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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, 6th September, 2017*** at ***7.00 pm***.

B U S I N E S S

1 APOLOGIES

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3 MINUTES

Pages 5 – 11

To consider the minutes of the previous meeting(s)

4 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

5 TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17

Pages 13 – 20

6 GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS IN RESPECT OF EMPLOYMENT MATTERS

Pages 21 – 29

7 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Pages 31 – 32

8 MEMBER ALLOWANCES

Pages 33 – 34

9 STATEMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Page 35

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

10 REPORTS OF THE CHAIRS OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

Page 37

Report attached for:

Active and Cohesive Communities Scrutiny Committee

A verbal report will be given for the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Communities Scrutiny Committee

The Economic Development and Enterprise Scrutiny Committee, Finance, Resources and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee and Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee have not met since the last meeting of Council.

11 REPORTS OF THE CHAIRS OF THE REGULATORY COMMITTEES

Pages 39 – 41

Reports are attached for:

- a) Planning Committee
- b) Public Protection Committee

The Audit and Standards Committee and the Licensing Committee have not met since the last meeting of Council.

12 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR TO THE LICENSING COMMITTEE

Nominations:

Councillor Marion Reddish: Proposed by Councillor Simon Tagg, seconded by Councillor June Walklate.

13 MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

Pages 43 - 45

A notice of motion under Appendix 7 – paragraph 12 other than those listed in Appendix 7 – paragraph 10 of the Constitution must reach the Chief Executive at least ten clear days before the relevant Meeting of the Council.

14 QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR, CABINET MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

15 RECEIPT OF PETITIONS

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

16 STANDING ORDER 18 - URGENT BUSINESS

To consider any communications which pursuant to Appendix 7 – paragraph 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 'SJA', written over a horizontal line.

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

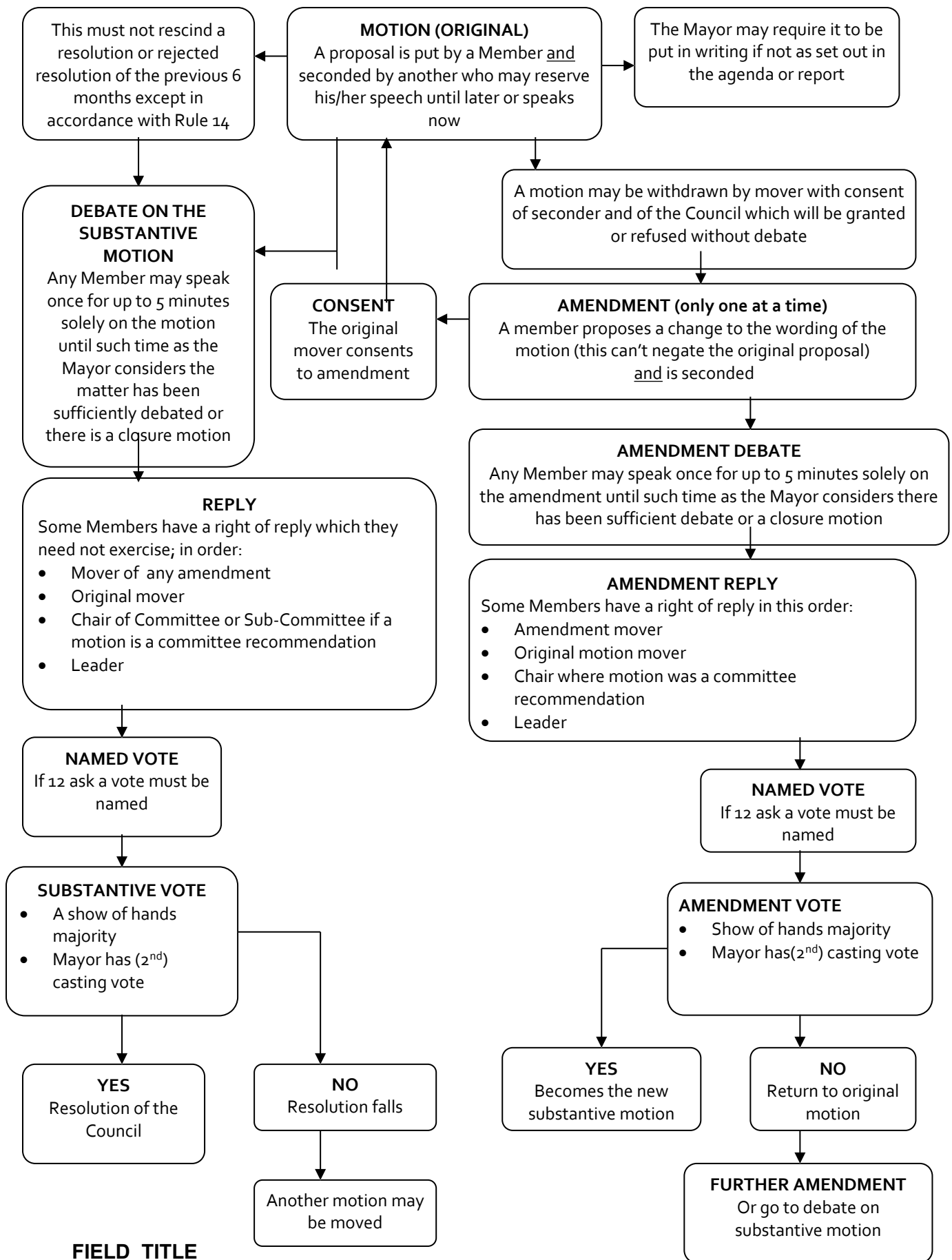
Please switch off all mobile phones before entering the Council Chamber.

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.



COUNCIL

Thursday, 20th July, 2017
Time of Commencement: 7.00 pm

Present:- The Mayor Councillor Simon White – in the Chair

Councillors:

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

Officers Executive Director (Operational Services) - David Adams, Janet Baddeley, (Regeneration and Development) - Neale Clifton, Liz Dodd - Head of Audit Monitoring Officer), Geoff Durham, Chief Executive - John Sellgren and Executive and Support Services) - Kelvin Turner

1. **ALDERMAN DYLLIS CORNES**

A minute's silence was held in tribute to Alderman Dyllis Cornes who had recently passed away.

Dyllis was described as being 'Mrs Audley' and an aspiration for both the Borough and County Council, She was a loyal colleague who bore no malice. In addition, she had been a long serving member of Audley Parish Council, involved with Audley

Methodist Church and had served as a magistrate. Dylis had been very proud of becoming an Alderman.

