

COUNCIL

Wednesday, 7th September, 2016

Time of Commencement: 7.00 pm

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

Councillors:

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

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

1. **APOLOGIES**

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

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

3. **MINUTES OF A PREVIOUS MEETING**

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

4. MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

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

5. REPORTS OF THE CHAIRS OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

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

6. REPORTS OF THE CHAIRS OF THE REGULATORY COMMITTEES

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

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

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

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

8. CIVIC HUB AND RYECROFT

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

Resolved: That the report be noted.

9. NOTICE OF MOTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

County Council.

This Council resolves that:

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

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

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

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

From Councillor Julie Cooper:-

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

From Councillor Naylor:-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11. RECEIPT OF PETITIONS

There were no petitions received.

12. STANDING ORDER 18 - URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business.

13. DISCLOSURE OF EXEMPT INFORMATION

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

14. CIVIC HUB AND RYECROFT

Resolved: That the report be noted.

THE MAYOR COUNCILLOR IAN WILKES
Chair

Meeting concluded at 9.05 pm

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