

Public Document Pack



PLEASE NOTE THAT PRAYERS WILL BE HELD AT 6.50PM BEFORE THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL.

THE MAYOR REQUESTS THAT ANY MEMBER WISHING TO PARTICIPATE IN PRAYERS BE IN ATTENDANCE BY NO LATER THAN 6.45PM.

Dear Sir/Madam,

You are summoned to attend the meeting of the Borough Council of Newcastle-under-Lyme to be held in the **Jubilee 2 - Dance Studio - (Second Floor) - Brunswick Street, Newcastle, Staffs** on **Wednesday, 29th January, 2020** 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 7 - 22)

To consider the Minutes of the previous meeting(s)

4 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

5 DESIGNATION OF MONITORING OFFICER

(Pages 23 - 26)

6 CHANGES TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

(Pages 27 - 28)

7 STATEMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

(Pages 29 - 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.

8 REPORTS OF THE CHAIRS OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

(Pages 33 - 40)

Reports are attached for the following:

- a) Finance, Assets and Performance Scrutiny Committee
- b) Health, Wellbeing and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee

A verbal update will be given for the Economy, Environment and Place Scrutiny Committee

9 REPORTS OF THE CHAIRS OF THE REGULATORY COMMITTEES

Verbal updates will be given for the Licensing and Public Protection Committee and Planning Committee.

The Audit and Standards Committee has not met since the last Full Council meeting.

10 MOTIONS OF MEMBERS (Pages 41 - 42)

The following Motion has been received:

- Brexit

11 QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR, CABINET MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

12 RECEIPT OF PETITIONS

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

13 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.

14 DISCLOSURE OF EXEMPT INFORMATION

To resolve that the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following report(s) as it is likely that there will be disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs contained within Part 1 of Schedule 12A (as amended) of the Local Government Act 1972.

Yours faithfully



Chief Executive

NOTICE FOR COUNCILLORS

1. **Fire/Bomb Alerts**

In the event of the fire alarm sounding, leave the building immediately, following the fire exit signs..

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

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

2. **Attendance Record**

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

3. **Mobile Phones**

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

4. **Notice of Motion**

A Notice of Motion other than those listed in Standing Order 19 must reach the Chief Executive ten clear days before the relevant Meeting of the Council. Further information on Notices of Motion can be found in Section 5, Standing Order 20 of the Constitution of the Council.

SUBSTITUTE MEMBER SCHEME (Appendix 9, Section 4 of Constitution)

The Constitution provides for the appointment of Substitute members to attend Committees. The named Substitutes for this meeting are listed below:-

Substitute Members:

If you are unable to attend this meeting and wish to appoint a Substitute to attend in your place you need go:

- Identify a Substitute member from the list above who is able to attend on your behalf
- Notify the Chairman of the Committee (at least 24 hours before the meeting is due to take place) NB Only 2 Substitutes per political group are allowed for each meeting and your Chairman will advise you on whether that number has been reached

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

NOTE: THERE ARE NO FIRE DRILLS PLANNED FOR THIS EVENING SO IF THE FIRE ALARM DOES SOUND, PLEASE LEAVE THE BUILDING IMMEDIATELY THROUGH THE FIRE EXIT DOORS.

ON EXITING THE BUILDING, PLEASE ASSEMBLE AT THE FRONT OF THE BUILDING BY THE STATUE OF QUEEN VICTORIA. DO NOT RE-ENTER THE BUILDING UNTIL ADVISED TO DO SO.

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6. Attendance Record

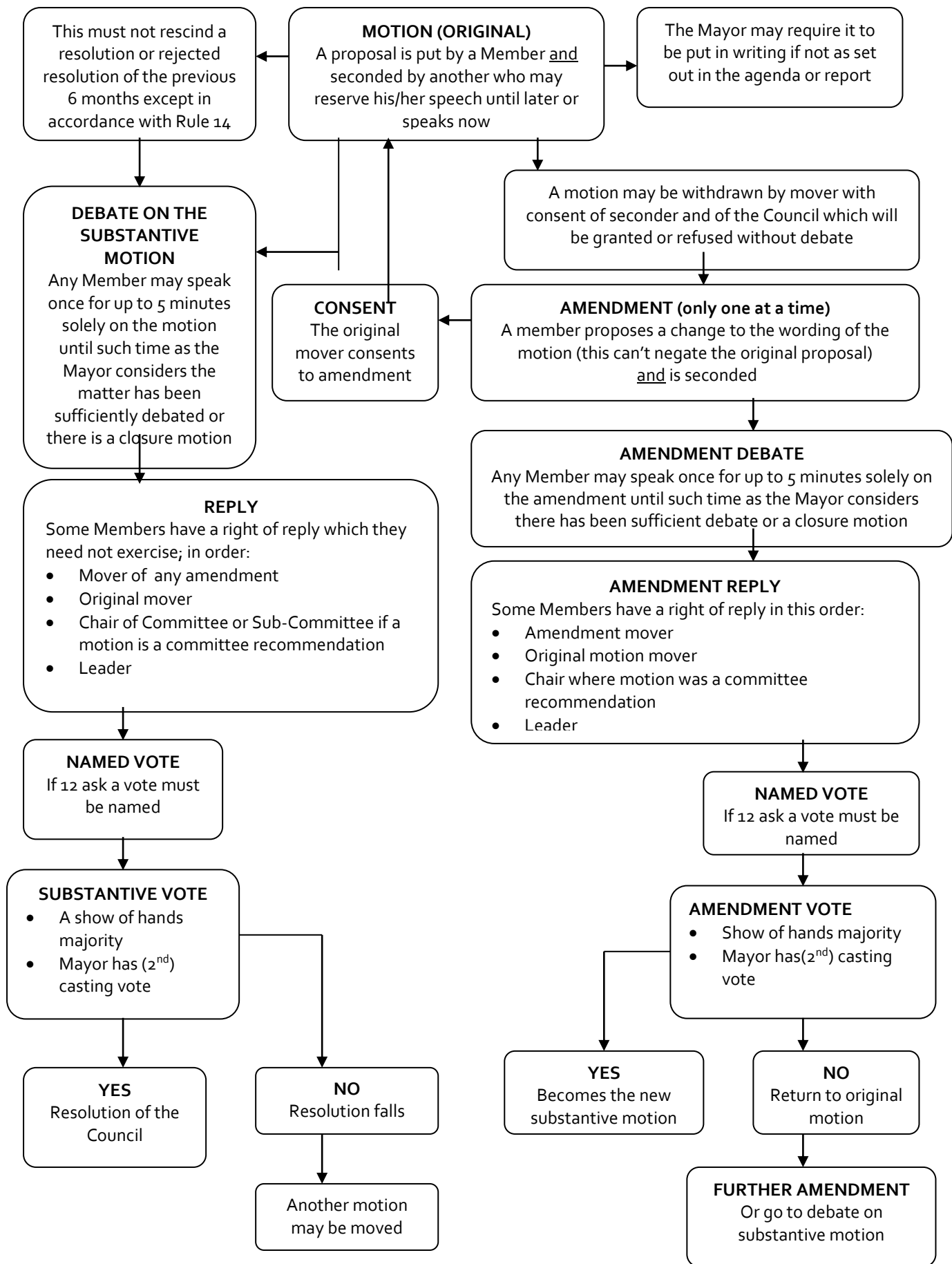
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COUNCIL