Dylis will be greatly missed.

The Council sent its best wishes to the family.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors' Bloor, S Hambleton, T Hambleton and Walklate.

The Chair, on behalf of the Members and officers of the Council sent best wishes to Trevor and Sandra Hambleton.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Burch declared an interest in the items on Kidsgrove Sports Centre as he was on the Kidsgrove Sports Centre Community Trust.

4. MINUTES

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 May, 2017 be agreed as a correct record.

5. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor had no announcements to make.

6. KIDSGROVE SPORTS CENTRE MOTION.

Councillor Simon Tagg was invited to speak on his Motion. Councillor Tagg thanked the Chair for calling this special meeting.

Councillor Tagg raised concerns regarding the Sport's Centre situation and stated that The Council needed to work with the county and the people of Kidsgrove to find a solution.

Councillor Turner proposed an amendment (seconded by Councillor Rout) to Councillor Tagg's Motion. A number of Members commented on the wording contained within the amendment and in response, Councillor Turner invited Members to revise it rather than vote against it.

Councillor Tagg proposed changes to the amendment which were accepted by Councillor Turner. The revised amendment to the Motion read as follows:

After the words "...closure of Kidsgrove Sports Centre" add the following:

"This Council notes the longstanding commitment of the current administration to provide a new leisure centre for the people of Kidsgrove.

This Council further notes the signing of the District Deal 2 and the public statements made by the Leader of Staffordshire County Council in June 2015. This being that the County Council would support the development of a new leisure centre for

Kidsgrove, and that this new facility would help to address the public health issues that are the responsibility of Staffordshire County Council.

This Council reaffirms the commitment of Newcastle Borough Council to the construction of a new leisure centre in Kidsgrove as soon as possible, as a fundamental right and benefit for its residents.

This Council notes that if the Borough is left to secure funding in its entirety for a new leisure centre in Kidsgrove that this will delay the project construction.

This Council also recognises that a partnership between Newcastle Borough Council and Staffordshire County Council (like that which previously existed until the County decided to close the current building) is more likely to deliver a new leisure centre in a timely fashion and address the responsibilities and priorities of both councils.

This Council therefore instructs the Leader and Chief Executive to work with Staffordshire County Council to deliver a new leisure centre for Kidsgrove as a matter of urgency.

Furthermore that the Leader and Chief Executive request that the leadership of Staffordshire County Council, as asset owners, engage and enter into meaningful discussions with the recently formed Kidsgrove Sports Centre Community Group (CIO) to discuss acquiring an interest in the existing building."

Following further debate, Councillor Turner requested that a named vote be taken on the amended Motion.

A named vote was taken and all Members in attendance at the meeting, except for Councillor Wing who had to leave early, voted in favour of the amended Motion.

Resolved: That the Motion (as amended) be agreed.

7. SPORTS AND LEISURE PROVISION IN KIDSGROVE

The Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture, Councillor Amelia Rout introduced this item regarding the provision of replacement sports facilities in the Kidsgrove area.

Councillor Rout referred Members to the Cabinet Report of 19 July, which was attached to the agenda, and stated that option three was the best. Members' attention was also referred to proposal 'f' at paragraph 4 of the Cabinet report.

Members welcomed the report and agreed that the Council needed to work with the County Council and the community for the best possible outcome.

The Leader, Councillor Elizabeth Shenton informed Members of questions that had been asked at Cabinet on the previous evening.

Firstly, 'does this Council support a leisure facility in Kidsgrove?'

Yes, and it has the backing of the whole Council.

Would there be a future leisure centre in Kidsgrove?

Councillor Rout had recommended that option three, contained within the Cabinet report be accepted to commission a project to identify the options available.

What would be the interim re-provision for school activities?

The Council have been successful in finding new locations for school swimming activities from September.

Members were informed that there would be two consultations carried out – one, concerning the interim re-provision of facilities had commenced on the previous Monday. A consultation would also be undertaken regarding the new provision.

- Resolved:**
- (i) That the provision of affordable replacement sports facilities in the Kidsgrove area be supported in principle.
 - (ii) That Cabinet be asked to prepare a detailed report setting out future options and costs.

8. STATEMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

The Leader submitted a report which provided an update to members on the activities and decisions of the Cabinet since the last meeting of full Council on 17 May, 2017.

Councillor Loades asked the Leader if she was confident that this Council had done all that it could to deliver the Local Plan on time and had the expertise to deliver it? The Leader confirmed that the answer was yes and invited Councillor Loades to meet with herself and Councillor Robinson – Portfolio holder for Planning and Housing.

Councillor Simon Tagg asked if a report would be taken to Scrutiny on the Business Improvement District (BID) on how it works? The Leader stated that in the past the BID had reported to Scrutiny and hoped that it would be placed on the work programme.

Councillor Holland queried the number of unanswered calls and this had been as a result of the introduction of the new recycling service and election enquiries. The Leader agreed to ask the Portfolio Holder for Finance IT and Customer – Councillor Terry Turner to do a response and this would be circulated to Council Members.

Councillor Sweeney asked the Leader about the Council's capital balance and whether it would 'be enough'. Councillor Sweeney added that it was imperative that the sites marked for disposal were actioned as soon as possible. The Leader referred to the Village Green applications and stated that she would ask Councillor Turner, as Portfolio holder to give a response on the amount of money required for the Capital Programme.

Councillor Fear asked whether all Members had seen the presentation on the Joint Local Plan and why it had not come to this evening's meeting? The Leader stated that this was a Special meeting – set up for a specific purpose. A presentation on

the Local Plan would be arranged for all Members, possibly prior to the meeting in September.

Councillor Snell enquired whether the Council had received a reply from the County Council regarding the future delivery of Disabled Facilities Grant Programme. Members were informed that the Chief Executive and the Deputy Leader had a meeting at the County next week and the matter would be raised.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

9. REPORTS OF THE CHAIRS OF THE REGULATORY COMMITTEES

Resolved: That the reports of the Planning Committee and Audit and Standards and verbal updates from the Licensing and Public Protection Committees be noted

10. REPORTS OF THE CHAIRS OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

Resolved: That the reports of the Chairs of the Finance, Resources and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee, Economic Development and Enterprise Scrutiny Committee and joint meeting of Health and Wellbeing and Active and Cohesive Scrutiny Committees be noted.

11. MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

No Motions were received.

12. QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR, CABINET MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Councillor Simon Tagg asked the Leader what future plans there were for the Guildhall when the new Hub opens.

