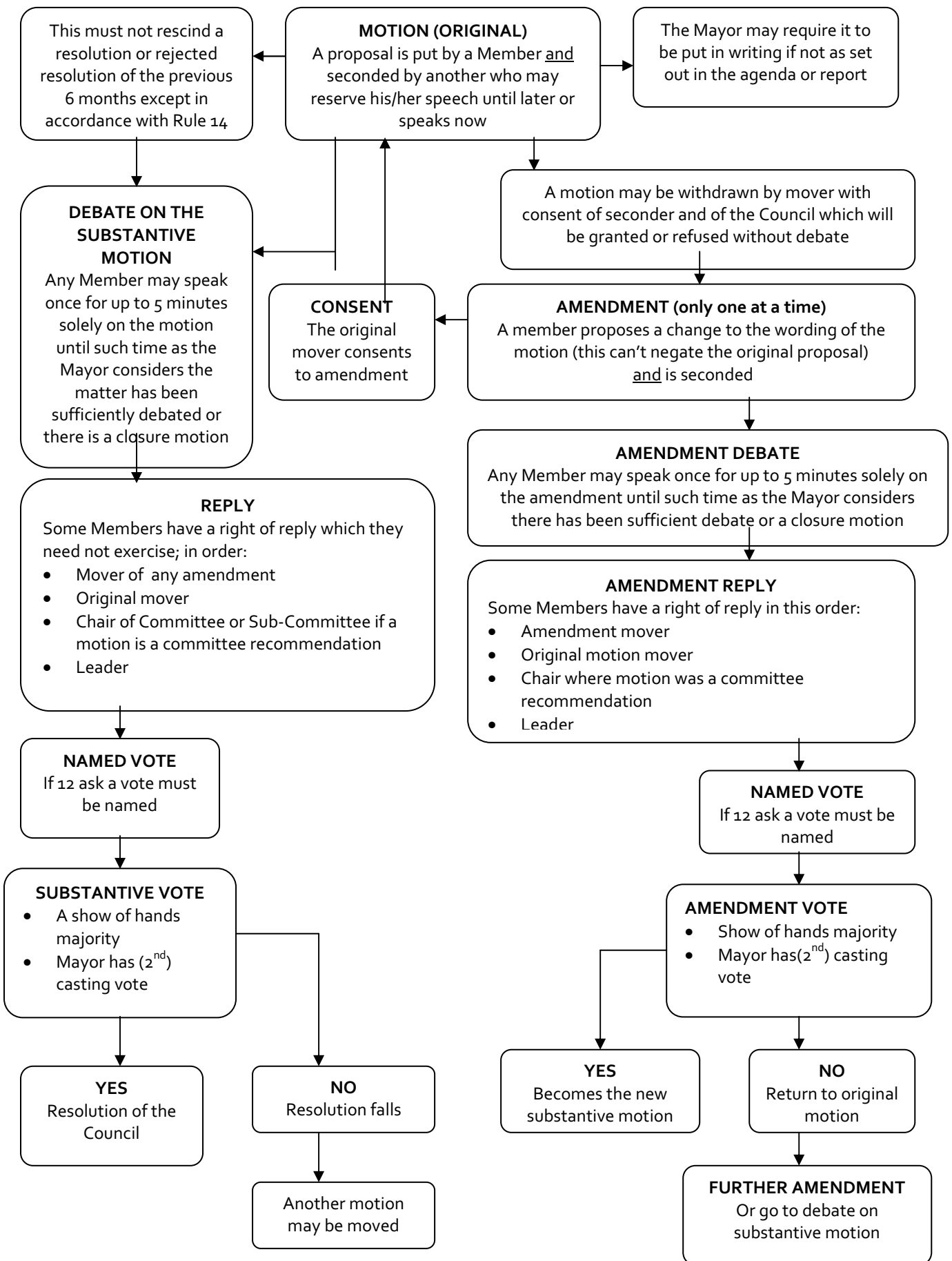
Please switch off all mobile phones before entering the Council Chamber.

4. Tea/Coffee

Refreshments will be available at the conclusion of the meeting, or in the event of a break occurring, during that break.

