

# 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.**

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, 23rd November, 2016*** following the Special Meeting of the Council.

## **B U S I N E S S**

### **1 COUNCILLOR BILLY WELSH**

A minute's silence will be held as a mark of respect for Councillor Billy Welsh who passed away in September.

### **2 Apologies**

### **3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

### **4 MINUTES**

**(Pages 7 - 12)**

To consider the minutes of the previous meeting(s)

### **5 Mayoral Appointment - Mace Bearer**

### **6 Mayors Announcements**

### **7 Localised Council Tax Reduction Scheme**

**(Pages 13 - 20)**

### **8 Consequential amendment to the Constitution**

**(Pages 21 - 22)**

### **9 Electoral Review of Newcastle-under-Lyme warding arrangements**

**(Pages 23 - 30)**

### **10 STATEMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

**(Pages 31 - 32)**

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

## **11 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRS**

Nominations are invited for the following positions:

- Vice Chair of Planning
  - Labour nomination – Councillor Sandra Hambleton
  - Liberal Democrat nomination – Councillor Marion Reddish
- Vice Chair of Public Protection

## **12 REPORTS OF THE CHAIRS OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEES (Pages 33 - 36)**

Chairs are requested to submit written reports to the Democratic Services Manager by (TWO DAYS BEFORE MEETING)

The Economic Development and Enterprise Scrutiny Committee has not met since the last Full Council meeting.

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

## **13 REPORTS OF THE CHAIRS OF THE REGULATORY COMMITTEES (Pages 37 - 38)**

Chairs are requested to submit written reports to the Democratic Services Manager by (two days before meeting).

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

## **14 MOTIONS OF MEMBERS (Pages 39 - 46)**

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.

### Motions received

1. Recycling and Waste Service.
2. State pension arrangements.
3. Bradwell Hospital.

## **15 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.

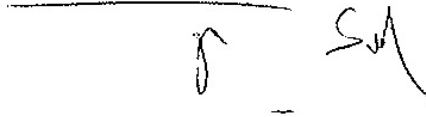
## **16 RECEIPT OF PETITIONS**

To receive from Members any petitions which they wish to present to the Council.

## **17 STANDING ORDER 18 - URGENT BUSINESS**

To consider any communications which pursuant to Standing Order No18 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 horizontal line is drawn across the page. Below the line, there are two handwritten signatures. The first signature is a simple, stylized 'J' or 'I' shape. The second signature is more complex, starting with a large 'S' and ending with a long, sweeping flourish.

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 on entering the building. This will be located at the Porter's lodge.

### **3. Mobile Phones**

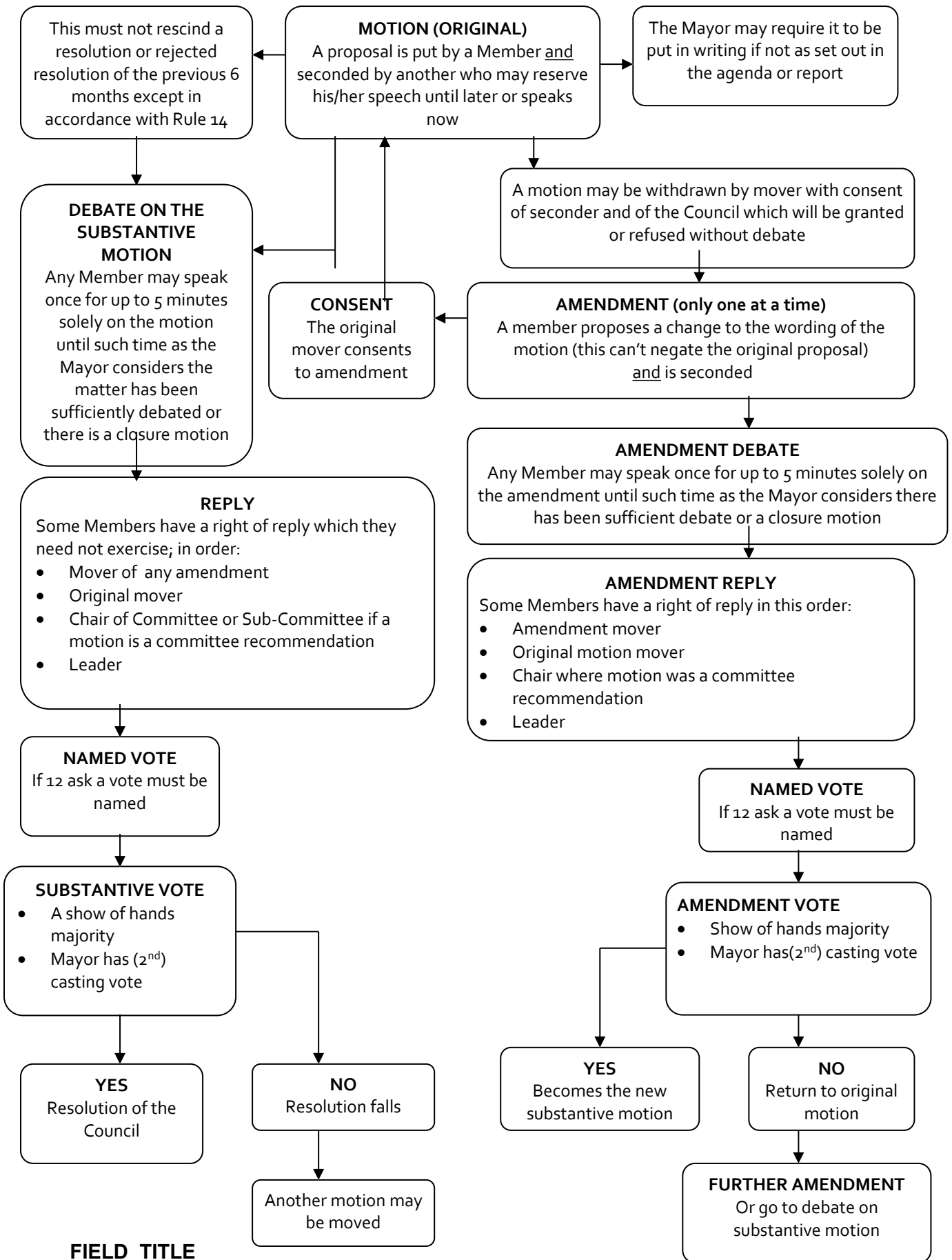
Please switch off all mobile phones before entering the Council Chamber.