The Leader confirmed that officers had prepared a tender pack of relevant information and had assembled a list of prospective interested parties with the aim of securing a tenant 'business' of a nature that would facilitate ongoing access and use of the building by the community. A competitive tendering process would commence shortly and the outcome would be reported to Cabinet in due course.

The Cabinet would be attempting to engage interest from organisations that were capable of bringing forward viable proposals for some form of community-based use of the building. This would reflect the desire to facilitate ongoing public access to services in the focal and historic building.

Councillor Sweeney asked the Leader for confirmation that the independent review into the Council's handling of the June 8 General Election was truly independent.

The Leader confirmed that this was the case. An email had been sent to all Group Leaders on 13 June by the Chief Executive advising that he had "requested the Association of Electoral Administrators (AEA) to undertake an independent review of the election and to make a report as soon as possible". There was a subsequent email from the Chief Executive to all Group Leaders on 20 June in which it was confirmed that he had; "met with John Turner – Chief Executive of the AEA on Friday... to discuss the brief for the review". A copy of the brief which covered the matters raised in the media and had been the subject of written complaints was

attached with the email. In addition, the Chief Executive asked all candidates and agents to provide comments about the election process and their responses had been forwarded to the AEA so that they could also be considered as part of the review. In the second email the Chief Executive also invited feedback from Group Leaders.

Andrew Scallan had been nominated by the AEA to conduct the review.

Councillor Trevor Johnson asked how often, in the last eighteen months had the Council used its power to fine for litter and fly tipping by travellers?

The Leader stated that such powers had not been used in the last eighteen months to fine for litter and fly tipping in relation to travellers on Borough Council managed open spaces and car parks.

To be successful in issuing any enforcement, identification and a fixed abode of the perpetrators would be required and this would not be possible in such circumstances. It could also extend the period of occupation whilst attempts were made to serve such fines.

The Leader agreed that this was a good question and felt that more information was required on this. Councillor Shenton would be asking her Portfolio Holder to provide her with a more detailed response which she would be happy to share. It was also suggested that this would make an interesting topic for the appropriate Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Loades asked if the reason for the lack of Planning Enforcement across the Borough could be explained.

The Leader stated that the Council sought to actively manage its caseload of enforcement complaints and has clear procedures and performance management arrangements in place in this regard. The Leader was aware that the caseload of open cases had increased over the past three quarters. Councillor Loades was encouraged to ask his colleagues to raise the matter at the Planning Committee for debate.

Cabinet had agreed that, in addition to the dedicated planning enforcement officer, an additional post of a Senior Planning Officer had been approved. However, despite extensive advertising of the post earlier this year it had not yet been possible to recruit to the post. The Leader would however discuss with officers the possible re-advertising of this post.

Councillor Simon Tagg asked the Chair of the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Communities Scrutiny Committee why it had not met, to date, in the current Municipal Year to set its Work Programme.

The main piece of work from the previous year had been the condition/safety of the Borough's subways. This was now on the verge of being signed off and a meeting had now been arranged where the Work Programme would be discussed.

The same question was asked by Councillor Tagg to the Chair of the Active and Cohesive Communities Scrutiny Committee.

A meeting had been arranged for 3 August. The previously arranged date had to be cancelled as it was the day of the General Election.

13. RECEIPT OF PETITIONS

No Petitions were received.

14. STANDING ORDER 18 - URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

THE MAYOR COUNCILLOR SIMON WHITE
Chair

Meeting concluded at 9.53 pm

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NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S REPORT TO COUNCIL

6 September 2017

1. TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17

Submitted by: Head of Finance

Portfolio: Finance, ICT and Customer

Ward(s) affected: All Indirectly

Purpose of the Report

To receive the Treasury Management Annual Report for 2016/17.

Recommendations

(a) That the Treasury Management Annual Report for 2016/17 be received.

(b) That the actual Prudential Indicators contained within the report be approved.

Reasons

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

1. **Background**

- 1.1 The CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management recommends that Members should be informed on Treasury Management activities at least twice a year.
- 1.2 This report therefore ensures that this Council is embracing Best Practice in accordance with CIPFA's recommendations in the CIPFA Code of Practice.
- 1.3 The Audit and Standards Committee monitor and oversee the delivery of the Treasury Management Strategy. The Treasury Management Annual Report for 2016/17 has already been reviewed by the Audit and Standards Committee at their meeting on 3 July 2017.
- 1.4 Treasury Management operations are carried out in accordance with policies laid down in the currently approved Treasury Management Policy Statement, backed up by approved Treasury Management Practices and Schedules thereto, and the Annual Treasury Management Strategy Report for 2016/17 approved by Council on 24 February 2016.
- 1.5 The Council undertook a tendering exercise in January 2017 for the provision of Treasury Management Advisory services for the period 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2020. The contract for this period was awarded to Arlingclose Ltd.

2. **Issues**

- 2.1 The Treasury Management Annual Report for 2016/17 is attached at Appendix 1. The economic background and economic forecast included in the report has been provided by the Council's Treasury Management Advisors, Arlingclose Ltd.

3. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

- 3.1 See Background for details.

4. **Financial and Resource Implications**

- 4.1 There are no specific financial implications arising from the report.

5. **Major Risks**

- 5.1 Treasury management is a major area of risk for the Council in that large amounts of money are dealt with on a daily basis and there are a number of limits and indicators, which must be complied with.
- 5.2 The overriding consideration in determining where to place the Council's surplus funds is to safeguard the Council's capital. Within this constraint the aim is to maximise the return on capital.
- 5.3 Operational procedures, coupled with monitoring arrangements, are in place to minimise the risk of departures from the approved strategy.

6. **List of Appendices**

- 6.1 Appendix 1, Treasury Management Annual Report 2016/17.

7. **Background Papers**

- CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice,
- Council's Treasury Management Policy Statement,
- Council's Treasury Management Strategy,
- Local Government Act 2003,
- Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) Regulations 2003,
- Guidance on Local Authority Investments issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government (revised March 2010),
- Ernst & Young Progress Report (10 March 2016),
- Arlingclose Ltd Treasury Management Outturn Report template (21 April 2017)

TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

This Council is required by regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003 to produce an annual treasury management review of activities and the actual prudential and treasury indicators for the financial year 2016/17. This report meets the requirements of both the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management (the Code) and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code).

The CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management 2009 was adopted by this Council on 24 February 2010; this was updated in November 2011.