5. Notice of Motion

A Notice of Motion other than those listed in Appendix 7 Section 10 of the Constitution must reach the Chief Executive ten clear days before the relevant Meeting of the Council.



COUNCIL

Wednesday, 15th July, 2015

Present:- The Mayor. Councillor Sandra Hambleton – in the Chair

Councillors Allport, Astle, Bailey, Baker, Bates, Beech, Braithwaite, Burgess, Cooper, Cooper, Dymond, Eagles, Eastwood, Fear, Frankish, Hailstones, Hailstones, Hambleton, Harper, Heesom, Huckfield, Johnson, Johnson, Kearon, Loades, Matthews, Northcott, Owen, Parker, Pickup, Plant, Proctor, Reddish, Robinson, Rout, Shenton, Simpson, Stringer, Stubbs, Sweeney, Tagg, J Tagg, Turner, Walklate, Wallace, Waring, Welsh, Wemyss, White, Wilkes, Williams, Williams, Winfield, Wing and Woolley

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Mancey and Cllr Peers.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Loades declared that he had an interest in the motion regarding the provision of hearing aids as he sat on the Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee where a decision had been made regarding the item.

3. MINUTES

Resolved: That the minutes of the previous meeting be agreed as a correct record.

4. MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor announced that arrangements were now underway for the Charity Spring Ball to be held in The Ballroom at Keele Hall on Friday 8 April 2016.

Details of the menu and ticket price would be available later.

Discussions were also underway for a number of events to be held to raise money for the Mayor's Charity Fund and these included a charity car wash at Newcastle Fire Station and concert by Newcastle Male Voice Choir. Further details would be released as they become available.

5. TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2014/2015

A report was submitted regarding the Treasury Management Annual Report. It was a requirement of the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice and its Prudential Code for Capital Finance that an Annual Report was made to the Council in respect of each year's Treasury Management activities.

Members agreed that it was tremendous news regarding the money that would be reclaimed from the Icelandic Bank.

Resolved:

- (a) That the Treasury Management Annual Report for 2014/15 be received.
- (b) That the actual Prudential Indicators contained within the report be approved

6. NEWCASTLE UNDER LYME AND STOKE ON TRENT STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The Council were required by Section 18 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, 2004 to have an adopted and up to date Statement of Community Involvement. Cabinet had recommended the adoption of the Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stoke-on-Trent Statement of Community Involvement, 2015, and the next stage was to formally adopt the document as part of the Local Development Framework for Newcastle.

Members welcomed the document.

Resolved: That the Council adopt the Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stoke-on-Trent Statement of Community Involvement, 2015, as part of the Newcastle-under-Lyme Local Development Framework.

7. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE ON THE LGIU MEMBER ASSEMBLY

A report was submitted to inform members of the appointment of Cllr Kyle Robinson as the Council's representative on the Local government Information Unit Member Assembly.

Resolved:

- a) That Council confirms the appointment of Cllr Robinson as the Council's representative on the LGIU Member Assembly.

8. STATEMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

A report was submitted to provide an update to Members on the activities and decisions of Cabinet together with the Forward Plan.

The Leader stated that unfortunately due to ill health she had been unable to attend the LGA Conference and thanked Members for their support and well wishes.

The Leader also stated that improvements were currently being made to the forward plan including the fact that all Members now received a link to the update plan every Friday.

A concern was raised regarding lack of progress with the Kidsgrove Town Centre Partnership and the questions was raised as to whether Cllr John Williams could be reinstated as a Director on the Partnership.

The Leader confirmed that a written response would be provided but also that this had been a Cabinet decision which could have been called in if Members had not been satisfied with the decision.

Resolved: That the Report be noted.

9. **REPORTS OF THE CHAIRS OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**

Cllr Stringer requested two more nominations for the High Speed 2 working Group.

Cllr Loades thanked Officers for their support on the Audit and Risk Committee and for the clear and concise reports.

Members were also reminded that Planning training was taking place and that it was compulsory for members of the Planning Committee to attend at least 2 thirds of the courses.

Resolved:

That the reports be noted.

10. **REPORTS OF THE CHAIRS OF THE REGULATORY COMMITTEES**

Resolved: That the reports be noted.