### **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 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.



**FIELD\_TITLE**

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**COUNCIL**

Wednesday, 7th September, 2016  
Time of Commencement: 7.00 pm

**Present:-** The Mayor Councillor Ian Wilkes – in the Chair

**Councillors:**

Allport	Beech	Bloor	Burch
Burgess	Cooper	Miss J Cooper	Dillon
Dymond	Eagles	Frankish	Gardner
L Hailstones	P Hailstones	S Hambleton	T Hambleton
Harper	Holland	Huckfield	Johnson
Jones	Kearon	Loades	Mancey
Matthews	Naylon	Northcott	Olszewski
Owen	Panter	Parker	Pickup
Proctor	Reddish	Robinson	Rout
Shenton	Simpson	Snell	Spence
Stubbs	Sweeney	J Tagg	S Tagg
Turner	Walklate	Waring	White
G Williams	J Williams	Winfield	Wing
Woolley	Wright		

**Officers** Executive Director (Operational Services)  
- David Adams, Jayne Briscoe (Scrutiny Officer), Executive Director (Regeneration and Development) - Neale Clifton, Stephen Gerrard, Chief Executive  
- John Sellgren and Executive Director (Resources and Support Services) - Kelvin Turner

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors Astle, Fear, Heesom and Welsh. Councillor Parker apologised for lateness.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Loades declared in interest at item 9 on the agenda relating to the Better Care Fund in Staffordshire as a support member for the Adult Social Care Committee of Staffordshire County Council.

3. **MINUTES OF A PREVIOUS MEETING**

**Resolved:** That with the clerical amendment to the officer attendance, the minutes of the meeting held on 7 September, 2016 be agreed as a correct record.

**4. MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councillor Snell was welcomed back to the Authority as an elected member following the Silverdale and Parksite by-election.

The Annual Fun Fair and Fireworks display would take place at The Lyme Valley on 23 October, 2016 and the Mayors Ball would be held on 21 April 2017 at Keele Hall.

The Mayor promoted copies of a CD recorded by members of the locality and which was for sale in support of the Mayors Fund.

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

**Resolved:** That the report of the Chair of the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Communities Scrutiny Committee and the Chair of the Economic Development and Enterprise Scrutiny Committee be noted.

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

**Resolved:** That the report of the Chair of Audit and Risk Committee and the Chair of the Licensing and Public Protection Committee be noted.

**7. COUNCIL SIZE SUBMISSION TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND**

The Leader introduced this item to enable the Council to make a submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England on its view of the future size of the Council at the start of the review process.

**Resolved:** That approval be given to the proposal to reduce the council size from 60 to 44, effective from May 2018 and the Council Size Submission September 2016 document be submitted to the Local Government Commission for England.

**8. CIVIC HUB AND RYECROFT**

The Portfolio Holder for Finance, IT and Customer introduced this report which informed members of a decision which had been made under the urgency provisions of the Councils Constitution concerning the effects of the delay in the Ryecroft redevelopment project.

**Resolved:** That the report be noted.

**9. NOTICE OF MOTION**

The following motion was received, proposed by Councillor Snell and seconded by Councillor Jones regarding the cuts made by Staffordshire County Council as a result in the shortfall of funding to the Better Care Fund:

**This Council notes** that Staffordshire County Council is facing a £15m shortfall as a result of Staffordshire CCGs removing their contribution to the Better Care Fund and that Staffordshire

County Council's response to this shortfall is a series of swingeing, unfair and potentially damaging



cuts which will disproportionately affect older and vulnerable people in our communities.

**This Council further notes** that the cuts identified by Staffordshire County Council are focussed on:

- Scrapping the 'Casserole Club' which supports at home hot meals for older people
- Reducing funding to prevent 'Social Isolation & Loneliness' in Staffordshire, inc. Newcastle
- Cutting funding for Carers Services – affecting 14,731 people in Newcastle alone.
- Ending 'Crisis Support' meaning Newcastle BC will no longer be able to assist the most vulnerable people who have been offered a home due to homelessness to gain support from the Crisis Support Fund towards food, fuel and white goods.

Restricting support for Direct Payment and ending the 'Self Advocacy' service which provides

help and support to disabled people in Staffordshire to make the most of their direct payments and have a voice to tell Staffordshire County Council what isn't working well.

**This Council believes** that these changes, which the County Council claim are necessary because of

funding shortfalls, will have an severely adverse impact on the older, disabled and vulnerable people in Staffordshire.

**This Council further believes** that the saving achieved by these savage cuts (£3.725) represents a

false economy whereby the overall cost to the public sector will increase due to the more acute

services the older, vulnerable and disabled people may access as a result of being abandoned by the

County Council.

**This Council resolves** that:

1. the Council Leader write to the Leader of Staffordshire County Council to set out our opposition to these changes as outlines above.
2. the Cabinet and Executive Management Team investigate repatriating the Disabled Facilities Grant funding to Newcastle Borough Council from Staffordshire County Council in order to be able to continue to support Newcastle residents in need of adaptations.
3. The response from Newcastle Borough Council to these changes reiterate our objection to these changes.

An amendment to this motion was proposed by Councillor Loades and seconded by Councillor Holland concerning accuracy. A vote to amend the motion was lost

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

The following questions were submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Finance, IT and Customer:

From Councillor Julie Cooper:-

Can the Portfolio Holder explain why customers on contacting the number to complain were left holding on the telephone for in excess of 50 minutes and even cut off after 15 minutes with no holding message. Can he confirm that this has improved.

From Councillor Naylor:-

I am aware of the heavy demand on the Council switchboard resulting from the 'teething problems' incurred by the switch to a new system of recycling. The burden placed on the system and the staff has been immense. It seemed very late in the day that any contingency measures were brought in. These seemed to be members of the planning staff engaged to take and handle some of the calls.

As a Councillor needing to report fly tipping and other problems lately, it is very evident in the Keele area that this has been a very frustrating and deeply unsatisfactory experience trying to get through to officers of the Council. This is of course the same experience as any other person will have had, phoning in to the Council, for whatever reason.

I was hoping that as the recycling problems have settled somewhat things would have improved. My experience week beginning Aug 29 (30<sup>th</sup> the working day) were as bad as ever. I resorted to driving in to report a major fly tipping incident

I have always believed that the MOST important interface of the Council with its residents is and always will be the initial experience after the dialling 717717

What plans are in place to restore the system to what it should offer ...rapid and efficient handling of all calls?