The primary requirements of the Code are as follows:

1. Creation and maintenance of a Treasury Management Policy Statement which sets out the policies and objectives of the Council's treasury management activities.
2. Creation and maintenance of Treasury Management Practices which set out the manner in which the Council will seek to achieve those policies and objectives.
3. Receipt by the Full Council of an annual treasury management strategy report (including the annual investment strategy) for the year ahead and an annual review report of the previous year.
4. Delegation by the Council of responsibilities for implementing and monitoring treasury management policies and practices and for the execution and administration of treasury management decisions.
5. Delegation by the Council of the role of scrutiny of the treasury management strategy to a specific named body which in this Council is the Finance, Resources and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee.
6. Delegation by the Council of the role of scrutiny of treasury management performance to a specific named body which in this Council is the Audit and Standards Committee, a midyear and year-end review report is received by this Committee.

Treasury management in this context is defined as:

"The management of the local authority's investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks. "

The purpose of this report is to meet one of the above requirements of the CIPFA Code, namely the annual review report of treasury management activities, for the financial year 2016/17.

The regulatory environment places responsibility on members for the review and scrutiny of treasury management policy and activities. This report is therefore important in that respect, as it provides details of the outturn position for treasury activities and highlights compliance with the Council's policies previously approved by members.

This Council has complied with the requirement under the Code to give prior scrutiny to the annual review report by reporting this to the Audit and Standards Committee prior to it being reported to Full Council.

2. THIS ANNUAL TREASURY REPORT COVERS

- ❖ The Council's treasury position as at 31 March 2017;
- ❖ The strategy for 2016/17;
- ❖ The economy in 2016/17;

- ❖ Investment rates in 2016/17;
- ❖ Compliance with treasury limits and Prudential Indicators;
- ❖ Investment outturn for 2016/17;
- ❖ Involvement of Elected Members;
- ❖ Other issues.

3. TREASURY POSITION AS AT 31 MARCH 2017

The Council's investment position at the beginning and the end of the year was as follows:

	At 31/03/17	Return	Average Life (Days)	At 31/03/16	Return	Average Life (Days)
Total Debt	£0m	N/A	N/A	£0m	N/A	N/A
Total Investments	£3.4m	0.60%	8	£7.5m	0.68%	11

It should be noted that the above table is only a snapshot of the total Investments as at 31 March 2017. Large fluctuations in cash inflows and outflows that occur throughout the month can have an impact on the figure reported.

4. THE STRATEGY FOR 2016/17

The strategy agreed by Council on 24 February 2016 was that:

- The Council's had no Borrowing Need (a negative Capital Financing Requirement of £0.654m) for 2016/17, due to the Council expecting to have funds available and no borrowing requirement, this was estimated to rise to £4m in future years, to allow for the possibility that the Council may need to borrow to finance capital expenditure which cannot be funded from other revenue or capital resources;
- Short term external loans (i.e. repayable on demand or within 12 months) can be taken to fund any temporary capital or revenue borrowing requirement. The amounts involved would fluctuate according to the cash flow position at any one time;
- All borrowing would be kept absolutely within the Authorised Limit of £15m and would not normally exceed the Operational Boundary of £5m (although it could for short periods of time be permitted to rise to a figure between £5m and £15m due to variations in cash flow);
- Temporary surpluses which might arise would be invested, either in short term deposits with the Council's various deposit accounts or in money market investments (cash deposits) if the size warranted this and for an appropriate period in order that these sums would be available for use when required;
- The proportions of loans and investments to be at fixed or variable rates were: fixed rate loans to be between 0% and 100% of the total and variable rate to be between 0% and 100% of the total, thus enabling maximum flexibility to take advantage of interest rate trends;
- Long term investments to be permitted as follows: maturing beyond 31/03/16 £5m, maturing beyond 31/03/17 £5m, maturing beyond 31/03/18, £5m;
- The overriding consideration is safeguarding the Council's capital. At all times the risk to the Council will be minimised. Within these constraints, the aim will be to maximise the return on investments; and,

- Forward commitment of funds for investment is permitted in respect of in house investments, in instances where market conditions warrant it.

Changes in strategy and credit Policy during the year

At the Council meeting on 7th September 2016, it was reported that, 'the delay in receiving the capital receipt from HDD (in respect of the Ryecroft redevelopment scheme), together with the Council's overall capital financial position, will mean that the Council will have to borrow, at least in the short term, to finance its interest in the Public Sector Hub project.'

As approved by Council on 24 February 2016 the Council used the creditworthiness service provided by the Council's previous treasury management advisors, Sector Treasury Services which uses a sophisticated modelling approach with credit ratings from all three rating agencies - Fitch, Moodys and Standard and Poors, forming the core element, supplemented by additional data (credit watches and outlooks, credit default swap spreads to give early warning of likely changes in credit ratings and Sovereign ratings to select counterparties from only the most creditworthy countries). This modelling approach results in a weighted scoring system providing a series of colour coded bands which indicate the relative creditworthiness of counterparties and suggested maximum investment duration.

5. THE ECONOMY AND INTEREST RATES - narrative supplied by the Council's Treasury Management Advisors – Arlingclose Limited

UK inflation had been subdued in the first half of 2016 as a consequence of weak global price pressures, past movements in Sterling and restrained domestic price growth. However the sharp fall in the Sterling exchange rate following the European Union referendum had an impact on import prices which, together with rising energy prices, resulted in Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation rising from 0.3% in April 2016 to 2.3% in March 2017.

In addition to the political fallout, the referendum's outcome also prompted a decline in household, business and investor sentiment. The repercussions on economic growth were judged by the Bank of England to be sufficiently severe to prompt its Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to cut the Bank Rate to 0.25% in August 2016 and embark on further gilt and corporate bond purchases as well as provide cheap funding for banks via the Term Funding Scheme to maintain the supply of credit to the economy.

Despite growth forecasts being downgraded, economic activity was fairly buoyant and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew 0.6%, 0.5% and 0.7% in the second, third and fourth calendar quarters of 2016. The labour market also proved resilient, with the unemployment rate dropping to 4.7% in February, its lowest level in 11 years.

6. INVESTMENT RATES IN 2016/17 – narrative supplied by the Council's Treasury Management Advisors – Arlingclose Limited

Following the European Union referendum result, gilt yields fell sharply across the maturity spectrum on the view that Bank Rate would remain extremely low for the foreseeable future. After September there was a reversal in longer dated gilt yields which moved higher, largely due to the MPC revising its earlier forecast that the Bank Rate would be dropping to near 0% by the end of 2016. The yield on the 10 year gilt rose from 0.75% at the end of September to 1.24% at the end of December, almost back at pre European Union referendum levels of 1.37% on 23 June 2016. 20 year and 50 year gilt yields also increased in quarter 3 2017 to 1.76% and 1.70% respectively, however in quarter 4 yields remained flat at around 1.62% and 1.58% respectively.