Wednesday, 20th November, 2019

Time of Commencement: 7.00 pm

Present: The Mayor- Councillor Simon White (Chair)

Councillors:	J. Cooper	S Tagg	B. Panter
	J. Walklate	S. Burgess	R. Wright
	G Williams	M. Stubbs	G White
	J Williams	A. Rout	J Waring
	A. Fear	J Tagg	A. Fox-Hewitt
	T. Kearon	P. Northcott	B. Johnson
	P Waring	B. Proctor	A. Lawley
	M. Holland	S. Dymond	S. Moffat
	Miss J Cooper	T. Johnson	Mrs J Cooper
	M. Reddish	A. Parker	G. Burnett
	K. Robinson	S. Pickup	H. Maxfield
	E. Shenton	M. Olszewski	K.Owen
	G. Heesom	D. Jones	Hutton
	S. Sweeney	A. Gardner	

Officers:	David Adams	Executive Director Operational Services
	Geoff Durham	Mayor's Secretary / Member Support Officer
	Jan Willis	Interim Executive Director - Resources and Support Services and Section 151 Officer
	Martin Hamilton	Chief Executive
	Caroline Elwood	Interim Head of Legal / Monitoring Officer
	Janet Baddeley	Communications Manager

Also in attendance:

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Wilkes.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest stated.

3. **COUNCILLOR KEARON**

Councillor Kearon informed the Council that due to his selection to stand for Police and Crime Commissioner next year, he felt that he would not have the time to dedicate to his Group Leader role.

Councillor Kyle Robinson was announced as his successor.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Simon Tagg thanked Councillor Kearon for his work as leader of the Labour Group and welcomed Councillor Kyle Robinson into the role.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 September, 2019 be agreed as a correct record subject to:

- (i) a clarification put forward by Councillor Brian Johnson regarding a comment made by Councillor Fear which had requested that the government be asked to make Brexit day a Bank holiday and a passing remark to put a large flag on Castle House.
- (ii) Page 11, under heading Paragraph 2 – third paragraph from the end, the 'Safer Newtown Panel' should be the 'Safer Neighbourhood Panel'.

5. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor advised Members of his Civic Carol Service at St Giles' Church on Sunday 22 December, 2019.

6. CLOUGH HALL PARK PETITION

Councillor Kyle Robinson spoke to the petition regarding the Clough Hall Park petition which had been handed in at the last Council meeting, in September.

Councillor Robinson stated that he was disappointed with the report in that he felt that more could have been done. He challenged the number of incidents that had been reported stating that the number of incidents had increased during the summer.

Residents had been proactive and the Clough Hall Park Action Group had carried out litter picks to make it look cared for.

Councillor Robinson said that, due to budget cuts faced by the Council, parks across the Borough had suffered and when they looked uncared for, anti-social behaviour takes place.

The temporary CCTV that had been provided had helped.

Councillor Robinson sought assurance from the Council that they would make a contribution to or match fund for CCTV in the Park.

In addition, a recent survey had been carried out and an update of responses was requested.

Councillor Mark Holland, the Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Culture and Heritage stated that Clough Hall Park now hosted a Junior Park run which gives young people something valuable to do. Councillor Holland agreed that the petition should be

referred to the Health, Wellbeing and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee to make recommendations for future actions.

Councillor Jill Waring, the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Wellbeing thanked Councillor Robinson for taking the time to coordinate the petition. There had been a few incidents in the Park earlier in the year.

A number of organisations had been met with and the Council had been proactive with enforcing parental responsibility and there had been a successful SPACE programme. The police had provided high visibility in the area and individuals had been stop-searched.

There had only been a small number of complaints about the Park. People were encouraged to report all incidents and Councillor Waring stated that she received a weekly report from the police and Fire Authority and there had been two incidents in a seven week period.

Councillor Stephen Sweeney, the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Efficiency had met with the Chief Inspector of Police, Claire Langley who had stated that Clough Hall Park was “no better – or worse than other parks in the Borough”.

Councillor Stubbs stated that 518 people had signed the petition who said there were issues in the Park.

Council Leader, Councillor Simon Tagg stated that a report in the Sentinel had stated that locking the Park would not be effective and agreed that it should be referred to the Scrutiny Committee. With reference to the CCTV, a meeting would be held with Kidsgrove Town Council in the new year to see how the two Councils could work together. All items would be taken into consideration by the Cabinet.

Councillor Proctor stated that he had sympathy with areas suffering from anti-social behaviour and said that it went on periodically in all areas. There are seven play areas in the Audley Ward and where CCTV had been needed and it had been installed through the Parish Council.

Resolved: That the petition be referred to the Health, Wellbeing and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

7. REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES 2019

The Leader, Councillor Simon Tagg introduced a report updating Members on the outcome of a consultation on the review of polling districts and polling places.

This was carried out annually and members were assured that these changes would not affect the upcoming General election in December but would be in place next May for the election of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Councillor John Williams stated that some mobile polling stations were extremely cold and asked the Chief Executive, Martin Hamilton to ensure that there was adequate heating in all polling stations but especially portacabins.

Councillor Simon Tagg agreed with Councillor Williams' comment.

Resolved: That the amendments to the polling districts and polling places, as set out in appendix A to the report, be approved.

8. **APPOINTMENT OF SENIOR OFFICERS**

The Leader introduced a report asking for Members to note the appointment of the senior officers set out at paragraph 3.4 of the report.

Members' attention was drawn to paragraph 3.1 which set out the start dates of three of the officers.

Paragraphs 3.2 to 3.4 gave Members further information on future appointees.

Councillor Robinson stated that the interview processes had gone really well with a representative from each Group on the panel. He added that it was an exciting time.

Resolved: That the decision of the Councils Appointments Sub Committee, to appoint those officers set out at paragraph 3.4 of the report be noted and that they be welcomed to the Council.

9. **REVIEW AND UPDATE OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME'S COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE PROCEDURE RULES**

The Leader introduced a report which summarised changes to the Council and Committee Procedure Rules.

These had not been updated for some time and the Council's Interim Head of Legal/Monitoring Officer, Caroline Elwood was thanked for her work on this document.

Members' attention was drawn to paragraph 3.1 of the report and the Council and Committee Procedure Rules that were appended. The changes had been through the Constitution and Member Support Working Group.

Councillor Holland also thanked Mrs Elwood for the work that she had undertaken.