The following question was submitted by Councillor Sweeny to the Portfolio holder for Leisure and Culture:

This administration has pledged itself to deliver a new Leisure Centre in Kidsgrove. Can the portfolio holder tell me what proposals she has to fund it?

The following question was submitted by Councillor J Cooper to the Portfolio holder for Operational Services: –

Why has the planning of the new recycling service failed to meet the need?

The following question was submitted by Councillor Snell to the Leader of the Council:

"During the recent Silverdale & Parkside by-election, I spoke with hundreds of people. Many of whom wished to discuss the new cross-party endorsed recycling system - often praising the ambition of a weekly recycling system and the reduction in the number of bags, bins and boxes of the previous system. However, some residents did also raise the matter of missed collections.

Increasing not only the frequency of kerb side recycling but also the variety of materials that can be recycled was always going to come with some teething problems.

As such could the Leader, therefore, outline the actions that she and her cabinet have taken since the inception of this system to deal with the initial problems that occurred with the introduction of the new system and could she also give detail of what actions she intends to take in the immediate future to ensure this system is a successful as we all know it can be?"

Councillor Loades submitted an additional motion as a matter of urgency on the subject of the implementation of the new recycling service. Consideration of this question was subsequently lost on being put to the vote.

The Leader stated that there would be an independent report into the recycling service recently introduced by the Borough Council which would be published and reported to the November meeting of the Council.

**11. RECEIPT OF PETITIONS**

There were no petitions received.

**12. STANDING ORDER 18 - URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business.

**13. DISCLOSURE OF EXEMPT INFORMATION**

**Resolved:-** That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration if the following matter because it is likely that there will be disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1,2, and 7 in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972.

**14. CIVIC HUB AND RYECROFT**

**Resolved:** That the report be noted.

**THE MAYOR COUNCILLOR IAN WILKES**  
**Chair**

Meeting concluded at 9.05 pm

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## COUNCIL 23 NOVEMBER 2016

### 1. LOCALISED COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME

**Submitted by:** Benefits Manager

**Portfolio:** Finance, IT and Customer

**Ward(s) affected:** All

#### **Purpose of the Report**

To approve a Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for the borough area for the financial year 2017/18.

#### **Recommendations**

**That the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for the Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council area as detailed is adopted for the financial year 2017/18.**

#### **Reasons**

The Welfare Reform agenda replaced Council Tax Benefit with Localised Council Tax Reduction with effect from 1 April 2013. Localised schemes need to be approved by the 31 January before the start of the new financial year to which the scheme applies.

### 1. **Background**

- 1.1 Section 13A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, substituted by section 10 of the Local Government Finance Act 2012 requires each billing authority in England to make a Localised Council Tax Reduction scheme, specifying the reductions which are to apply to amounts of Council Tax payable by persons or classes of person whom the authority consider are in financial need.
- 1.2 Any scheme needs to be approved by the 31 January before the start of a new financial year or a default scheme prescribed by regulations will be imposed by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. A default scheme would involve expenditure at a higher level than the available central government funding.

### 2. **Issues**

- 2.1 Payments made by local authorities under Council Tax Benefit regulations were fully funded by central government and paid via the Department of Work and Pensions to local authorities. Localised Council Tax Reduction has been the responsibility of the Department for Communities and Local Government since April 2013 when funding for localised schemes was cut by approximately 10% of the previous amounts available. Funding levels are set centrally for Council Tax Reduction, so there is no increase in 2017/18 for inflationary factors over and above 2016/17.
- 2.2 In 2011/12, the last full year for which figures were available to make the calculation for the first year of a Localised Council Tax Reduction Scheme, £8,348,768, was paid in Council Tax Benefit to residents of the borough, the cost of which was attributed proportionately as follows:

• Staffordshire County Council	70.5%
• Staffordshire Police Authority	12.2%
• Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council	12.1%
• S-o-T & Staffordshire Fire Authority	4.6%
• Parish Councils	0.6%

The value of Council Tax Benefit paid in respect of Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council in 2011/12 was therefore £1,010,201. The proposed 10% reduction in funding therefore costs this Council in the region of £100,000. The other bodies will be affected in proportion as shown above. Overall, a 10% reduction for all these organisations equates to approximately £835,000.

- 2.3 Although termed a 'localised scheme', central government still stipulate in respect of certain classes of claimant the level of entitlement they should receive. For example, claimants of pension age must continue to receive assistance at the same level under the Localised Council Tax Reduction Scheme to that which they received under the previous Council Tax Benefit scheme. Newcastle has a 51% pensioner caseload meaning the cost of any reductions made within the local scheme will fall on the remaining none protected claimants.
- 2.4 To avoid making cuts in other service provisions to finance the budget shortfall between the old Council Tax Benefit scheme and the proposed local scheme, savings were made in the amounts of help some claimants received in 2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17 and this will need to be continued in 2017/18.
- 2.5 Before establishing a local scheme, billing authorities were required to consult with major precepting bodies and other interested organisations and individuals. If any fundamental changes are to be considered, there would be the need for further consultation, either on the change if it were fairly minor or on any proposed new scheme if the changes were complex or wide ranging.
- 2.6 This Council meeting is the last scheduled meeting to obtain approval for a local scheme for 2016/17. Should there be any material announcements around this subject area following this meeting, in consultation with the Mayor and the portfolio holder, there would be the opportunity to convene a further special meeting prior to the 31 January deadline if required to further review the position.

### 3. **Options Considered**

- 3.1 The original intention had been to introduce a common reduction scheme across the whole of Staffordshire including Stoke-on-Trent. Unfortunately, the different demographics of the various city and district councils meant this was not achieved. However, a framework of options for individual authorities to choose those areas best suited to their own requirements was devised.
- 3.2 From this framework, officers considered the impact of each option for claimants within the borough area and a scheme was established that offered a package of measures that generated the required budgetary savings whilst impacting as little as possible on claimants and offering the necessary incentives to encourage claimants back into work.
- 3.3 In considering a scheme for the 2017/18 financial year the Council is able to continue with a similar scheme to 2016/17, to modify it by either relaxing some of the qualifying criteria or introducing further restrictions on entitlement. Finally, the Council could consider adopting the central government default scheme but this option would be at significant extra cost because it would not recoup any of the 10% cut in central government funding.