7. COMPLIANCE WITH TREASURY LIMITS

During the financial year the Council operated within the treasury limits and Prudential Indicators set out in the Council's annual Treasury Strategy Statement. The outturn for the Prudential Indicators is shown in Annex 1.

8. INVESTMENT OUTTURN FOR 2016/17

Internally Managed Investments

The Council manages its investments in-house and during 2016/17 invested with institutions in compliance with the credit worthiness service of the Council's previous treasury management advisors, Sector Treasury Services. The Council invested for a range of periods from overnight to up to six months during 2016/17, dependent on the Council's cash flows, its interest rate view and the interest rates on offer. Four of the eight fixed investments (excluding use of the Government's Debt Management Office Debt Management Account Deposit Facility) made in 2016/17 were for a period of three months or less. Two fixed investments were for six months. The remaining two investments were six month investments that were carried over from 2015/16.

The Council used the Government's Debt Management Office (DMO) Debt Management Account Deposit Facility (DMADF) on five occasions during the year with the longest deposit being made for four days.

Aside from fixed investments and use of the DMO DMADF, the Council used its various deposit accounts. This included four deposits in a 95 day notice account and five deposits in a 180 day notice account, one of which was carried forward from 2015/16. On thirteen occasions funds were also deposited in the Council's business reserve account. Funds in the general fund account that the Council has with Lloyds Bank also earn interest on a daily basis.

Investment Outturn for 2016/17

During 2016/17 an average rate of return of 0.60% was achieved on an average individual investment of £3.627m. This compared with the target of 0.45% included in the departmental service plan.

9. INVOLVEMENT OF ELECTED MEMBERS

Elected members have been involved in the treasury management process during 2016/17 including:

- Scrutiny of the treasury management strategy by the Finance, Resources and Partnerships Committee prior to being submitted for approval by the Full Council.
- Scrutiny of treasury management performance by the Audit and Risk Committee through the receipt of a half yearly treasury management report.
- A quarterly budget monitoring and performance report is reported to Cabinet, this contains details of Treasury Management activity undertaken during the quarter.

ANNEX 1: PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS

Position/Prudential Indicator		2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Indicator	2016/17 Actual
1	Capital Expenditure	£2.543m	N/A	£8.726m
2	Capital Financing Requirement at 31 st March *	(£0.895m)	(£0.654m)	£0.828m
3	Treasury Position at 31 st March:			
	Borrowing	£0	N/A	£0
	Other long term liabilities	£0m	N/A	£0m
	Total Debt	£0m	N/A	£0m
	Investments	(£7.549m)	N/A	(£3.460m)
	Net Borrowing	(£7.549m)	N/A	(£3.460m)
4	Authorised Limit (against maximum position)	£0	£15.0m	£0
5	Operational Boundary (against maximum position)	£0	£5.0m	£0
6	Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream	(1.74%)	(0.71%)	(0.81%)
7	Upper Limits on Variable Interest Rates (against maximum position)			
	Loans	0	100%	0
	Investments	0	100%	0
8	Actual External Debt	0	N/A	0
9	Principal Funds Invested for Periods Longer than 364 days (against maximum position)	0	£5.0m	0

* The Capital Financing Requirement has changed from a negative position as at 31st March 2016 to a positive position as at 31st March 2017 to reflect the need for the Council to borrow during 2017/18.

GLOSSARY

CPI – Consumer Price Index

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is the main UK measure of inflation for macroeconomic purposes and forms the basis for the Government's inflation target. It is also used for international comparisons.

DMO and DMADF - Debt Management Office and Debt Management Account Deposit Facility

The DMO is an Executive Agency of Her Majesty's Treasury. The DMO provides the DMADF to support local authorities' cash management by providing a flexible and secure facility to supplement their existing range of investment options whilst saving interest costs for Central Government.

GDP – Gross Domestic Product

A monetary measure of the market value of all final goods and services produced in a period (quarterly or yearly). Nominal GDP estimates are commonly used to determine the economic performance of a whole country or region, and to make international comparisons.

MPC – Monetary Policy Committee

Interest rates are set by the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). The MPC sets an interest rate it judges will enable the inflation target to be met. The Bank's MPC is made up of nine members – the Governor, the two Deputy Governors, the Bank's Chief Economist, the Executive Director for Markets and four external members appointed directly by the Chancellor. The appointment of external members is designed to ensure that the MPC benefits from thinking and expertise in addition to that gained inside the Bank of England.

1. **REPORT TITLE** **Governance arrangements in respect of employment matters**

Submitted by: **Chief Executive**

Portfolio: People, policy and partnerships

Wards affected: All

Purpose of the Report

To enable the Council to consider proposals concerning the future of the Staffing Committee and Employee Consultative Committee further to the resolution made by the Council on 2016 , *“That the recommendation in relation to the Staffing Committee and Employee Consultative Committee be deferred pending further details on the proposed Joint Negotiating and Consultation Committee and the Member Appeal Panel”*.

Recommendations

- (i) That the Staffing Committee and Employee Consultative Committee be disbanded to be replaced by a Staffing Committee with the delegations as set out in the report.
- (ii) That a Joint Negotiating and Consultation Committee be established with the roles as set out in the report.
- (iii) That the Council reaffirms that the formulation of operational HR policies is a delegated function of the Cabinet.
- (iv) That the necessary amendments be made to the Constitution to give effect to the recommendations.

1. **Background**

- 1.1 At its meeting on 13 July 2016 the Council considered a recommendation to disband the Staffing Committee and Employees’ Consultative Committee and create a Joint Negotiating and Consultation Committee to fulfil the functions set out in the Joint Recognition Agreement. The Council resolved to defer this matter pending further details of the proposed Joint Negotiating and Consultation Committee and the Member Appeal Panel. The Constitution and Member Support Working Group was asked to consider this proposal in more detail and make recommendations on this matter to a future meeting of the Council.
- 1.2 Since the Council meeting in July 2016 the Constitution and Member Support Working Group has given further consideration to these matters and wishes to recommend to Council the proposals set out in this report.