The document had been considered at the meeting of the Constitution and Member Support Working Group on 3 July, 2019 except for the Rules of Debate which had been carried out via email which were later fed into the document.

Councillor Brian Johnson referred to item 14.7 (Notices of Motion) on page 72 of the agenda, stating that he could not imagine anyone bringing a vexatious or inappropriate Motion. He added that Councillors may not be able to accurately word a Motion and it could sometimes be difficult to assess what may be deemed inappropriate.

Councillor Shenton also thanked Mrs Elwood for the work undertaken and said that they had worked to a tight timescale and that the document needed to be brought in line with current legislation.

The Leader advised Councillor Johnson that the Chief Executive would give advice with regard to the wording. The Constitution needed to be fit for purpose and Mrs Elwood had been working on it based on what other authorities were doing.

The Council's Chief Executive, Martin Hamilton advised that the Notice of Motion wording was used by other authorities. A check would be made for an alternative form of wording that could be backed up with good practice.

Councillor Stubbs asked Mr Hamilton to clarify whose decision was final in the acceptance of a Motion coming before Council.

Mr Hamilton confirmed that the Mayor sets the agenda on the advice of the Chief Executive. The ruling out of a Motion would only be done after the Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer had given a lot of consideration. Members raising the Motion would be informed as to what the concerns were.

Councillor Holland stated that the Constitution and member Support working Group would be happy to look more deeply into the wording.

Councillor Robinson proposed that the document, barring paragraph 14 be accepted to allow a closer look to be taken of the wording issues and to be brought back to the next Council meeting. Councillor Jones seconded the proposal.

The Leader stated that the document had been through the relevant committees and the Chief Executive had clearly outlines what would happen to such Motions.

A vote was taken on Councillor Robinson's amendment:

For: 20 Against: 21.

The amendment was rejected.

A vote was taken on the original recommendation:

For: 22 Abstentions: 19

Resolved: That the amendments to the Council and Committee Procedure Rules as set out in Appendix A to the report, be approved.

10. **REVIEW AND UPDATE OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION PROCEDURE RULES**

The Leader introduced a report summarising proposed changes to the Access to Information Procedure Rule.

Members' attention was drawn to the table at paragraph 3.1 which outlined the changes. In addition, an appendix containing tracked changes was attached to the report at page 87 of the agenda.

Item 10 of the table outlined changes to the cap for key decisions. Previously £50,000 it would now be £100,000 revenue and £250,000 capital expenditure which would bring Newcastle into line with other authorities. It would also help officers as certain items would not need to be brought to Council.

Councillor Holland advised that this had been through the Constitution and Member Support Working Group.

Resolved: That the proposed amendments to the Access to Information Procedure Rules be approved.

11. **REVIEW AND UPDATE OF RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COUNCIL, ITS COMMITTEES AND SUB COMMITTEES**

The Leader introduced a report summarising proposed changes to appendix 1 to the Constitution setting out the Responsibilities of the Council, its Committees and Sub-committees.

Members attention was drawn to paragraph 3.1 of the report which outlines the changes.

Members were advised that the report had been considered by the Constitution and Member Support Working Group and the relevant Committees.

Resolved: That the proposed amendments to the Responsibilities and Terms of Reference of the Council, its Committees and Sub Committees be approved.

12. **AMENDMENTS TO THE SCHEME OF DELEGATION FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976 AND TOWN POLICE CLAUSES ACT 1847**

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Efficiency, Councillor Stephen Sweeney introduced a report advising Council of a recent decision of the Licensing and Public Protection committee in relation to amendments to the scheme of delegation in respect of taxi and private hire licensing.

Members were advised that this was considered by the Licensing and Public Protection Committee at its meeting on 22 October, 2019 and they had been happy with the changes. A copy of that report was appended.

Resolved: That the proposed amendments to the scheme of delegation at Appendix 4 of the Constitution as set out at paragraph 2.3 of Appendix A to the report, be approved.

13. **DELEGATIONS TO PLANNING COMMITTEE HIGH SPEED RAIL (WEST MIDLANDS- CREWE) ACT**

The Portfolio Holder for Planning and Growth, Councillor Paul Northcott introduced a report advising Council of two recent decisions of the Planning Committee in relation to new delegations to deal with future applications once the High Speed Rail (West Midlands – Crewe) Bill had been enacted.

Councillor Northcott referred Members to the Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 24 July where it had been agreed that Newcastle become a Qualifying Authority.

Members were advised that Newcastle had now signed the necessary Planning Memorandum.

At the Planning Committee held on 5 November, it was agreed to amend the scheme of delegation in respect of schedules 17 and 18 of the High Speed Rail (West Midlands – Crewe) Bill.

Councillor Northcott added that any burden imposed on the Council from HS2 would be reimbursed under a Service Level Agreement.

Resolved: That the Terms of Reference for the Planning Committee be amended to include the following additional delegations:
a. To determine all applications pursuant to Schedule 17 of the High

Speed Rail (West Midlands- Crewe) Act (once the Act comes into force)

- b. To determine all applications pursuant to Clause 21 Schedule 18 of the High Speed Rail (West Midlands- Crewe) Act (once the Act comes into force)

14. FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH PROTOCOL

The Leader introduced a report asking Council to adopt a Protocol in relation to granting Freedom of the Borough.

Members were referred to Appendix A which set out the Protocol and were advised that at paragraphs 2.2 and 6.4 it should read 'Mayor' and not 'Civic Mayor'.

The Leader advised the Council that Freedom was the highest honour a local authority could award and stated that the register dated back to 1900.

A Protocol was required and best practice had been used from other authorities. Mrs Elwood was thanked for her work on this document.

The Leader said that the specialness of the honour should be preserved and that it be awarded sparingly.

All of the Group leaders had seen the document and Councillor Kearon had put forward some amendments which had been incorporated.

Councillor Fear questioned whether at paragraph 6 it should read meeting and not meetings. This would be amended.

Resolved: That the Protocol and guidelines attached at Appendix A to the report, be approved.

15. GREAT CRESTED NEWT DISTRICT LICENSING SCHEME

The Portfolio Holder for Planning and Growth, Councillor Paul Northcott introduced a report seeking Council's agreement to join the Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Great Crested Newt District Licensing Scheme.

This would help to remove delays that arise from the existing licensing system as there would be no need for Newt Surveys and no separate licence application to Natural England, offering developers a fast track. It would also remove unnecessary lobbying and petitions.

Joining the Scheme would save this Authority money in processing applications.

Councillor Brian Johnson queried the use of language under paragraph 9 – final line. It was felt that the word 'show –stopper' was not the correct word to use. Councillor Fear agreed with this stating that slang was not appropriate in documents such as this.

Resolved: That Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council sign a Memorandum of Understanding with NatureSpace Partnership to join the Staffordshire and Stoke-on Trent Great Crested Newt District Licensing Scheme.

16. STATEMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

The Leader, Councillor Simon Tagg submitted a report which provided an update to Members on the activities and decisions of the Cabinet, together with the Forward Plan.

The statement was taken a paragraph at a time to allow for questions to be asked.

Paragraph 2:

Councillor Maxfield asked how the budget consultation process would be taking place this year.

The Leader advised that it would be carried out as last year, by online consultation. There had been 103 comments so far. The consultation would be promoted on social media.

Paragraph 3:

Councillor Proctor welcomed that the Council now had a Commercial Strategy and the benefits that would follow and requested an update.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Efficiency, Councillor Sweeney advised that an investment advisor had been appointed and a report was expected by the end of the year.

The work would be led by the new Executive Director - Commercial Development and Economic Growth, Simon McEneny.

Paragraph 4:

Councillor Burnett advised that the Kidsgrove Sports Centre Community Group were pleased with the recent site visit that had taken place and they looked forward to working with the Council. Members were advised that the number of Trustees would increase from six to nine.

It was reported that a number of enquiries had already been received for block bookings and there had been some enquiries from swimming groups.

Councillor Paul Waring stated that plans were moving forward and there were firm proposals for the sports centre and pool. He urged all Members to continue to support the group.

Councillor Robinson stated that the Cross Party Working Group had proved very helpful and he asked the Leader if a report would be going to the Full Council meeting in January 2020 in connection with the borrowing of funds for the project.

The Leader thanked Members for their comments and stated that there was a lot of work to be done to firm up the proposals which he hoped would be brought to the Full Council meeting in January, 2020.

Also in January, 2020 the Cabinet would look at the proposals and there would be a further Kidsgrove Sports Centre Refurbishment – Cabinet Panel meeting early in the new year.

Paragraph 5:

Councillor Panter asked when the Council would begin to install vehicle charging points in the Borough.

The Leader advised that the Council had been successful in obtaining £780,000 funding to enable the roll out of CCTV. A report would be brought to the December Cabinet meeting.

Councillor Gary White welcomed the initiative stating that it had been discussed at the Economy, Environment and Place Scrutiny Committee and he looked forward to it coming into fruition.

Councillor John Williams raised concerns regarding the cleanliness of the Midway car park and asked the Leader when the structure would be decorated and CCTV upgraded.

The Leader welcomed the comments stating that it was important to have the Car Parking Strategy in place. The comments regarding the Midway would be taken on board. The long term future of the car park would also be considered.

Paragraph 6:

Councillor Brian Johnson stated that Stoke on Trent City Council had reported a shortfall of 230 of 'move on' properties. He asked if Newcastle currently had a shortfall of 'move on' properties and whether Stoke on Trent's shortfall had been considered in the proposed joint strategy and what impact Stoke on Trent's shortfall would have on services in Newcastle.

Councillor Hutton asked for an update on the outreach work helping those having to sleep rough.

Councillor Shenton asked for an update on the number of rough sleepers.

The Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Wellbeing, Councillor Jill Waring advised that the current arrangement with the City Council would expire on 31 March, 2020 and officers were working to recommission the service.

The last count of rough sleepers had revealed 9 individuals which was an increase on last year. A number of those persons had moved across from Stoke on Trent.

Members were advised that rough sleepers were counted every eight weeks at 4am. The next count would take place in January 2020.

Councillor Holland stated that the commissioning of services with the City Council was important as there were cross-border issues.

Councillor Stubbs asked the Portfolio Holder if the first question a rough sleeper should be asked was what their hierarchy of needs was.

Councillor Brian Johnson requested a written response to his question.

Councillor Pickup asked if figures were available for rough sleepers in the surrounding villages.

The Leader advised that the figures available were for the Borough but a check would be made and Members would be informed. In respect of Councillor Stubbs' question the Leader stated that there was a need to know why they had come to Newcastle in order to find out the best ways of supporting them.

Paragraph 7:

Councillor Panter commented that, as Champion he had liaised with the Royal British Legion, Tri Services and SSAFA and had received a positive response.

Councillor Brian Johnson welcomed this and stated that he would like to see the same done for the blue-light services.

The Leader stated that he would take Councillor Johnson's comments away for consideration.

Paragraph 8:

Councillor Parker asked for an update on the town centre CCTV.

The Leader stated that, following the call-in work had begun and was progressing well. Site visits had been carried out to look at the proposed locations.

New cameras had been ordered and they would be installed in January, 2020. Recording would commence in April, 2020. Until that date, the existing system would continue operating.

Councillor Robinson asked for an update on the Ryecroft site.

The Leader advised that there was a backstop date of Spring 2020 and nothing could be done until then. However, the council was working with the developer and the County Council to look at residential and a business based scheme.

Councillor Wright asked for an update on the Markets and was advised that this would be covered in detail later in the meeting.

Paragraph 9:

Councillor Heesom commended the Cabinet for protecting the Council's green spaces and asked if the Leader would confirm that funding for this was brought in from outside of the Authority.

Councillor Julie Cooper welcomed that stumps had been put around Wolstanton marsh advising that there had only been the one incident there this year.

Councillor Reddish asked the Leader for a progress report on areas still needing attention.

The Leader thanked Councillors' Heesom and Cooper for their comments and advised that the incidents on Wolstanton Marsh had fallen from 5 or 6 in previous years to just one this year. The Police had moved them on.

Money for the stumps had come from outside the Authority, from the Police and Crime Commissioner and from County Council and LAP funding.

The Leader thanked officers for their work adding that the measures were working and eviction times were being brought down.

The Leader appreciated the concerns with The Butts and Howard Place. The Butts had wooden stumps installed recently and Howard Place had been put into the work programme to be done before next Spring.

Councillor Robinson asked if there had been any progress with the Joint Local Plan – providing a new site for travellers and, if so, where it would be placed.

Councillor Brian Johnson referred to the previous meeting and asked if any consultation had taken place with official groups representing travellers.

The Leader made reference to the permanent traveller site in Cemetery Road, Silverdale and added that in the Local Plan there was a need to increase the number of places and negotiations would need to take place.

Paragraph 10:

Councillor Northcott declared an interest in this item and took no part in the discussions.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Efficiency, Councillor Sweeney praised Aspire for their hospitality at a recent meeting.

Councillor Sweeney added that he had reported a flooding issue which had been promptly resolved.

Councillor John Williams welcomed the initiative and asked the Leader if Aspire could be invited to a future meeting to explain their policies as more information was required.

The Leader thanked Members for their positive comments adding that there would always be issues of concern. Residents approach Councillors with matters that affect Aspire so it is therefore good to work together.

Paragraph 11:

Councillor Fear asked the Leader for an update on garden waste collections and asked if cases of fly tipping had fallen across the Borough.

The Leader stated that in previous years there had been over 1000 fly tipping incidents. The Council was now into its ninth month of charged garden waste collections and fly tipping cases have dropped significantly.