#### 4. **Proposal**

- 4.1 The schemes approved for the last four financial years were based on sound principles following analysis of previously held Council Tax Benefit data and an extensive consultation exercise around exactly what was possible within the financial limits available.
- 4.2 Elements of assessment criteria are based around central government applicable amounts. Applicable amounts are elements of benefit entitlement to cover various specific claimant circumstances based on essential core needs. These are normally linked to increases in the Consumer Price Index but are currently limited to 1%.
- 4.3 The proposal for 2017/18 would therefore be to continue with the previous years' scheme with the updated applicable amounts. The outline of the proposed 2017/18 scheme is shown at Appendix A to this report.

#### 5. **Reasons for the Preferred Solution**

- 5.1 To make fundamental changes to the scheme would entail further consultation. The extent of any further consultation would be a judgement call based to the level of change anticipated.
- 5.2 Based on information currently available, the modest increase in applicable amounts would still be affordable within the financial constraints of reduced central government funding and current claimant levels.
- 5.3 Whilst representing a significant change for many claimants, the introduction of Council Tax Reduction has not seen the widespread challenges to its introduction that were anticipated. Many claimants have pro-actively adjusted their circumstances by entering in payment arrangements to cover any shortfall in assistance to that previously given. Obviously, there have been increases in claimant contact to facilitate this but with sympathetic treatment, the majority of people are aware of the wider welfare reform agenda and are attempting to adapt. For those who have some underlying grievance, there are two appeal routes available, these are by the Tribunal Service where a claimant thinks an assessment has been made contrary to the adopted scheme regulations and through the courts by means of judicial review where a claimant believes the scheme is incorrect in some material way. So far, only one claimant has challenged the current scheme and this was via the Tribunal Service route. This appeal was heard at a hearing on 23 January 2014 and found in favour of Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council. This is in line with previous appeals traffic considered under Council Tax Benefit regulations which would indicate there are no major points of concern with the current scheme within the environment claimants now find themselves.
- 5.4 The statistical information available to date does not indicate the need to make any significant alterations to the current scheme. The scheme is within budget and is running at a capacity that still provides a small margin of resilience.
- 5.5 Continuing with a basically unaltered local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2017/18 enables a degree of stability for claimants in what is very much a changing environment for the wider welfare reform agenda. Even though there are changes to the Welfare Benefit system that will affect Housing Benefit entitlement for claimants with effect from 1 April 2017, the Council Tax scheme for Newcastle will remain unaltered for these minor changes. In future, reforms to Tax Credits, a freeze in working age benefits for four years and scrapping the automatic entitlement to housing benefit for 18-21 year olds the Council Tax Reduction scheme will need to be reconsidered. This will mean a consultation period will be required before any revised scheme can be implemented.

5.6 Central government funding constraints do not allow for any relaxation in the sums available for Council Tax Reduction for 2017/18. The funding situation for 2018/19 is currently unknown. When these details do become known, a better picture will emerge on any changes that will then be required. It is worth noting that future funding is unlikely to become more generous than that currently available. This may mean further constraints on entitlement levels.

## 6. **Outcomes Linked to Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Priorities**

6.1 A Localised Council Tax Support Scheme contributes towards creating a healthy and active community.

## 7. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

7.1 Section 13A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, substituted by section 10 of the Local Government Finance Act 2012 requires each billing authority in England to make a Localised Council Tax Support scheme.

## 8. **Equality Impact Assessment**

8.1 In designing our Council Tax Support scheme, consideration was given to the implications for vulnerable people, with particular attention to

- Equality and Diversity
- Child poverty
- Homelessness
- Disability

8.2 A detailed Equality Impact Needs Assessment identified any adverse implications for particular groups. It was recognised that the introduction of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme would have an impact on some of the most vulnerable households in the district. This impact continues to be monitored.

## 9. **Financial and Resource Implications**

9.1 Localised Council Tax Support is treated as a discount on the Council Tax bill, much like Single Persons Discounts. This means that the Council Tax base will be smaller than would otherwise be the case. In order to avoid significant increases in the Band D figure arising from having a smaller tax base, the government funding will be treated as income that reduces the amount to be raised from Council Tax. However, this government funding is 10% lower than the equivalent amount received under previous Council Tax Benefit regulations.

## 10. **Major Risks**

10.1 Any scheme which does not fully pass on the loss of government grant to claimants will require the Council to identify alternative funding. The choice of scheme could, therefore, impact on the Council's future budget plans.

10.2 Council Tax payers could see their bills increase if the funding loss is not passed on to claimants.



10.3 Any increase in the number of Council Tax accounts to be administered could result in additional administrative costs, particularly in relation to debt recovery. This could have a knock on effect on the overall Council Tax collection rate.

10.4 Failure to adopt a Localised Council Tax Support scheme by the 31 January 2017 will result in the default scheme being imposed, resulting in financial loss to the Council and all its precepting bodies.

## 11. **Key Decision Information**

11.1 Not applicable.

## 12. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

12.1 Cabinet 19 September 2012:

(a) That the draft Newcastle-under-Lyme Council Tax Support Scheme be approved for consultation purposes.

(b) That the Executive Director – Resources and Support Services be authorised to initiate the statutory consultation process.

12.2 Cabinet 12 December 2012:

(a) That the consultation results be noted and used to help formulate the Localised Council Tax Support scheme for the borough area.

(b) That it be recommended that protection be drawn into the final scheme regarding protection for recipients of War Disablement Pensions, War Widows Pensions and Armed Forces Compensation Scheme payments.

12.3 Council 23 January 2013:

That the Local Council Tax Support Scheme for the Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council area as detailed is adopted for the financial year 2013/14.

12.4 Council 27 November 2013:

That the Local Council Tax Support Scheme for the Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council area as detailed is adopted for the financial year 2014/15.

12.5 Council 26 November 2014:

That the Local Council Tax Support Scheme for the Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council area as detailed is adopted for the financial year 2015/16.

12.5 Council 25 November 2015:

That the Local Council Tax Support Scheme for the Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council area as detailed is adopted for the financial year 2016/17.

## 13. **Recommendations**

13.1 That the Local Council Tax Support Scheme for the Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council area as detailed is adopted for the financial year 2016/17.