11. **QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR, CABINET MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS.**

A question had been submitted by Cllr Sweeney as follows:

The Staff Related Savings target in this year's Budget is £50,000. Can the leader tell me how near we are to achieving that target?

Resolved: The Leader stated that a written response would be provided.

12. **MOTIONS OF MEMBERS**

A motion had been submitted by Cllr Proctor as follows:

This Council notes that:

- Cuts to NHS hearing aid services are being introduced by North Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Group. This is the first CCG to decommission free NHS hearing aids.
- Staffordshire County Council's Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee has decided to support the CCG's introduction of a fee for the issue of hearing aids to patients who suffer from certain forms of hearing loss.

Cllr Proctor moved the motion and it was seconded by Cllr Astle.

Cllr Eastwood as Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee stated that this had been discussed at a previous meeting of the Committee and questions still remained unanswered such as why this project had been chosen over all others when all professionals in the field had objected. Cllr Eastwood confirmed that the Newcastle under Lyme Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee had been unable to support the recommendations.

Cllr Loades stated that he did not support the motion and that the Policy had changed since the original meeting and that the motion contained inaccuracies in so far as the decision would not affect people with moderate hearing loss, dementia or hearing related illnesses such as tinnitus, the decision was only applicable to people with mild hearing loss. Cllr Loades also stated that where hardship relating to hearing loss was identified then an individual would be referred to an audiologist. Cllr Loades also confirmed that individuals could still visit their GP regarding hearing loss but that there would be no immediate support if the hearing loss was below 44 decibels unless it could be shown that the hearing loss was causing hardship to the individual or that the individual could not afford treatment. All cases would be looked at on an individual basis.

Cllr Loades proposed an amendment to the motion:

That this Council agree to monitor, in conjunction with the County Council Health Scrutiny Committee, this change to the North Staffs CCG policy and comment further after a review has taken place and that a report be brought back to this Council for further consideration.

The Leader stated that she could not support the amendment and that hearing loss did not just happen and that individuals needed support from the start.

Cllr Mrs Johnson also raised concerns regarding the impact that hearing loss could have on the mental health of patients. Cllr Loades stated that in cases such as this the case would be taken on by the patients GP.

The amendment to the motion was seconded and a named vote requested as follows:

Allport	NO	Heesom	YES	Shenton	NO
Astle	NO	Holland	YES	Simpson	NO
Bailey	NO	Huckfield	YES	Stringer	NO
Baker	NO	Johnson (Mrs)	NO	Stubbs	NO
Bates	NO	Johnson	YES	Sweeney	YES
Beech	NO	Kearon	ABSTAIN	Tagg (John)	YES
Braithwaite	YES	Loades	No Vote	Tagg (Simon)	YES
Burgess	NO	Mancey	Absent	Turner	NO
Cooper	ABSTAIN	Matthews	YES	Wallace	NO
Cooper (Miss)	YES	Naylon	Absent	Walklate	NO
Dymond	NO	Northcott	YES	Waring	YES
Eagles	NO	Owen	NO		
Eastwood	NO	Parker	YES	Welsh	NO
Fear	YES	Peers	Absent	Wemyss	NO
Frankish	YES	Pickup	NO	White	ABSTAIN
Hailstones (Mrs)	ABSTAIN	Plant	NO	Wilkes	ABSTAIN
Hailstones	YES	Proctor	NO	Williams (Mrs)	NO
Hambleton (Mrs)	NO	Reddish	ABSTAIN	Williams	NO
Hambleton	NO	Robinson	NO	Winfield	NO
Harper	ABSTAIN	Rout	NO	Wing	YES
				Woolley	ABSTAIN

In Favour: 17
 Against: 31
 Abstain: 8

The amendment to the motion fell.

Debate returned to the substantive motion.

Cllr Fear stated that the motion should still be withdrawn as it contained inaccuracies.

Members also questioned what the alternatives were especially considering that this decision had been made by professionals and that this Council did not have all the facts on the table in order to make an informed decision.

Cllr Stubbs stated that loss of hearing could have a big impact on quality of life and action taken early on could help to prevent future illnesses, increase that chance of employment and half the risk of domestic violence.