Officers would continue to monitor the situation but it appeared that the scare stories put around that fly tipping would increase because of charging for garden waste collection have been found to be untrue.

Councillor Pickup asked if one of the reasons for the overspend was the corporate management posts and whether it was provided for with the interim posts.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Efficiency, Councillor Sweeney would issue a written response to this question.

17. REPORTS OF THE CHAIRS OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

Written reports had been submitted for the Finance, Assets and Performance Scrutiny Committee and the Health, Wellbeing and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee.

A verbal update was given for the Economy, Environment and Place Scrutiny Committee by the Vice-Chair, Councillor Fear as he had chaired the previous meeting.

Councillor Fear stated that the Committee had looked at the Car Parking Strategy where valuable contributions had been made.

Resolved: That the reports be received.

18. REPORTS OF THE CHAIRS OF THE REGULATORY COMMITTEES

A written report had been submitted for the Audit and Standards Committee.

Verbal updates were given by the Chairs of the Planning Committee and Licensing and Public Protection Committee.

Councillor Fear advised that the Committee had met on its regular cycle and there had been a site visit that had taken place on 2 November where varied planning control issues had been dealt with.

Councillor Olszewski advised that at its last meeting, the Licensing and Public Protection Committee had reviewed the updated guidance on the Licensing Act and the Gambling Act. These items had come to Full Council tonight.

The DEFRA database had also been discussed, to provide monthly updates on all of Newcastle's licensed vehicles.

Also, the door signage on Private Hire and Hackney Carriage vehicles was discussed.

The Public Protection Sub Committee and the Licensing Sub Committee had continued to meet on their regular cycles.

Resolved: That the reports be received.

19. **MOTIONS OF MEMBERS**

There were no Motions.

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

Question 1:

Councillor Fear asked for an update into the investigation into foul odours believed to be coming from Walley's Quarry.

The Portfolio Holder for Environment and Recycling, Councillor Trevor Johnson advised that the site was regulated by the Environment Agency. The Council had launched its own investigation into this which had shown a clear linkage of the site with the odour.

Over the past six weeks, complaints had risen and the complainants were being asked to keep records in order to build up a picture.

Officers of the Council were liaising with the Environment Agency and a meeting had taken place with RED Industries.

The Leader had written to the Secretary of State and had sought the support of the sitting MP. The Council's Chief Executive had recently written to the Environment Agency to ensure that the issue remained high on the agenda.

Question 2:

Councillor Kearon asked for an update on current and proposed plans to ensure good quality and safe private rented accommodation in the Borough.

The Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Wellbeing, Councillor Jill Waring advised that the Council received 600 requests each year identifying problems with damp, cold.

The Council was working with partners and runs a North Staffordshire Landlord Accreditation Scheme which was self funding. A new website would be launched in 2020.

Councillor Kearon asked for assurance that any external cladding used on new builds was not flammable.

Councillor Waring advised that she would put this response in writing.

Question 3:

Councillor Jones asked the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Recycling if the landfill site at Walleys Quarry was producing hydrogen sulphite and if so, the quantities and finally a guarantee that this was not harmful to residents living near to the site.

Councillor Trevor Johnson advised the Environment Agency was undertaking air monitoring. The Environment Agency had, in 2017 carried out a study and concluded that the concentrations met the objectives. Another study was carried out earlier this year and those results were awaited. Members would be provided with the details once they were available.

Councillor Jones asked Councillor Trevor Johnson if he supported the concerns over health and the further investigation by Public Health England.

Councillor Johnson advised that he did support this and advised that the results of the Environment Agency investigation were expected by the end of the year.

Question 4:

Councillor Robinson asked the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Growth about a delay to the Joint Local Plan.

Councillor Northcott advised that it had been necessary to revisit the number of houses needed. This had been stabilised and the number revised.

The time period therefore needed adjustment. It had commenced in 2013 and the housing supply would need recalculating to take into account the extended period. The Plan period had been changed from 2013-33 to 2013-37 as Local Plans must cover a period of fifteen years from adoption.

The Policy work would be finalised for Spring 2020 and it would be more robust if adopted.

Councillor Robinson asked for assurance that there would be no further delays and asked the Leader if he was certain that the Council had a full functioning/resourced Planning Department to deal with any issues.

Councillor Northcott had received assurances from officers.

Question 5:

Councillor Robinson asked the Leader what was being done with regard to a culvert face at Gloucester Road, Kidsgrove following the recent flooding of the Canal Tavern pub.

The Leader advised that Staffordshire County Council were the lead flood authority. The Borough and County Council were working together what measures could be taken on the culvert. Regular weekly clearing of the gratings was being looked into to remove silt. The Borough Council also provided sand bags where necessary and some had been provided to the Canal Tavern.

A new Lidl store was to be built in Kidsgrove and this would replace part of the culvert and may alleviate the situation.

Councillor Robinson stated that he was a big believer in climate change and said that this Authority took the matter seriously. Councillor Robinson asked the Leader if he would consider looking at the culvert face to see if it could be changed and asked if local ward members would be kept up to date with any progress.

The Leader stated that this Council was taking proactive measures and advised that Councillor Robinson should contact officers at the Borough and County Council with the details of his concerns.

Question 6:

Councillor Fox-Hewitt asked the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Efficiency if he was confident that civil contingencies and emergency planning for the Borough were adequately financed, supported and fit for purpose.

Councillor Sweeney advised that this was all supported by a dedicated scheme and that the Council could draw on the expertise of the Civic Contingencies Unit that was available 24 hours per day. The Council also had a dedicated link officer.

The Council had sufficient finances for such emergencies but could also apply for funding from the Belway Scheme.

Councillor Fox-Hewitt asked if a cross-party working group could be set up to work with partners.

Councillor Sweeney stated that there was no need to have a cross-party working group as there was already the Civic Contingencies Unit. Councillor Sweeney suggested that the civil contingencies and emergency planning be taken to Scrutiny.

Question 7:

Councillor Parker asked the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Efficiency to outline future plans for Newcastle's market which would help with its revitalisation.

Councillor Sweeney advised that there had been themed markets and food markets. Other events were being arranged.

A late market was planned for 2020 which would operate between 3pm and 9pm with food, entertainment and displays.

There had been a good take up of the £5 per day for a stall.

Councillor Parker welcomed the idea of a late market and asked the Portfolio Holder what lighting provision would be available for opening late evening.

Councillor Sweeney advised that electricity feed to the market stalls was being investigated.

Question 8:

Councillor Jenny Cooper asked the Leader to outline the latest position regarding the Ministerial direction relating to air quality in the Borough.

The Leader advised that Basford Bank was an issue in the Borough and stated that buses, suitable for retro-fitting had been identified. This would be funded by national government and would be delivered by the summer of 2020.