## 14. **List of Appendices**

14.1 Appendix A – Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council Tax Reduction Scheme Summary

15. **Previous Reports**

- 15.1 Cabinet 19 September 2012 – Localised Council Tax Support
- 15.2 Cabinet 12 December 2012 - Localised Council Tax Support Consultation
- 15.3 Council 23 January 2013 – Localised Council Tax Reduction Scheme
- 15.4 Council 27 November 2013 – Localised Council Tax Reduction Scheme
- 15.5 Council 26 November 2014 – Localised Council Tax Reduction Scheme
- 15.6 Council 25 November 2015 – Localised Council Tax Reduction Scheme

**Appendix A**

**Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council**

**Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2017/18**

<b>Claim Type</b>	<b>Council Tax Support Scheme</b>
<b>Pensioner Claimants</b>	
No scope for changes within LCTS	Up to 100% of Council Tax Bill
<b>Working Age Claimants</b>	
Claims will be based on a max of 80% Council Tax Liability (unless in a protected group)	Up to 80% of Council Tax Bill
Properties in bands higher than Band D will be based on 80% Band D Council Tax	Up to 80% of band D rate
Second Adult Rebate will not be retained in the Local Scheme	Nil
Capital Cut off at £6K (non-passported)	No Council Tax Support if capital exceeds £6K
Earnings Disregards	Flat rate of £25 if claimant working.
<b>Claimants who are eligible to Severe Disability Premium (SDP)</b>	
May allow up to 100% LCTS as protected group	Up to 100% of Council Tax Bill
<b>Claimants who are eligible to receive War Disablement Pensions, War Widow's Pensions and Armed Forces Compensation Scheme Payments</b>	
May allow up to 100% LCTS as protected group	Up to 100% of Council Tax Bill

**Discretionary Payments**

The Council has discretion to award Council Tax Support, in excess of the amounts determined by this framework, where it is satisfied that exceptional circumstances exist.

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# Agenda Item 8

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>THE CONSTITUTION – CHANGES TO OFFICER SCHEME OF DELEGATIONS</b>
<b>Committee/Meeting</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup> November 2016</b>
<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>MONITORING OFFICER</b>
<b>Ward (s) Affected</b>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>Portfolio (Delete as appropriate)</b>	Finance and Resources Environment and Recycling Economic Development, regeneration and town centres Culture and Leisure Communications, Policy and Partnerships Stronger and Healthier Neighbourhoods Safer Communities
<b>Is this a Key Decision</b>	NO
<b>Purpose of the Report</b>	To advise Council of an addition which has been made to the Officer Scheme of Delegation (Leisure and Amenity function).
<b>Recommendations (In Bold)</b>	<b>That the revised Scheme of Delegation be noted.</b>
<b>Reasons</b>	
<p>Part 2, paragraph 15.2 of the Constitution authorises the Monitoring Officer to make consequential changes to the Constitution to reflect resolutions of the Council or Cabinet, decisions properly made under delegated powers and changes of fact and law, subject to regular notification of Members to such changes.</p> <p>Revising the Constitution is necessary to ensure that the Council is efficient and effective in making and implementing decisions and is properly accountable. Changes may become necessary where the law has changed or where the Council decides to change the way it operates, for example if the management structure changes and/or services move from one directorate to another. The Scheme of Officer Delegation must be updated and revised where necessary to allow officers to continue to act lawfully.</p>	
<b>Background</b>	
<p>The Constitution is the set of rules that describe and constrain how the Council operates, how its decisions are made and the procedures to be followed. The Council adopted a new formal Constitution in 2001 and this has been updated and reviewed since that date. The Constitution provides a framework for Council decision making through which the Council delivers its strategic objectives.</p>	
<b>Outcomes to support Corporate Priorities as set out in the Council Plan and/or the Newcastle Partnership priorities</b>	
<p>The objective of the Constitution is to support the intentions of the Corporate Plan in the most efficient, effective, inclusive, open and accountable manner.</p> <p>The Constitution governs the way the Council works. The amended Schemes of Delegation will enable the public, Council Members and officers to engage more effectively with the decision making processes of the Council and also ensure that processes are lawful.</p> <p>An effective Constitution contributes to the overall ethical wellbeing of the Council, and helps to ensure a culture of high ethical standards, which the public and the Council's partners can have confidence in.</p>	

**Financial and Resource Implications**

There are no financial or resource implications flowing from this report.

**Legal, Statutory and Policy Implications**

The Constitution is the legal framework set by the Council and which governs the way it conducts its business. The powers of the Council to delegate the exercise of functions are set out in Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972.

**Major Risks**

If the Schemes of Delegation for the Council's various functions are not kept up to date, it could expose the Council to legal risk, frustrate aspects of legal enforcement and may prevent the full implementation of Council decisions.

**Background Papers**

**Report to Cabinet dated 2.6.2010 and minutes  
Addition to Leisure Scheme of Delegation set out below**

(13)	<p><u>The Vehicles Excise Duty (Immobilisation, Removal and Disposal of Vehicles) Regulations 1997 (as amended)</u></p> <p>Power to issue CLE2/6 (form to report untaxed vehicle to DVLA) and authorise the removal of untaxed vehicles on public highways</p>	<p>Executive Director of Operational Services or Head of Operations</p>
	<p>Power to issue Fixed Penalty Notices</p>	<p>Executive Director of Operational Services or Head of Operations</p>

## Electoral review of Newcastle-under-Lyme warding arrangements

**Submitted by:** Chief Executive

**Portfolio:** Policy, People and Partnerships

**Ward(s) affected:** All

### **Purpose of the report**

To update the Council on the progress of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England review of warding arrangements in the Borough.

### **Recommendation**

That the Council notes the contents of the report.

## **1. Background**

1.1 At its meeting on 7 September 2016 the Council agreed a submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England on its view about the future size of the Council. This submission forms the first stage of the electoral review process which the Council had requested the Commission to undertake.

## **2. Consultation on warding arrangements**

2.1 The Chief Executive of the Boundary Commission wrote to the Chief Executive of the Council on 27 September 2016 advising that the consultation process inviting proposals for a new pattern of electoral wards for the Borough had commenced. A copy of this letter is contained in Appendix 1 of this report.

