

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

**Submitted by:** Councillor Elizabeth Shenton

**Portfolio:** All

**Wards affected:** All

**Purpose of the Report**

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

**Recommendation**

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

**Reasons**

To update Council Members on the activities and decisions of the Cabinet and to allow questions and comments on the Statement to the relevant Portfolio Holders.

1. **Cabinet Meetings**

Cabinet has met once since the last meeting of Full Council, in September 2016. Below is a summary of actions and decisions taken, along with a link to the Forward Plan. (For further background to the Cabinet's decisions please refer to the actual published Cabinet agenda and Minutes on the website).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6. **Car Parking Charges**

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

7. **Newcastle Under Lyme Local Lottery**

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

8. **Urgent Business**

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

9. **Forward Plan**

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

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

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