The Council was working with the City Council and County Council with regard to an Air Quality Local Plan. In addition, the Council's were pursuing options for traffic management focussing on the A53. The Council did not want a 'chargeable clean air zone'.

A business case was being put together and the target for this was 2021.

The Leader referred to odours from Walleys Quarry and stated that he would like to see the relevant Scrutiny Committee looking into this in more detail.

Question 9:

Councillor Dymond asked the Leader if he would consider supporting the RSPCA in asking the Government for tougher regulations around the private use of fireworks.

The Leader suggested that there was a Motion put together by the RSPCA which could be brought to Council and that the relevant Scrutiny Committee could look at the issue in more detail. The findings could then be put to the Government.

21. RECEIPT OF PETITIONS

There were no Petitions.

22. EMILY HORSFALL

Councillor Kearon stated that he had worked closely with Emily and found her to be an enthusiastic campaigner.

Emily had moved on to work with the training of guide dogs.

The Leader wished Emily all the best and wished prospective candidates well in the by-election taking place on 12 December in that ward. The Leader also wished the candidates well in the upcoming General Election on that date.

Members sent their best wishes to Emily for the future.

23. STANDING ORDER 18 - URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

COUNCILLOR SIMON WHITE
Chair

Meeting concluded at 9.40 pm

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S REPORT TO COUNCIL

29 January 2020

Report Title: DESIGNATION OF MONITORING OFFICER

Submitted by: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Portfolios: CORPORATE AND SERVICE IMPROVEMENT, PEOPLE & PARTNERSHIPS

Ward(s) affected: ALL

Purpose of the Report

To designate an Officer as the Borough Council's Monitoring Officer.

Recommendation

That, in accordance with Section 5 of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989, Council designates Mr Daniel Dickinson as the Council's Monitoring Officer.

Reasons

To comply with the requirement of Section 5 of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989, which requires all local authorities to designate one of their officers as their Monitoring Officer.

1. **Background**

- 1.1 Under section 5 of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 the Council has a statutory duty to designate, by resolution of full council, one of its officers as the Council's Monitoring Officer.
- 1.2 The Monitoring Officer has a number of statutory duties and responsibilities relating to the Council's Constitution and the Council's arrangements for effective governance. These include:
 - to report on matters he/she believes are, or are likely to be, illegal or amount to maladministration;
 - to be responsible for matters relating to the conduct of Councillors; and
 - to ensure the Council's Constitution is up to date and fit for purpose.

2. **Issues**

- 2.1 Members will recall the report taken to Council on 24 July 2019, through which Council designated Mrs Caroline Elwood as the Council's Interim Monitoring Officer. Members will recall that Mrs Elwood was appointed on an interim basis whilst a recruitment exercise was undertaken to fill the post of Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer on a permanent basis.
- 2.2 Following a nation-wide recruitment campaign and competitive selection process, undertaken on a cross-party basis, Mr Daniel Dickinson was appointed as the Council's Head of Legal and Governance Services. Mr Dickinson started in that role on 6 January 2020. Today's Council meeting is the first Council meeting since Mr Dickinson's appointment and Members are, accordingly, now asked to confirm Mr Dickinson's designation as Monitoring Officer.

3. **Proposal**

3.1 That, in accordance with Section 5 of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989, Council designates Mr Daniel Dickinson as the Council's Monitoring Officer.

4. **Reasons for Proposed Solution**

4.1 Mr Dickinson's suitability to be designated as Monitoring Officer (in addition to discharging the role of Head of Legal and Governance Services) was specifically tested during the recruitment process. He was considered by stakeholders and the cross party member recruitment panel to be the preferred candidate and eminently appointable to that role.

5. **Options Considered**

5.1 Members will recall that prior to Mrs Elwood's interim appointment, the role of Monitoring Officer was undertaken on a temporary basis by an officer from the County Council. However, following the Chief Executive's appointment, a decision was taken with the support of all Group Leaders to appoint to the role on a full time basis in order to add capacity to the organisation.

5.2 The alternative option would be to designate a different Officer as Monitoring Officer, which could include reverting to the previous arrangement with the County Council. However:-

- Mrs Elwood's interim appointment has demonstrated the very clear benefits in having a permanent, full-time Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer on staff.
- Mr Dickinson's suitability to be designated as Monitoring Officer (in addition to discharging the role of Head of Legal and Governance Services) was specifically tested during the recruitment process. He was considered by stakeholders and the cross party member recruitment panel to be the preferred candidate and eminently appointable to both roles.

5.3 In light of those considerations, designating someone other than Mr Dickinson as Monitoring Officer would be incongruous and would not represent the best use of available resource.

6. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

6.1 There are no additional legal implications other than those set out in the report.

7. **Equality Impact Assessment**

7.1 No implications.

8. **Financial and Resource Implications**

8.1 Budgetary provision has been made for the appointment to the role of Head of Legal and Governance Services, and for the designation of that post holder as the Council's Monitoring Officer.

9. **Major Risks**

9.1 Not having a suitable officer designated to the role of Monitoring Officer would be contrary to the requirements of Section 5 of the 1989 Act. Having appropriate expertise

and sufficient capacity in that role is essential for the good governance of the Council and its affairs.

10. **Sustainability and Climate Change Implications**

10.1 No implications

11. **Key Decision Information**

11.1 Not a Key Decision

12. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

12.2 24 July 2019 Meeting of Full Council – Designation of Mrs Elwood as Interim Monitoring Officer.

13. **List of Appendices**

13.1 N/A

14. **Background Papers**

14.1 N/A

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NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S REPORT TO COUNCIL

29 January 2020

Report Title: Changes to Committee Membership

Submitted by: Chief Executive

Portfolios: Corporate and Service Improvement, People and Partnerships

Ward(s) affected: All

Purpose of the Report

To appoint Members to the Employment Committee and the Economy, Environment and Place Scrutiny Committee.

Recommendation

1. To appoint Councillor Kyle Robinson to the Employment Committee.
2. To appoint Councillor David Grocott to the Economy, Environment and Place Scrutiny Committee.

Reasons

To ensure that vacancies arising on the Council's committees are appointed to on a politically proportionate basis.

1. **Background**

- 1.1 Due to the retirement of a Councillor in November 2019, there is a need to appoint to vacant committee seats.

2. **Issues**

- 2.1 In accordance with Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and associated regulations, seats on the ordinary committees of the Council are to be allocated to the political groups in a manner proportionate to the number of overall seats on council held by each group.
- 2.2 Additionally, in accordance with the council's Constitution, Council is to make appointments to committee seats.
- 2.3 Consequent upon the retirement of a Labour Councillor in November 2019, and the election of a Labour Councillor in December 2019, there is no need to alter the political balance of the committee seats currently allocated to each group.
- 2.4 There is, however, a need to appoint to the seats allocated to the Labour group which were vacated upon the retirement of a Labour Councillor in November 2019.