2.2 The Commission has specifically requested that the consultation is brought to the attention of all elected Members. A copy of the letter has been circulated to all Members of the Council. Further it has requested that the Council take a number of other actions to publicise the consultation. The following have already been undertaken:-

- (i) Posters have been displayed in a number of the Council's buildings including the Guildhall, Kidsgrove and Madeley Customer Service Centres.
- (ii) Posters have been distributed to all parish councils.
- (iii) A press release was produced by the Council to support key messages from the Boundary Commission and this was distributed to our local and regional media outlets on 30 September. This release has also been placed in the "news" section of the Council's website.
- (iv) The revolving banner on the home page of the Council's website has been used for the duration of the consultation to guide interested parties to the consultation process.

- (v) The consultation is included in the “Have Your Say” section on the Council’s website which can be accessed via a quick link on the home page.
  - (vi) An article on the consultation is included in the November edition of The Reporter.
  - (vii) The Council’s corporate social media accounts – Twitter and Facebook - have been used on several occasions to highlight the work of the Boundary Commission in relation to their review and the consultation process.
- 2.3 Information about the review has been placed on the Commission’s own website and this also provides a portal for feedback. This can be accessed through the following link:  
<https://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/west-midlands/staffs/newcastle-under-lyme>

### **3. Review timetable**

- 3.1 The consultation on the warding pattern is open until 5 December 2016 and once the Commission has considered all the proposals received it has indicated an intention publish draft recommendations for new electoral arrangements in February 2017. These recommendations are then subject to consultation in the period between February 2017 and April 2017. The Commission intends to publish its final recommendation in June 2017 in the expectation that the new electoral arrangements for the Borough come into effect at the Borough Council elections to be held in May 2018.

### **4. Community Governance Reviews**

- 4.1 In preparing for the review the Commission has sought certain background information from the Council. Information about Community Governance Reviews has formed part of this request.
- 4.2 As part of this process, the Commission has reminded the Council of the provisions in the Guidance relating to Community Governance Reviews and specifically that principal councils should avoid finalising community governance reviews in situations where the Commission itself is conducting a review of a wider area.
- 4.3 At its meeting on 24 February 2016 the Council considered a report setting out the outcome of a Community Governance Review of Keele Parish Council. The Council is therefore advised that whilst it is the intention to align the Keele Parish Council boundary to the current Keele Ward boundary the Order giving effect to this as a result of the Community Governance Review has not been made in view of the electoral review of the whole Borough area being undertaken by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.
- 4.4 In compliance with the guidance for Community Governance Reviews the Chief Executive has written to the Clerks of all Town and Parish Councils in the Borough to advise that it would be inappropriate for the Borough Council to undertake any



Community Governance Reviews until the Local Boundary Commission review of warding in the Borough has been completed.

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The  
**Local Government  
 Boundary Commission**  
 for England

John Sellgren  
 Chief Executive  
 Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council  
 Merrial Street  
 Newcastle  
 ST5 2AG



27 September 2016

Dear Mr Sellgren,

**ELECTORAL REVIEW OF NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME: WARDING  
 ARRANGEMENTS**

I am writing to inform you that the Commission has, today, opened its consultation inviting proposals for a new pattern of electoral wards for Newcastle under Lyme.

The Commission is minded to recommend that 44 borough councillors should be elected to Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council in future. The Commission now invites proposals from the council, interested parties and members of the public on a pattern of electoral wards to accommodate those councillors.

The consultation begins today and will end on 5 December 2016.

**Publicising the review**

I would be grateful if you could bring the consultation to the attention of elected members. Furthermore, a copy of the Commission's press release and posters advertising this stage of the review are being sent to your Council. It would be much appreciated if you could publicise the consultation by arranging for copies to be placed on display at local information points, and by taking such other steps as you consider appropriate to bring the review to the attention of the public and other interested parties. In particular, we would appreciate it if you could promote the consultation online, via social media and any other channels you would normally use to engage residents.

Further details about the review are available on our website at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk) where there is information about how to get involved and the kind of evidence the Commission is seeking in support of any proposed division patterns.

In addition, the Commission's consultation portal allows visitors to interact with online maps of the current electoral wards, draw their own boundaries and feed views into the consultation process directly. The portal is available at [www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk).

Submissions can also be made by email to [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk) and by post to the address at the end of this letter.

Local Government Boundary Commission for England, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor Millbank Tower, Millbank, London, SW1P 4QP

Tel: 0330 500 1525; [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk); [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

## **Review timetable**

This phase of consultation closes on 5 December 2016.

Once the Commission has considered all the proposals received during this phase of consultation, it plans to publish draft recommendations for new electoral arrangements in February 2017. Public consultation on the draft recommendations is scheduled to take place between February 2017 and April 2017. Once the Commission has considered the representations and evidence as part of that consultation, it intends to publish final recommendations in June 2017.

New electoral arrangements for the borough are scheduled to come into effect at the borough council elections in 2018.

## **Creating a pattern of wards**

In drawing up a pattern of electoral wards, the Commission must balance its three statutory criteria, namely:

- To deliver electoral equality where each borough councillor represents roughly the same number of electors as others across the borough.
- That the pattern of wards should, as far as possible, reflect the interests and identities of local communities.
- That the electoral arrangements should provide for effective and convenient local government.

The Commission will test proposals against the criteria before drawing up draft recommendations. Accordingly, all proposals should demonstrate how they meet the three requirements. The Commission will take decisions based on the strength of the evidence presented to it and not merely on assertion. For example, details of community interests such as the location and use made of local facilities, services and local organisations demonstrating how a community manifests itself will carry greater weight than submissions that simply assert that an area has community identity.

The Commission will consider all submissions on their merit. A well-evidenced submission from an individual which addresses the three statutory criteria will be more persuasive than one which does not, even if the latter is from an elected individual or body.

Further information on drawing up a pattern of electoral wards is available in our guidance document: *Electoral reviews: technical guidance* which can be found at <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/policy-and-publications/guidance>. We also publish a practical guide for putting forward submissions called *How to propose a pattern of wards* which is available at [http://www.lgbce.org.uk/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0008/25694/Proposing-new-wards-guidance-2015-08-04.pdf](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0008/25694/Proposing-new-wards-guidance-2015-08-04.pdf).

Local Government Boundary Commission for England, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor Millbank Tower, Millbank, London, SW1P 4QP

Tel: 0330 500 1525; reviews@lgbce.org.uk; [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

Our website includes information about previous electoral reviews of district councils where you can see how the Commission came to its conclusions and how other districts and parishes built their own pattern of wards.