2. Council employment functions

2.1 Certain functions relating to employment matters are by law the remit of the Council as a body, these are:

- Functions relating to Health and Safety at work – Part I of the Health and Safety At Work etc Act 1974
- Functions relating to local government pensions – Regulations under the Superannuation Act 1972
- Appointment / dismissal the Head of Paid Service, appoint/dismiss the Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer (S151 Officer), designate an officer to act as Monitoring Officer and an officer to act as Chief Finance Officer

3. Current Arrangements

3.1 At present the Council has a rather complex set of arrangements for dealing with employment matters.

3.2 The Staffing Committee is responsible for the Council's functions as an employer including the Local Government Pension Scheme which are not delegated to officers or are by law required to be referred to full Council. The Committee has a remit to adopt and amend all employment policies. It also has the remit to make arrangements for members of the Committee to determine appeals of employees in accordance with the appropriate policies.

3.3 The Constitution also makes provision for a Chief Officers Appointments, Review and Appeals Committee to be established to deal with disciplinary matters, capability or sickness and employment appeals for senior officers.

3.4 The current arrangements are a mixture of statutory and operational roles. In other councils the role of the equivalent committee is concerned with advising Council on those matters which are required by law to be full council decisions and is delegate to deal with those matters where the Council as a body acts as the employer, specifically in relation to appointments and dismissals in relation to statutory and senior posts; having oversight of restructuring and other processes which may be controversial or have costs relating to them which would require a Council decision and of dealing with employee appeals.

3.5 Matters relating to the adoption and amendment of employment policies is more conventionally discharged by the Cabinet.

3.6 It is good employment practice to have a forum for discussions between Trade Unions and their employer. Under the current arrangements this is performed by the Employees' Consultative Committee which has a remit to act as a consultative body on matters affecting the working practices of all employees. Best practice is to have

a Joint Negotiating and Consultation Committee. Such a committee consists of representatives of elected Members, Trades Unions and management.

- 3.7 One of the limitations in the current Employees' Consultative Committee arrangement is that as this is a committee of the Council its membership is made up of elected Members. Trade union and management representatives participate at the request of the committee. In its current form therefore this committee is not constituted to perform the role of a joint negotiating and consultation committee.
- 3.8 Recent experience in seeking to negotiate changes to employee terms and conditions has demonstrated the limitations of not having an appropriate body constituted for this purpose.
- 3.9 The council currently does not have a forum for Member, Trade Union and management representatives to meet to discuss matters of employment policy. The Head of HR has recently undertaken a piece of work with the Trade Unions to formulate a formal recognition agreement a key element of which would be to establish a Joint Negotiating and Consultation Committee which would provide a forum to discuss matters relating to employment policy and conditions of service.
- 3.10 It is suggested that the current constitutional provisions could be amended to clarify roles and responsibilities along the lines set out above. Such amendments could also ensure that elected Members have full oversight of matters concerning their role as the employer. Any amended arrangements would need to be compliant with the statutory framework determining functions which need to be discharged by a particular decision making body, i.e. full Council, Committee or Cabinet.
- 3.11 In summary the proposals would be to:
- Create an Employment Committee which can have the delegated power to determine employment functions of Council which can be so delegated for decision. To constitute the Employment Committee to advise council on matters which are the remit of full council so that members can have the opportunity through a committee process to scrutinise such matters in appropriate detail before referring the matter to full council for a decision.
 - Confirm that matters of operational HR policy including developing, monitoring and reviewing any council corporate HR policies are discharged by the Cabinet.
 - To create a Joint Negotiating and Consultation Committee with membership consisting of elected Members, Trade Union Representatives and management with a remit to consider and negotiate on matters relating to employee terms and conditions and related issues. That this be constituted as a member / officer working group and any matters requiring a formal decision be referred to the appropriate decision making body, Council, Committee or Cabinet.

4. **Employment Committee – Committee of Council**

4.1 It is standard practice for Council to delegate certain functional statutory duties to a Committee. This is most evident in the case of planning, regulatory and licensing functions which are by statute Council decisions. In relation to employment matters practice in most councils is for these to be referred to as an employment committee. Set out below are indicative terms of reference for such a Committee.

- To establish and appoint members to an Appointments sub-committee to act as an appointment panel for Executive Directors and Heads of Service
- Subject to any statutory requirements, to advise Council on the appointment of Statutory Officers and to make arrangements to establish and appoint members to an Appointments sub-committee to act as an interview panel for Statutory Officer appointments
- To oversee matters of discipline or competence in respect of the Head of Paid Service, the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer (the Statutory Officers) *
- To establish and appoint members to a sub-Committee as an Investigation and Disciplinary Panel (IDP), comprising three members, to hear disciplinary and conduct issues relating to a Statutory Officer in accordance with relevant HR Procedures. The Chairman of the IDP shall have authority to issue a notice of dismissal in the event of a decision by full Council to dismiss the Statutory Officer *
- To establish and appoint members to a sub-Committee as an Appeals Panel, comprising three members, to hear an appeal by a Statutory Office against a decision of the IDP falling short of a recommendation to dismiss, in accordance with relevant HR procedures
- Other than those matters delegated to the Section 151 Officer, to discharge the Council's responsibilities in relation to local government pensions matters
- To review organisational structure where the changes involve compulsory redundancies that do not have the agreement of existing staff and/or where any such changes require additional budget, which require approval of Cabinet and/or full Council;
- To determine appeals (excluding any Statutory Officers) in relation to:
 - Dismissals whether arising by virtue of misconduct or otherwise
 - Disciplinary action
 - Grievances
 - Selection for redundancy
 - Grading

*Note: When discharging the functions marked * above, the Committee must include a member of The Cabinet.*

4.2 It is recommended that appropriate training be mandatory for all members of the Employment Committee and that any Members nominated to serve on a sub-

Committee to deal with disciplinary or appeals matters be required to have appropriate training for this role.

5. Joint Negotiating and Consultation Committee – Member/officer working group

5.1 The point has been made above that the current Employees' Consultative Committee arrangements are out of kilter with modern industrial relations practices. It is recommended that the current Employees' Consultative Committee be replaced with a Joint Negotiating and Consultation Committee. The terms of reference for this would be:

- To consider, negotiate and agree within approved budgets any matters relating to:
 - Terms and conditions of employment
 - Hours of work
 - Holiday and sickness arrangements

5.2 Given this remit and that the Joint Negotiating and Consultation Committee would draw membership from elected Members, Trade Unions and management it would be more appropriate for this to be formally constituted as a working group rather than as a committee of Council. The reason for this being to enable the Members, Trade Unions and management to discuss and agree matters for which there is delegate authority (i.e. routine and operational matters) and for matters requiring a formal decision to be referred to the appropriate decision making body, Council, Committee or Cabinet.

5.3 The membership of the Joint Negotiating and Consultation Committee would be:

- 3 elected Members
- 3 Trade Union representatives

5.4 The Head of Paid Service and Head of HR would be represented at all meetings to advise the Committee and to keep a record of proceedings.