Other Members expressed concerns that no wholesale review of other services had taken place and that the advice from audiologists had not been taken on board.

Cllr Loades stated that the methods followed by CPAG regarding the decision would be on their website including the other possible choices such as skin cancer care, plastic surgery and dialysis.

A vote was taken on the substantive motion:

Allport	YES	Heesom	NO	Shenton	YES
Astle	YES	Holland	NO	Simpson	YES
Bailey	YES	Huckfield	NO	Stringer	YES
Baker	YES	Johnson (Mrs)	YES	Stubbs	YES
Bates	YES	Johnson	ABSTAIN	Sweeney	ABSTAIN
Beech	YES	Kearon	YES	Tagg (John)	ABSTAIN
Braithwaite	NO	Loades	No Vote	Tagg (Simon)	ABSTAIN
Burgess	YES	Mancey	Absent	Turner	YES
Cooper	ABSTAIN	Matthews	ABSTAIN	Wallace	YES
Cooper (Miss)	ABSTAIN	Naylon	Absent	Walklate	YES
Dymond	YES	Northcott	NO	Waring	ABSTAIN
Eagles	YES	Owen	YES		
Eastwood	YES	Parker	ABSTAIN	Welsh	YES
Fear	NO	Peers	Absent	Wemyss	YES
Frankish	ABSTAIN	Pickup	YES	White	YES
Hailstones (Mrs)	ABSTAIN	Plant	YES	Wilkes	YES
Hailstones	NO	Proctor	YES	Williams (Mrs)	YES
Hambleton (Mrs)	YES	Reddish	ABSTAIN	Williams	YES
Hambleton	YES	Robinson	YES	Winfield	YES
Harper	ABSTAIN	Rout	YES	Wing	ABSTAIN
				Woolley	ABSTAIN

In Favour: 34

Against: 7
Abstain: 15

Resolved:

- That this Council write to the CCG asking them to reverse their proposal to introduce a fee for the issue of hearing aids to mild/moderate hearing loss patients in North Staffordshire.
- That this Council call on Staffordshire County Council's Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee to reverse their decision to support the introduction of a fee for the issue of hearing aids to patients who suffer from any form of deafness.

13. RECEIPT OF PETITIONS

No petitions were received.

14. STANDING ORDER 18 - URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

THE MAYOR. COUNCILLOR SANDRA HAMBLETON
Chair

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S REPORT TO THE COUNCIL

09 September 2015

1. Revised Financial Regulations

Submitted by: Head of Finance

Portfolio: Finance IT and Customer

Ward(s) affected: All Indirectly

Purpose of the Report

To approve the revised Financial Regulations and Procedures.

Recommendations

(a) That the revised Financial Regulations and Procedures be approved.

Reasons

The Council's Financial Regulations and Procedures need to be reviewed annually and revised where necessary so that they reflect the current structure and requirements of the Council.

1. **Background**

- 1.1 Financial Regulations are designed to ensure that the Council's financial affairs are conducted in a proper, standardised and accountable manner. They set out for officers and members the practices and procedures which must be followed when dealing with financial and allied matters.
- 1.2 The Regulations comprise Key Regulations and associated Financial Procedures. The Key Regulations set out the general principles which are to be followed and the Financial Procedures set out in detail the procedures which must be followed. This is in accordance with the best practice format as recommended by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA).
- 1.3 As part of the arrangements to ensure good corporate governance of the Council, a review of the Regulations is now carried out on an annual basis. Following this year's review some minor amendments have been made. Accordingly, revised Regulations have been compiled and are now submitted for your consideration and approval.