Please feel free to contact us at any time should you have any questions. Officers at the Commission will be happy to assist with technical aspects of your division scheme either in person or via email or telephone.

### **Correspondence and enquiries**

Correspondence relating to this review should be addressed to:

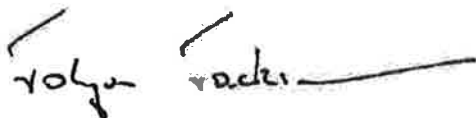
Review Officer (Newcastle-under-Lyme)  
Local Government Boundary Commission for England  
14th Floor Millbank Tower,  
Millbank  
London  
SW1P 4QP

or direct to your main contacts at the Commission who will be:

- David Owen, Review Officer, with specific responsibility for the day-to-day running of the review
- Richard Buck, Review Manager, who leads the team dealing with this and other reviews

I am copying this letter to the organisations and individuals listed below.

Yours sincerely



**Jolyon Jackson CBE**  
**Chief Executive**  
Reviews@lgbce.org.uk  
0330 500 1525

cc    MPs and MEPs with constituency interests in Newcastle-under-Lyme  
      Police and Crime Commissioner for Staffordshire  
      North Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Group  
      Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service



## **STATEMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL TO FULL COUNCIL – 23rd NOVEMBER 2016**

**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 September 2016. 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 on the website).

#### **2. Draft Open Space and Green Infrastructure Strategies - Consultation**

A report was submitted to Cabinet seeking approval for consultation of the draft Open Spaces and Green Infrastructure Strategies (formerly the Green Space Strategy). The document contains a comprehensive list of sites within the Borough to ensure that Newcastle residents have access to decent quality green sites. Cabinet approved wider consultation with stakeholders as detailed in the report, with the outcomes to be brought to a future meeting of the Cabinet for consideration prior to adoption of the strategies.

#### **3. Draft Sport And Active Lifestyles Strategy 2016**

A report was submitted to Cabinet seeking approval for consultation of the draft Sport and Active Lifestyles Strategy. This will help to identify a range of strategic goals for future sports provision as well as an action plan for delivery. A consultation process has now commenced.

#### **4. Stoke-On-Trent City Council Bid For UK City Of Culture 2021**

Cabinet agreed to support Stoke-on-Trent City Council's bid for UK City of Culture 2021. Newcastle will be a key partner and as it is anticipated that the bid will receive significant media attention our Communications team will work in partnership with the City Council.

#### **5. Newcastle Housing Advice (NHA) Service Contract Extension**

Cabinet agreed an extension of the Newcastle Housing Advice Service Contract with Midland Heart for a further three years to 31 March, 2020. In addition officers have been authorised to

take the necessary steps to replace a Housing Advisor with a Private Sector Officer role within the NHA contract.

6. **Car Parking Charges**

A report was submitted to Cabinet providing information arising from a Car Park Review undertaken by Alpha Parking and giving direction to the future management of the Council's car parks. At this stage the report was noted as Cabinet felt that more information was needed before considering the fourteen recommendations contained within the report. A more detailed report will be brought back to a future meeting of Cabinet.

7. **Newcastle Under Lyme Local Lottery**

Cabinet have agreed the introduction of a local lottery for the Borough with the aim of raising funds for local charities, voluntary organisations and good causes. Officers will now work with an External Lottery Manager to develop and implement this local lottery.

8. **Urgent Business**

The Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee attended Cabinet to update them on the potential closure of sixty-three community beds at Bradwell Hospital.

9. **Forward Plan**

The Forward Plan covering the period from October to December 2016 (3/11/16 to 28/2/17, Cabinet) can be found at:

<http://sviam/mgListPlanItems.aspx?PlanId=72&RP=118>

**Councillor Elizabeth Shenton**  
**Leader of the Council**



## Report of the Chair of Active and Cohesive Scrutiny Committee

**10 October 2016**

The main aim of the meeting was to agree a scrutiny brief. The following was agreed:

- A review of the Holiday Activities Programme SPACE.  
We will carry out an evaluation of the SPACE scheme which is supported by the Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Ellis.

We will also be looking at the impact on the levels of anti- social behaviour during the time the scheme operates.

The marketing and publicity of the sceme to ensure it is reaching all the residents of the community.

Date of next meeting: 28 November 2016

Chair: Councillor Gill Williams.

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## **Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Chair Report**

### **Dementia Care Services Scrutiny Brief**

The Health and Wellbeing scrutiny committee met on the 21<sup>st</sup> September to receive presentations from the the North Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (NSCCG), and Staffordshire & Stoke on Trent Partnership Trust (SSOTP) regarding the provision of dementia care and services within Newcastle-under-Lyme. The committee will be meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> November to receive: (i) an update on current partnership working with respect to dementia support services, and (ii) a presentation regarding feasibility of establishing a dementia friendly swimming service at borough leisure facilities.

### **Bradwell Hospital**

The Health and Wellbeing scrutiny committee held an emergency meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> October to scrutinise the NSCCG decision to decommission the beds at Bradwell hospital, provided for sub-acute care. Representatives of the NSCCG and SSOTP were in attendance, and answered questions from members and the public regarding the lack of transparency, and forewarning, in communication of the decision. At the Health Staffordshire Select Committee meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> November the decision to decommission the beds at Bradwell Hospital was referred to the Secretary of State for Health under the Health and Social Care Act (2012).

### **Staffordshire Sustainability and Transformation Partnership**

At the 7<sup>th</sup> November Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee an update was provided on the development of the Staffordshire wide STP, as part of the reorganisation of health and social care partnership to deliver financially sustainable health and social care delivery models. The committee was made aware of a detailed document outlining these measures that will be made available, to the public domain, shortly.

### **NSCCG Hearing Aid Policy**

At the 7<sup>th</sup> November Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee the NSCCG presented an update regarding the impact of decommissioning the provision of free hearing aids to adults with mild or moderate hearing loss. Members raised issue with the evidence presented, and lack of consultation with appropriate external organisations. As a consequence, the committee voted to refer the decision to the Secretary of State for Health under the Health and Social Care Act (2012).