3. **Proposal**

3.1 To appoint Councillor Kyle Robinson to the Employment Committee and Cllr David Grocott to the Economy, Environment and Place Scrutiny Committee.

4. **Reasons for Proposed Solution**

4.1 To ensure that the seats vacated upon the retirement of a Labour Councillor in November 2019 are appointed to in accordance with the requirements of the relevant legislation and the Council's Constitution.

5. **Options Considered**

5.1 None.

6. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

6.1 These are set out in the body of the report.

7. **Equality Impact Assessment**

7.1 There is no requirement for an EIA to be undertaken in connection with this decision. Nominations to committee seats are made by Group Leaders who will have regard to equality and diversity considerations when making their nominations.

8. **Financial and Resource Implications**

8.1 None.

9. **Major Risks**

9.1 None.

10. **Sustainability and Climate Change Implications**

10.1 None.

11. **Key Decision Information**

11.1 This is not a Key Decision.

12. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

12.1 Not Applicable.

13. **List of Appendices**

13.1 Not Applicable.

14. **Background Papers**

14.1 Not Applicable.

STATEMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL TO FULL COUNCIL – 29TH JANUARY 2020

Submitted by: Councillor Simon Tagg

Portfolio: All

Wards affected: All

Purpose of the Report

To provide an update to Members on the activities and decisions of Cabinet together with the Forward Plan.

Recommendation

That the statement of the Leader of the Council be received and noted.

Reasons

To update Council Members on the activities and decisions of the Leader & Cabinet and to allow questions and comments to be made on the Statement.

1. **Cabinet Meetings**

Cabinet has met twice since the last Full Council, 4th December and 15th January. A selection of decisions are detailed under items 2 and 3 of this report.

2. **4th December 2019**

2.1 **Town Deals**

Cabinet agreed to establish Town Deal Boards for Newcastle and Kidsgrove. This follows the announcement last autumn by the Secretary of State for Communities & Local Government, Robert Jenrick, of a list of more than 100 towns that are set to benefit from the Government's £3.6 billion Town Deal Fund.

By the time of the Full Council meeting both Boards will have met for the first time with the remit of:

- Supporting the ambitions of local towns in their aspirations for their area.
- Driving economic regeneration and delivering long term economic and productivity growth.
- Bringing communities together and giving places new energy and life.

2.2 **Procurement of Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure and Operator to Support Uptake of Electrified Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles**

Following a successful joint bid with neighbouring authorities, the Council has attracted £780,000 of funding for the installation of an electric vehicle charging infrastructure. This will provide a kick-start to the provision of electric vehicle charging infrastructure on Council owned car parks in line with the recently adopted Car Parking Strategy and supports policies and initiatives to secure cleaner air, encourage the uptake of low and zero emissions vehicles and reductions in transport related CO2.

3. **15th January 2020**

3.1 **Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy**

Cabinet endorsed an update to the Council's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy. This reaffirms how the Council intends to work with partners to prevent homelessness and support those who may become homeless.

As well as an Action Plan to deliver the key priorities of the Strategy additional measures proposed include:

- Homeless families accessing empty properties that have been brought back into use.
- Development of referral arrangements by working with those who commission and deliver drug, alcohol and mental health services to ensure joined up support.
- Develop a local Make It Count Scheme where passers-by are encouraged to make donations instead of giving money to beggars.
- Develop further closer links with voluntary and community agencies such as foodbanks to ensure consistency in tackling homelessness across the Borough.
- Work with other statutory partners to identify gaps in services.

3.2 **Update on Kidsgrove Sports Centre**

The re-opening of Kidsgrove Sports Centre has taken a further step forward with the Kidsgrove Sports Centre Community Group (CIO) and the Council agreeing to work with a major construction company to fully price the refurbishment.

The plans received endorsement by the All-Party Cabinet Panel and will involve procuring the services of Wilmot Dixon via the SCAPE national construction framework.

The CIO will work closely with the Council and the Scape Group to finalise the cost of the refurbishment before reporting back to the Cabinet Panel ahead of a final decision on funding by Full Council in the near future.

3.3 **Commissioning of Debt, Benefit and Advice Service in the Borough 2020-2022**

Cabinet agreed to re-tender for provision of Debt and Benefit Advice when the current contract expires.

The service is currently operated by Citizens Advice Bureau Stoke-on-Trent and North Staffordshire (CASNS) and provides:- on-line access to self-help and advice, contact by telephone and face-to-face with provision of specialist support, help to deal with issues relating to Social Security, Benefits and Tax Credits, debts, employment rights, relationship and family issues and Housing Advice.

3.4 **Our Borough Heroes 2020**

Cabinet supported the establishment of an "Our Borough Heroes" event to celebrate inspirational individuals in the Borough who make an exceptional contribution to the community.

The event will be arranged in partnership with the Sentinel and will be funded via sponsorship of individual categories by partners and businesses in the Borough.

Awards will be open to all age groups and people who live and work in the Borough, to provide recognition of their efforts, to celebrate those involved and to raise aspirations in others.

Categories will span caring, community, education, sport, business and youth.

4. **Forward Plan**

The Forward Plan can be found at:

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

Councillor Simon Tagg
Leader of the Council

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Report to Full Council: Finance, Assets & Performance Scrutiny Committee.

The Scrutiny Committee met on 16th December.

The Chief Executive submitted a report and made a presentation which updated members on the recent statutory guidance, issued by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, to help Councils carry out their Overview and Scrutiny functions effectively. This was supported by the launch of the recent Good Scrutiny Guide by the CfPS. Both papers were intended to ensure councils are aware of the purpose of Overview and Scrutiny, recognise effective Scrutiny and understand how to conduct it together with the benefits it can offer.

Members considered the nature of training and felt that a sequence of topic focussed sessions delivered in house and designed to foster a deeper knowledge of scrutiny subject areas within the finance arena would be a useful addition. In particular, members felt that focussed and concise training relevant to the specific needs of the Scrutiny Committee be programmed, throughout the year, to enable members to build on their current skills in undertaking effective scrutiny reviews.

Moving forward, it was also agreed that the Chief Executive would convene a meeting of the Group Leaders together with the Chairs of the Scrutiny Committee.

DRAFT MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY:

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Efficiency, Councillor Stephen Sweeney introduced a report, for consultation, which set out the Draft Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2020/21 – 2024/25 approved by Cabinet (17/10/2018).

The Interim Director explained that the MTFs framework set out the Councils four-year spending and funding plans and provided the financial framework for the development of the detailed 2020/21 budget. A detailed draft budget for 2020/21 would be prepared for consideration by Cabinet and Council in February 2020. The strategy assumed income from commercial investments of 0.250m in 2021/22 rising to £1.000m in 2024/25, subject to approval of a commercial strategy and investment programme funded from capital receipts and prudential borrowing. In addition, the MTFs assumed efficiency savings of £0.15m in 2021 rising to £0.600m in 2024/25 from the digital delivery programme.