2. **Issues**

- 2.1 In the interest of efficiency, the whole document (65 pages) has not been circulated with the report. A full copy of the Regulations, showing the tracked changes which have been made, compared to the current Regulations, is available in the Members Room and a copy has also been placed on the Members' Intranet site.
- 2.2 Changes made are:

- 2.2.1 (PSN) and the Government Protective Marking Scheme (GPMS) changed to the Government Security Classifications Scheme (GSCC);
- 2.2.2 An amendment to Dh2, Payment by Credit and Debit Cards, to incorporate the possibility that debit cards may be subject to charges that would subsequently be approved by Cabinet, due to the increase in debit card charges being received;
- 2.2.3 Reference to the Standing Orders has been replaced where necessary to Contract Procedural Rules;
- 2.2.4 The Community Strategy has been amended to Sustainable Community Strategy;
- 2.2.5 B10(b) – Directors shall provide the Executive Director (Resources and Support Services with sufficient information to enable the Medium Term Financial Strategy;
- 2.2.6 B18 – Guidelines on budget preparation will be approved by Cabinet through the approval of the Medium Term Financial Strategy;
- 2.2.7 F1 – F4 – The requirement of the Council to comply with the Local Government Transparency Code;
- 2.2.8 Af2 – Directors shall provide any information required from auditor queries;
- 2.2.9 Ag3 – Requisitions shall be approved by separate persons in order to produce and order to be sent to a supplier;
- 2.2.10 Ag4 – In line with the changes towards official documents being approved electronically rather than via a signature, the reference to sign or certify has been replaced with ‘approve’;
- 2.2.11 Bb1 – Estimates and budgets amended in order to fit to the Code of Practice as and when any changes occur;
- 2.2.12 Bb18 – Reference to budget monitoring rather than calculation of efficiency saving indicators;
- 2.2.13 Bf4 – Removal of reference to the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Resources and Efficiency in relation to attendance at the Capital Programme Review Group;
- 2.2.14 Bf18 - The Executive Director (Resources and Support Services) shall be responsible for the submission of all bids or requests for approval for in respect of Supplementary or other credit approvals or capitalisation directions or any other matter concerning capital accounting or funding;
- 2.2.15 Bf20 - No lease, hire, rental or other arrangement of a similar nature which involves a charge against the Council's credit approvals shall be entered into without reference to the Executive Director (Resources and Support Services) to enable him to assess the implications for the capital or revenue budgets. If the Executive Director (Resources and Support Services) so requires, the arrangement shall be submitted;
- 2.2.16 Cl2 – Petty cash expenditure shall only be in line with the guidance notes and certified by the Head of Service, Executive Director or Chief Executive;
- 2.2.17 Cn2 – Payments by direct debit or standing order must be approved by the Executive Director (Resources and Support Services);
- 2.2.18 Db1 - Directors shall supply, in writing or by electronic means, lists names of authorised employees, with specimen signatures and delegated limits and, where requested, specimen signatures , to the Executive Director (Resources and Support Services), together with

subsequent variations, in respect of payments, income collection and placing orders, including requisitioning;

- 2.2.19 Dp3 – Directors *shall* apply the Charging Policy when setting fees and charges. This was amended from have regard to, in order to emphasise the need to apply the policy;
- 2.2.20 Dw2 – Included that Directors shall observe all accounting requirements specific to trading accounts;
- 2.2.21 Appendix A – Petty Cash guidance notes have been updated to reflect current guidance;
- 2.2.22 The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations have been updated to reference the 2015 regulation;
- 2.2.23 Minor amendments to explanatory note wording and correction of reference numbers.

3. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

- 3.1 There are none.

4. **Financial and Resource Implications**

- 4.1 There are none.

5. **Major Risks**

- 5.1 There are none.

6. **List of Appendices**

- 6.1 A hard copy of the document showing the changes is available in the Members' Room and a copy has also been placed on the Members' Intranet site.

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1. **REPORT TITLE** **Governance Review Sub Committee - Update**
- Submitted by:** **(The Monitoring Officer)**
- Portfolio:** **(Policy, People & Partnerships)**
- Ward(s) affected:** **(All)**

Purpose of the Report

To update Council regarding the work undertaken by the Governance Review Sub Committee.

Recommendations

- (a) That the timescales for the Sub-Committee be extended until 30th November 2015.**
- (b) That a final report containing recommendations on ward boundaries, council size and the electoral cycle be submitted to the Council meeting on 25th November 2015.**

Reasons

Following the publication of the electoral register in March 2015 it was clear that the Council had met at least one of the criteria required to trigger a review by the Boundary Commission. This report seeks to increase the timescales originally agreed for the Governance Sub-Committee in order for a final report to be submitted to Council in November of this year taking into consideration the fact that there will now certainly be a review of the current boundaries.