**Cllr Dave Jones**  
**9/11/16**

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## Report from Chair of Audit and Risk Committee meeting 26<sup>th</sup> September 2016

At the meeting, the following reports were presented:

- Corporate Risk Management Report for Quarter 1 2016- It was noted that there were no overdue risks and no new risks were identified during the quarter.
- Statement of Accounts and External Auditors Audit Findings- The final accounts were presented by the External Auditor, John Gregory from Grant Thorntons. They advised that the accounts were in order and completed in advance of the earlier deadline that will apply from 2017. The accounts were approved and the letter of representation signed by the Chair and Executive Director – Resources and support Services.
- Internal Audit Progress report –This was a verbal report delivered by the Head of Audit, Liz Dodd who confirmed that audits are progressing as expected in line with the Audit plan. There was nothing significant to report

Cllr Sarah Pickup

Chair of Audit and Risk Committee

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## Motion

### Implementation of the new 2016 Recycling Service

This Council notes the unprecedented number of complaints that members of the council have received from the public related to the new recycling and waste service that started in July.

This Council notes the following systematic problems with the new waste & recycling service that stem from poor planning & implementation and lack of leadership there of:

- 1: Repeated missed or late collections.
- 2: Poor response of The Council's Customer Services.
- 3: Vehicle Suitability for all areas

This Council resolves:

1. To call on the Leader of the Council to issue an apology to the residents of the Borough via the front page of the Council's website and by press release to all local media outlets.
2. That the relevant scrutiny committee meets urgently to scrutinise and monitor the ongoing implementation of the new service; and to report back to the next Full Council its findings.

Proposed by Cllr David Loades

Seconded by Cllr Stephen Sweeney

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# Motion

Make fair transitional state pension arrangements for 1950's women

“This Council calls upon the Government to make fair transitional state pension arrangements for all women born on or after 6<sup>th</sup> April 1951, who have unfairly borne the burden of the increase to the State Pension Age (SPA) with lack of appropriate notification.

Hundreds of thousands of women had significant pension changes imposed on them by the Pension Acts of 1995 and 2011 with little/no/personal notification of the changes. Some women had only two years notice of a six-year increase to their state pension age.

Many women born in the 1950's are living in hardship. Retirement plans have been shattered with devastating consequences. Many of these women are already out of the labour market, caring for elderly relatives, providing childcare for grandchildren, or suffer discrimination in the workplace so struggle to find employment.

Women born in this decade are suffering financially. These women have worked hard, raised families and paid their tax and national insurance with the expectation that they would be financially secure when reaching 60. It is not the pension age that is in dispute – it is widely accepted that women and men should retire at the same time.

The issue is that the rise in the women's state pension age has been too rapid and has happened without sufficient notice being given to the women affected, leaving women with no time to make alternative arrangements.

This Council requests that our Leader write a letter calling upon the Government to reconsider transitional arrangements for women born on or after 6<sup>th</sup> April 1951, so that women do not live in hardship due to pension changes they were not told about until it was too late to make alternative arrangements.”

Proposer : Cllr Ruth Wright

Seconder : Cllr Amelia Rout

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# Motion

## **Bradwell Hospital:**

### **This Council notes:**

That North Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Group took the decision to reduce the funding available for the provision of community and step down rehabilitation beds in North Staffordshire. This has caused the University Hospital of North Midlands Trust to consider deregistering 67 community care and rehabilitation beds at Bradwell Hospital just before the usual winter 'peak'.

The closure of these wards would not only affected the overall provision of service in North Staffordshire but has also put at risk the jobs of many clinical staff employed by UHNM Trust and support staff employed by the Staffordshire & Stoke on Trent Partnership Trust.

That information surrounding this closure was not made public until very late on in the process and no information was forthcoming to Newcastle Borough Council's Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.

That the fragmentation of the National Health Service under the Health & Social Care Act (2012) has meant that there is now a huge divide between those who are empowered to commission acute and non-acute health services and those within the NHS who are asked to deliver those service, leading to a failed internal market which puts cost ahead of care.

That Staffordshire County Council's 'Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee' has voted to refer the decision, under the Health & Social Care Act (2012), to close the beds at Bradwell Hospital to the Secretary of State for Health for consideration.

That following a public campaign, the initial decision has been put back until December with a phased reduction in beds taking place.

That Staffordshire is recognised by the Government as being 'a distressed Health economy' in which demand for service is not routinely met and that the CCG is running a deficit budget.

### **This Council believes:**

That the integration of Health and Social Care facilities is, in principle, an inherently good thing.

That the loss of 67 beds from Bradwell Hospital will only lead to greater 'bed blocking' of acute beds at the Royal Stoke Hospital leading, in turn, to longer stays in hospital than necessary, greater costs accrued by University Hospital of North Midlands Trust.

That the small window created by the phasing of the closures is a good opportunity for the CCG, SSOTP and UHNM Trust to stop, reflect and reconsider their decisions to close wards, deregister beds and make staff redundant.

That as a result of the referral to the Secretary of State for Health, under the Health & Social Care Act (2012), the 67 beds at Bradwell Hospital must remain commissioned until a decision on the referral is made.

That greater transparency in the decision making within the CCG is desperately needed to ensure that the people of North Staffordshire have the best possible health care provision.

That there must be a formal role for Newcastle Borough Council's Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee in scrutinising decisions which have a disproportionate affect on the provision of service in our Borough.

That the Conservative Government should ensure that the NHS is adequately funded and that areas, such as Staffordshire, which requires further investment should be given that financial help as a matter of urgency.

**This Council resolves:**

To insist that, following the referral to the Secretary of State for Health, the 67 beds at Bradwell Hospital remain commissioned until a decision on the referral is made.

To call upon the North Staffordshire Clinical Commission Group to restore the funding necessary to UHNM Trust to maintain Bradwell Hospital as a community hospital facility that is able to support patients back into their homes when ready, therefore alleviating pressure on the acute hospital and that this be communicated to the Chief Executive and the entire board of the CCG.

To congratulate the hard efforts of the 'Hands off Bradwell's Bed' campaign to oppose the cuts imposed by the CCG and offer our solidarity with their campaign.

That the Leader of the Council, relevant portfolio holder and the Chair of the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee write to the Chief Officer raising their concerns that pertinent information regarding the closure of Bradwell Hospital beds was not shared in a timely or transparent fashion.

That the Leader of the Council, relevant portfolio holder and Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee write to Secretary of State for Health in support of the referral Staffordshire County Council's 'Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee'.

The Leader of the Council write to the Borough's four Members of Parliament and ask that they use their platform within the House of Commons to raise this issue with the Secretary of State for Health.

Proposed: Councillor Dave Jones

Seconded: Councillor Sandra Hambleton

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