5.5 Where the Committee was meeting as part of a formal collective bargaining process the protocols set out in Appendix 1 would apply.

5.6 It is recommended that appropriate training be mandatory for all elected Members serving on the Joint Negotiating and Consultation Committee.

6. Cabinet

6.1 Matters of operational HR Policy including developing, monitoring and reviewing any personnel and human resources policies is normally a function which would rest with Cabinet with officers making recommendations to Cabinet following appropriate discussion with Trade Unions through the Joint Negotiating and Consultation Committee.

7. **Conclusion**

7.1 It is recommended that the following be implemented:

- Create an Employment Committee which can have the delegated power to determine employment functions of Council which can be so delegated for decision.
- Confirm that matters of operational HR policy including developing, monitoring and reviewing any council corporate HR policies are discharged by the Cabinet
- Create a Joint Negotiating and Consultation Committee with membership consisting of elected Members, Trade Union Representatives and management to consider and negotiate on matters relating to employee terms and conditions and related issues.

7.2 It is considered that if adopted these amendments would have a number of benefits:

- i. Clarify the respective roles of decision makers and decision making bodies with regard to employment matters
- ii. Ensure that the full Council continues to discharge those functions which are by statute conferred upon it
- iii. To have a specialist Committee which can have delegated authority in relation to routine employment matters which are the remit of Council and is able to advise on matters which require a full Council decision
- iv. Enable a simpler and more transparent process of routine HR policy making and review to be put into place
- v. Create an appropriately constituted Joint Negotiating and Consultation Committee to facilitate discussion between elected Members, Trades Unions and management about employment matters and for decisions about such matters to be taken by the appropriate decision maker or body in a timely manner

Appendix 1 Protocols for collective bargaining procedure

Protocol for collective bargaining

The collective bargaining process

Collective bargaining is recognised to consist of a number of distinct stages

Commencement

The Employer or Employee side may put forward a proposal in writing to the other. Any such proposal would normally be accompanied by a commentary setting out the case for the proposed change.

Preparation

Representatives of both sides prepare for the negotiation by considering the proposal which has been put forward. All those who are to be involved in the discussions should have a good knowledge and understanding of the issues to be discussed and should have conducted appropriate background research and evaluation before the first meeting takes place.

Preliminaries

Both parties agree the ground rules that will guide the negotiations and the lead negotiator for each site is identified and agreed. The Portfolio Holder for HR will Chair the negotiations. There should also be clarification of any issues identified in the preparation stage. The timescales for the negotiations should also be set out.

Formulation

At this stage the person chairing the negotiation puts forward an opening statement to summarise the matter(s) to be resolved. The lead negotiator from each side shall then set out their initial proposals. This is often called a brainstorming phase because each side puts forward their options that lead to the refinement of proposals and counter-proposals.

Bargain

The formal negotiation begins at this stage and each side will need to persuade the other of the merits of their proposal or counter-proposal. This stage may go on for a period of time and may involve a number of meetings until final agreement is reached. Where an amicable agreement cannot be reached it may be appropriate to include third party involvement to assist in arbitration.

Settlement

This is the final stage of the process where both sides agree a common solution to the matter(s) which has been negotiated. The final agreement will normally be set out in a written collective agreement document which is signed by both sides.

Documentation

Minutes of meetings

A record of all meetings shall be kept and shall be signed by the Chairman after confirmation by both lead negotiators that this is an accurate record of the discussion.

Records of meetings shall be confidential unless it is agreed otherwise by the Chairman and the lead negotiators.

Proposals and counter-proposals

All proposals, and where they are developed counter-proposals, shall be in written form once they have been formulated but before they are negotiated upon. These shall be made available to both sides to ensure that discussions are based on a common understanding of the matters under consideration.

Conduct of meetings

The effective running of meetings is the responsibility of the chairman. All participants shall respect the role of the chairman.

Either side may request a recess to enable separate discussions by the sides to take place. Separate meeting facilities should be made available to facilitate this.

If the chairman considers that it would be helpful to the negotiations to have a recess to enable additional information to be sought or issues clarified by a person(s) not present in the meeting it shall be at the chairman's sole discretion to do this. Any similar requests made by other participants would not normally be denied. Any additional information provided shall be made available to all those participating in the negotiations.

It is expected that all matters discussed at meetings shall be confidential at all times.

Consultation

It may assist the process of collective bargaining for there to be consultation with staff affected by the proposals which are under consideration.

Any consultation shall be with all staff affected by the proposals and it is recognised that Trades Unions may wish to undertake consultation with their own members.

Appendix 2 Summary of roles and responsibilities

Body	Key responsibilities
Council	Functions relating to Health and Safety at work – Part I of the Health and Safety At Work etc Act 1974 Functions relating to local government pensions – Regulations under the Superannuation Act 1972 Appointment / dismissal the Head of Paid Service, appoint/dismiss the Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer (S151 Officer), designate an officer to act as Monitoring Officer and an officer to act as Chief Finance Officer
Employment Committee	Delegated Council functions which are more appropriately dealt with by a Committee such as appointments and hearings
Cabinet	The formulation of operational HR policies with advice from Executive Management Team and in discussion with the Joint Negotiating and Consultation Committee
Joint Negotiating and Consultation Committee	To act as the consultation body between Employer and Employee representatives on matters of HR policy and practice. To act as the negotiating body between Employer and Employee representatives on matters relating to terms and conditions within approved budgets.

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1. REPORT TITLE REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION

Submitted by: The Monitoring Officer

Portfolio: Policy, People and Partnerships

Ward(s) affected: All

Purpose of the Report

To advise Council of an addition which is to be made to the Leisure and Amenities Scheme of Delegation.

Recommendations:

That the consequential change to the Constitution as set out in the report be noted

1. Background

- 1.1 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.
- 1.2 The Constitution contains Articles which set out basic rules and principles and these are developed in more detailed rules and procedures which appear in the Appendices. The law requires some of these processes, the Council has chosen others.
- 1.3 The Constitution therefore provides a framework for Council decision making through which the Council delivers its strategic objectives.
- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 Ongoing review of 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 and such changes are made during the course of the year and reported to Council as they arise.
- 1.6 The following change is to be made to the Leisure and Amenities Scheme of Delegation:

(16)	Granting of permission to scatter cremated remains on Council-owned land	Cabinet or Executive Director of Operational Services in consultation with the Head of Environmental Health
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2. **Outcomes to support Corporate Priorities as set out in the Council Plan and/or the Newcastle Partnership priorities**

- 2.1 The objective of the Constitution is to support the intentions of the Corporate Plan in the most efficient, effective, inclusive, open and accountable manner.
- 2.2 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.
- creating a cleaner, safer and sustainable Borough
 - creating a Borough of opportunity
 - creating a healthy and active community
 - transforming our Council to achieve excellence
- 2.3 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.

3. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

The Constitution supports good governance and budgetary compliance. There are no financial or resource implications arising from this report.

4. **Financial and Resource Implications**

The Local Government Act 2000 requires the Council to have, and to maintain, a Constitution. 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.

5. **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.

6. **List of Appendices**

There are no appendices to this report.

1. **REPORT TITLE** **Member Allowances**
- Submitted by:** **Chief Executive**
- Portfolio:** People, policy and partnerships
- Wards affected:** All

Purpose of the Report

To enable the Council to make arrangements for an Independent Panel to be convened to recommend a new scheme of Member allowances to come into effect at the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2018.

Recommendations

- (i) That the resolution made by the Council on 11 July 2012 that “there be no panel until such time as it is required by law” be rescinded.
- (ii) That the Council requests the Chief Executive to make arrangements for an Independent Panel to be convened to review the scheme of Member Allowances and to make recommends in sufficient time for a new scheme of allowances to be considered by the Council before the next Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2017.

1. **Background**

At its meeting on 11 July 2012 the Council considered a report on Members’ Allowances. It made resolutions for the scheme of allowances for 2012/13 and it doing so also passed the following resolution:

“That there be no panel until such time as it is required by law”

This is reference to the Independent Panel which is required under the Local Authorities (Member Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 to be established to make recommendation on Member allowances.

2. **Review of Allowances**

At its meeting on 17 May 2017 in considering the scheme of Member allowances for 2017/18 comment was made by Members that the scheme of allowances should be reviewed for the new Council being created following the Borough elections in May 2018. Soundings have been taken with the Group Leaders and it considered that it would be timely for the scheme of allowances to be reviewed as the Council moves from 60 to 44 Members.

In order for a review of allowances to take place the resolution of 11 July 2012 needs to be rescinded as there is no legal requirement for the scheme of allowances to be reviewed at this time.

Further, it is a requirement under Local Authorities (Member Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 for the scheme of allowances to be reviewed by an Independent Panel and for this to make recommendations on a scheme of allowances to the Council. The Council therefore needs to request that arrangements be set in hand to convene an Independent Panel and for this to make recommendations to the Council in order that a new scheme of allowances can come into effect at the start of the new municipal year in May 2018.

STATEMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL TO FULL COUNCIL – 6TH SEPTEMBER 2017

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 not met since the last meeting of Full Council on 20th July 2017. A meeting of Cabinet is due later this month.

2. **Forward Plan**

The Forward Plan covering the period from 03/08/2017 to 30/11/2017 can be found at:

<http://sviam/mgListPlanItems.aspx?PlanId=76&RP=118>

Councillor Elizabeth Shenton
Leader of the Council

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Active and Cohesive Community Scrutiny Committee

We met on the 3rd August 2017 to discuss and update the work plan.

We discussed various topics and decided on the following:

1. To carry out a scrutiny of the results from the consultation exercise in respect of Leisure provision in Kidsgrove and to make recommendations on these to Cabinet.
2. To act as a reference group in respect of the HLF bid for the museum in terms of project Governance.
3. To scrutinise, develop and broaden the range of dementia friendly activities in the Borough.
4. Working with the Health and Well Being Scrutiny Committee and in partnership with the CCG investigate the barriers to the successful operation of the GP referreral scheme at J2.
5. That as a matter of urgency a briefing to be given to this committee setting out the actions this Council is taking to support Stoke on Trent City Councils bid to become City of Culture.

Date of next meeting 9th October 2017

Councillor Gill Williams - Chair.

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There are two planning committees to bring to the attention of Council plus 1 Site visit.

1. **18th July.**
 - 4 Major planning applications.
 - 6 Minor planning applications.
 - 2 Other planning applications.
 - A Quarterly report on enforcement.
 - A report on Open cases.
 - 2 Appeal decisions.
 - 1 Historic buildings grant application.
2. **10th August .**
 - Site visit to Meadow Way Baldwins Gate.
3. **15 August.**
 - 5 Major Developments.
 - 1 Minor Developments.
 - 1 Other Development.
 - Report on 5 Year Housing Land supply.
 - Annual report on Appeals
 - Report on local validations.
 - 2 Appeal Decisions.
 - 2 Tree Preservation Orders.

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PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE

I chaired the Public Protection Committee meeting in August - standing in for the Chair, Councillor Hambleton and during this we considered several applications with varying responses due to individual circumstances and recommendations from officers for license applications and renewals.

We also reviewed and decided on prosecutions for fly tipping incidents

Councillor Gary White
Vice-Chair, Public Protection Committee.

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23rd August 2017

Motion to Full Council

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This Council believes that communities in towns, villages and rural areas across the Borough are currently disadvantaged by the failure of Newcastle Borough Council to have an up to date Local Plan and its inability to demonstrate a 5 year supply of deliverable housing.

The Council:

1, Note that the Council leadership first announce their intention to pursue a Joint Local Plan with Stoke on Trent City Council back in December 2013.

2, Urge the leader of the Council & Cabinet to ensure that there is no further slippage in their stated timescale for the Joint Local Plan and that appropriate officer resources are committed to the process.

Proposed:

Seconded:

Cllr Simon Tagg

Cllr David Loades

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Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Charter

This council resolves to adopt the Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Charter, which sets out the care and support that people living with MND and their carers deserve and should expect.

The MND Charter is made up of 5 points:

1. The right to an early diagnosis and information
2. The right to access quality care and treatments
3. The right to be treated as individuals and with dignity and respect
4. The right to maximise their quality of life
5. Carers of people with MND have the right to be valued, respected, listened to and well-supported.

By adopting the MND Charter, this council agrees to promote the Charter and make it available to all councillors, council staff, partner organisations and health and social care professionals who deliver services for the council.

The council will raise awareness of MND and what good care looks like for those living with this devastating disease, as stated in the Charter, and do everything we can as the council to positively influence the quality of life for local people with MND and their carers living in our community.

This council requests the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee to consider the issue of how local services are geared to support people suffering from this rapidly progressing disease and to make recommendations about improvements that could be made in support of the MND Charter's five principles.

Proposed by Councillor Kyle Robinson

Seconded by Councillor Tony Kearon

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