1. **Background**

On the 26 November 2014 Full Council agreed to establish a Governance Sub Committee to look at the electoral arrangements of the Council (the remit of the group is attached as Appendix A). The establishment of this Sub-committee was for a time limited period from 1 December 2014 to 30 September 2015. The Sub-committee comprises 7 members, 5 of whom are members of this Council with full voting rights, 2 will be independent with no voting rights. At the time of writing this report there is a vacancy for an independent member.

- 1.1 The first meeting of the Sub-Committee took place on the 9 March 2015; the main focus of this meeting was to receive a presentation from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) which was provided by Max Caller, Chairman of the LGCBE and Joylan Jackson, Chief Executive of the LGBCE.
- 1.2 Members from the Commission provided an overview of the options that were available to the authority in terms of an electoral review. The Commission acknowledged that currently this authority with 60 members was at the top of the range when compared to our 'CIPFA nearest neighbours group'. They reported that in relation to reviews recently undertaken with authorities within this family group, there had been a reduction in Council size of up to 10%.
- 1.3 Since March the Sub Committee has met on two occasions and has discussed a number of issues in relation to this review. The main issues that need to be considered and agreed upon are council size and the electoral cycle.
- 1.4 In relation to determining council size the Sub Committee sanctioned a questionnaire that was sent to all Members just prior to the election in May 2015. The results of this questionnaire have been collated and will be used to help the Sub-committee determine options and proposals around

council size. In addition work has begun to profile and cost out various scenarios in relation to council size and ward patterns, this work will be reviewed by the Sub Committee at its next meeting which is scheduled for the 17 September 2015. Members of the Sub Committee will then report back to Group Leaders in order to seek the views of their Members before making its final report.

1.5 **Timescales**

The Sub Committee has made good progress with the remit which has been set but the original timescale for a report to come back to the Council has been challenging. It is for this reason that the Sub Committee is requesting the timescale to be extended and for a report to be brought to the November meeting of the Council.

1.6 **Boundary Committee review**

Since the Governance Sub Committee commenced their work there have been further developments in that the Council has now hit the trigger points for the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) to automatically undertake an electoral review.

1.7 Contact has been made with the (LGBCE) to confirm timescales for a review and it is anticipated that they will address the Council in the autumn of 2015, with a view to work commencing in March 2016.

1.8 Before the Council engages with the LGBCE, a decision will need to be made regarding council size and the electoral cycle as any review carried out will use these as a starting point for the ward structure e.g. elections by thirds will initiate a three members per ward structure.

1.9 If the Council wishes to put proposals to the LGBCE ahead of a review then it will need to have determined the above at a Special Council meeting convened for this purpose in sufficient time. The work which the Sub Committee is doing places the Council in a strong position to be able to make proposals to the LGBCE provided that this is completed within the proposed timescales.

1.9 It is proposed therefore that the Governance Sub Committee continue to look at and review options/scenarios in terms of council size, warding patterns and electoral cycles at their meetings throughout September and October. There will then be the opportunity for discussions with Group Leaders and also an opportunity for discussion at the political Group meetings before a final report is presented to Council in November 2015.

1.10 **Proposed next steps**

The Sub Committee will meet again in September to review proposals regarding the council size, pattern of wards and electoral cycle. During October there will be time for the outcome of this work to be considered by all Members and arrangements will be put in place for the political Groups to consider these proposals during October. These discussions will help shape the final report of the Sub Committee which will be considered by the Council at its meeting on 25 November 2015.

1.11 Assuming it is able to agree proposals developed by the Sub Committee, the Council will be in a strong position to make representations on a preferred model to the LGBCE in advance of it commencing a review.

1.12 This timetable would also permit the Council to move ahead with a Special Meeting to confirm its preferred approach for council size and electoral cycle at an appropriate time, following adequate consideration and, if appropriate, consultation.