In respect to Kidsgrove Leisure Centre the Leader confirmed that the 10 year capital strategy assumed a new sports centre would be built and cautioned that there may be future revenue implications which had to be built into the budget.

2020/2021 DRAFT BUDGET SAVINGS PROPOSALS:

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Efficiency reported on the current proposals being considered to balance the 2020/21 revenue budget and the proposed capital programme for 2020/21 to 2022/23.

COMMERCIAL STRATEGY:

The Interim Director of Resources and Support Services submitted a report for consultation which presented the Commercial Strategy, a framework for identifying and managing commercial and income generation opportunities. A copy of the strategy was appended to the report.

In response to concern that the strategy did not give enough information to allow for meaningful scrutiny it was explained that the report to the January meeting of this Committee would provide more detail.

The Strategy was generally welcomed.

UPDATE CUSTOMER AND DIGITAL RESTRUCTURE:

The Leader, Councillor S Tagg updated the Committee on the progress made towards the Customer and Digital Services Restructure. The Interim Director of Resources and Support Services went on to outline how the changes would rebalance this section of the organisation.

In response to questions from members regarding the MARS scheme it was agreed that the policy would be recirculated, members would be invited to a presentation of the scheme and that the 16 January meeting of this Committee would receive details of the number of employees taking MARS.

QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE REPORT – REVIEW PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

The second quarter 2019-20 Financial and Performance Review report was presented for scrutiny. Members agreed that the report be noted.

Cllr Helena Maxfield

Chair; Finance, Assets & Performance Scrutiny Committee.

Health @ Wellbeing

Chair's Report for 2nd Dec

The Leader of the Council circulated an update from the Cabinet on action taken on items raised by Committee members at the last meeting on 9 September and all members would receive an invitation to attend the local Dementia Champion training with the aim that a Member Champion would be recruited.

The Chief Executive submitted a report and made a presentation which updated members on the recent statutory guidance issued by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to help councils carry out their overview and scrutiny functions effectively. This was supported by the launch of the recent Good Scrutiny Guide by the CfPS.

The committee agreed:

1. That the requirements within the Statutory Guidance and the recommendations within the CfPS Good Scrutiny Guide be noted
2. That current practice be benchmarked against the Statutory Guidance and that the commissioning of external support be explored.
3. That an Action Plan be developed based on the recommendations within the Statutory Guidance and the Good Scrutiny Guide.
4. That an "Executive-Scrutiny Protocol" be developed in accordance with the guidelines.
5. That training for Scrutiny Members be commissioned to build on their current skills in undertaking effective scrutiny reviews.

In response to a request from the committee to scrutinise the impact of domestic violence initiatives, the Partnerships Vulnerability Officer at the Borough Council, the Commissioning and Partnership Manager at the Staffordshire Commissioners Office and CI Claire Langley, NPT Commander, Newcastle Staffordshire Police submitted a joint report which updated members on arrangements for the co-ordination and delivery of domestic abuse services in the Borough as part of the Staffordshire conurbation.

New Era was commissioned to support all those affected by domestic abuse and provided consistent provision across the County and City areas by way of a contract value of £1,930,000 per annum. As a result of increased demand, extra funding had gone into the service and waiting times had decreased significantly. The Chair thanked the Commissioner for his diligence in ensuring that funding was directed to the service. It was agreed that a further report would be submitted to this Committee in 12 months' time, with a request that the report contain appropriate data to allow detailed scrutiny.

The Space scheme report was submitted by the Senior Partnerships Officer, the funding (£21,891.84) was split as below:

- Jubilee2 Gym Passes (£9,444.97);
- Bee Active (£3,936.87);
- Staffordshire Clubs for Young People (£2,640);
- Streetgames (£3,920);
- Time4Sport (£1,950).
- A further 100 8 -17 year old young people identified/referred by professionals in need of positive intervention to divert them away from engaging in anti-social behaviour were given free Jubilee2 gym passes.

The total attendance of young people for the SPACE scheme in 2019 was 6229.

The report went on to evaluate and offer positive learning including the advantages of early advertisement and publicity of the SPACE scheme and also the extension to the geographical area for acceptance of referrals which had led to greater uptake and positive benefits together with co-ordination of SPACE activities which had ensured the best use of the knowledge and skills of partners across the sectors.

The Chief Executive reported on the decision of Council to refer for further consideration by this committee a report of the initiatives undertaken by the Councils and its partners to help eliminate instances of anti-social behaviour in Clough Hall Park (20/11/2019).

Police colleagues present at the meeting explained that the actions taken had resulted in the disturbances prevalent over the summer holidays being disrupted and 2 people had been reprimanded to prison. The Head of Leisure and Cultural Services reported on the positive activities introduced into the park, such as the Park Run. Discussions were also underway concerning the relocation of the rugby club into the park which would also help to displace anti-social behaviour.

It was agreed that this issue be kept under review and a report, to include an online survey of residents, be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee,

A report on the current operational issues at Jubilee 2 and their impact on the centres performance:

Membership had declined to 3,000. The report identified the latent building defects which had caused an adverse effect on the operation and customer experience.

It was anticipated that the appointment of Alliance Leisure would assist with a marketing plan and aimed to grow the business by an additional 250 members. The installation of new gym equipment would be completed by April/May 2020 with the new aqua sauna open in April 2020.

Members of the Scrutiny Committee were keen to ensure that the uniqueness of the offer at the facility was maintained, for all members of the community. A business case was being developed with a view to reducing the high cost of energy by way of reclaiming surplus heat. The introduction of on-site chlorine generation from salt was anticipated to achieve a £6,000 per year saving. Further reports to be submitted to the committee

Cllr Ian Wilkes

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Motion for Full Council, 29 January 2020: Brexit

This Council notes that the people of this Loyal and Ancient Borough voted in 2016 by a majority of 43,457 votes to 25,477 votes, to leave the European Union.

This Council:

1. Welcomes the passage of the Withdrawal Agreement by our elected representatives, with the support of all four MPs representing the Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme.
2. Welcomes the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the EU on 31 January, with no extension of an implementation period beyond the end of this year.
3. Expects the Government to deliver on its manifesto commitments: to create a UK Shared Prosperity Fund to match the "grants" made by the EU from a fraction of the UK taxpayers' contribution to the EU budget; to replace those EU programmes with fairer programmes better tailored to our economy; and to make a success of the whole UK with a particular focus on the most disadvantaged in our society.
4. Looks forward to our borough sharing fully in the opportunities presented by Brexit.

This Council asks the Leader to write to the Prime Minister:

1. To thank him for his swift action ending the delay and uncertainty regarding the UK's withdrawal from the EU
2. To request that our residents, businesses and partners should all benefit from promised funds to promote prosperity and improve infrastructure, in line with the Council's corporate priority, "Growing our People and Places".

Proposed: Cllr Andrew Fear and

Seconded: Cllr Mark Holland

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