2. **Issues**

Membership of the Committee

In accordance with the provision set by the Council the Sub Committee appointed two independent members. Bryan Carnes and Howard Davies have been appointed and worked with the Sub Committee. Howard Davies was a Programme Manager with the Local Government Association (LGA) but retired in early July. Due to changes in the roles of staff at the LGA his successor is not able to take on this role. The Monitoring Officer has considered some suitably experienced people with the Sub Committee but at the time of writing this report it has not been possible to confirm the preferred person.

3. **Proposal**

- (a) That the timescales for the Sub-Committee be extended until 30th November 2015.
- (b) That a final report containing recommendations on ward boundaries, council size and the electoral cycle be submitted to the Council meeting on 25th November 2015.

4. **Reasons for Preferred Solution**

As the Council has already triggered the criteria for a boundary it is considered vital that steps are taken as soon as possible to enable the Council to prepare and submit a proposal to the LGBCE as soon as the review commences.

5. **Outcomes Linked to Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Priorities**

- creating a cleaner, safer and sustainable Borough
- creating a Borough of opportunity
- creating a healthy and active community
- transforming our Council to achieve excellence

6. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, states that a district council currently subject to election by thirds or halves may resolve to change to whole elections under section 34 of the Act. Under the same Act, the council may not resolve to move from election by thirds to election by halves.

Section 24 of the Localism Act 2011 amends the timetable for changing English district Council's electoral scheme, enabling a council to choose when their electoral cycle can change and removes the provisions which state that Councils may pass resolutions to change their electoral schemes only in certain permitted periods.

The Local Democracy, Economic Development & Construction Act 2009 provides details regarding requests by the Local Authority for a review for single revised electoral areas.

7. **Financial and Resource Implications**

Reviewing Council size and Electoral Cycle will help to deliver cost savings to this Council. Various models are being costed at present and the options will be presented to the Governance Review Sub-committee before being presented as part of a full report to Council in November 2015.

8. **Major Risks**

A full risk assessment will be completed prior to the report being submitted to Full Council in November 2015.

9. **Key Decision Information**

This is not a key decision

10. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

Report to Full Council on 26th November 2014

11. **List of Appendices**

Appendix A - Remit of governance Review Sub Committee

STATEMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL TO FULL COUNCIL – 9TH SEPTEMBER 2015

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 July 2015. There will be another Cabinet meeting next Wednesday. 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. **Petition re The Butts**

Cabinet received and noted the petition. It was decided to allow The Butts to go forward and be subject to the outcome of the joint local plan process, on the basis that this will guide future decision making as to the use of the land. The Portfolio Holder made a statement at the meeting to say that there were no plans in either the short, medium or long term to dispose of this site. It was felt that it should be retained as public open space. This position was reaffirmed in the latest edition of the report.

3. **Progress in Implementing the Planning Peer Review Action Plan**

Cabinet noted the progress that had been made and agreed to the proposals as set out in the report that was presented by the Portfolio Holder.

4. **Pilot Project for Collaborative Working on Print and Associated Services**

Cabinet approved proposals for a pilot project for collaborative working involving print and associated services. Cabinet also requested that a report be brought back in six months giving an overview and evaluation of this closer working relationship with a neighbouring authority.

5. **Cabinet Panels**

In order to achieve consistency, and enhance effectiveness, Cabinet agreed that all Cabinet Panels will be comprised of seven members in line with the rules on political balance.

6. **Financial and Performance Management Report**

Cabinet noted the Financial and Performance Reports for the fourth quarter 2014/15. It should be noted that since the Cabinet meeting the most recent financial and performance reports have been presented to the FRAPS Committee and will be reviewed again by Cabinet next week.

7. **Housing Renewal Loans**

Cabinet have authorised the development and subsequent delivery of an in-house home loans renewal programme. The current Housing Renewal Assistance Policy will be updated to reflect this decision.

8. **OPCC – Safer Neighbourhood Panels**

Cabinet agreed to support the Safer Neighbourhood Panels and made nominations for 2 Elected Members to represent the Borough Council.

9. **Forward Plan**

The Forward Plan covering the period from 3 September 2015 to 31 December 2015 can be found at:

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

I am still working with officers to improve the format of this report.

Councillor Elizabeth Shenton
Leader of the Council