

COUNCIL

Wednesday, 23rd November, 2016

Time of Commencement: 7.15 pm

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

Councillors:

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

Officers Executive Director (Operational Services) - David Adams,
Executive Director (Regeneration and Development) - Neale Clifton,
Liz Dodd,
Chief Executive - John Sellgren
Executive Director (Resources and Support Services) - Kelvin Turner

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors' Astle, Miss J Cooper, Eagles and G Williams.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

In view of his role at Staffordshire County Council as Cabinet Support Member for Social Care and Wellbeing Councillor Loades declared an interest in item 13 (relating to Bradwell Hospital) and item 14 (relating to the Better Care Fund).

3. MINUTES

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 September, 2016 be agreed as a correct record subject to correcting the spelling of Councillor Sweeney's name at item 10.

4. MAYORAL APPOINTMENT - MACE BEARER

Resolved: That the appointment by the Mayor of Mrs Angela Mayer as Mace Bearer be noted.

5. MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Civic Carol Service would take place at St Giles Church on Sunday 18 December 2016 at 6.30pm

The Mayor's Ball would be held at Keele Hall on Friday 21 April 2017

6. LOCALISED COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME

The Portfolio Holder for Finance, IT and Customer introduced this report which proposed the continuation of the existing Localised Council Tax Reduction Scheme for the financial year 2017/18. He referred to the importance of consistency for residents and on the need to monitor the effects of any changes to the benefits system.

Resolved: That the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for the Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council area, as detailed at Appendix A to the report, be adopted for the financial year 2017/18.

7. CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

The Leader introduced this report which informed member of changes needed to the Constitution to provide authority to act in relation to untaxed vehicles on the highway and to issue Fixed Penalty Notices.

Resolved: That the revisions to the Scheme of Delegation be approved.

8. ELECTORAL REVIEW OF NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME WARDING ARRANGEMENTS

The Leader introduced this report which detailed the consultation currently underway at the Boundary Commission's request on proposals for a new pattern of electoral wards for the Borough. She specifically highlighted the Commission's request that all Community Governance Reviews, including that for Keele Parish Council, be deferred until the completion of their Review.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

9. STATEMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

The Leader submitted a report updating members on the activities and decisions of Cabinet since the last Council meeting. She detailed the findings of an independent report on the Recycling and Waste Review.

Councillor Reddish moved and Councillor Holland seconded that a Special Council meeting be convened to consider the report.

After debate a motion moved by Councillor Snell and seconded by Councillor S. Hambleton that Council proceed to the next business on the agenda was carried.

10. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRS

Planning Committee

Nominations were received for:
Councillor S Hambleton
Councillor Reddish
Councillor Loades

Resolved: That Councillor S. Hambleton be appointed Vice-Chair of the Planning Committee

Public Protection Committee

Nominations were received for:
Councillor Proctor
Councillor Loades
Councillor Walklate

Resolved: That Councillor Proctor be appointed Vice-Chair of the Public Protection Committee

11. REPORTS OF THE CHAIRS OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

Reports were submitted by the Chairs of the following Scrutiny Committees:

Active and Cohesive
Cleaner, Greener and Safer Communities
Health and Wellbeing

Resolved: That the reports of the Scrutiny Chairs be noted.

12. REPORTS OF THE CHAIRS OF THE REGULATORY COMMITTEES

Reports were submitted by the Chairs of the following Regulatory Committees:

Audit and Risk
Licensing

Resolved: That the reports of the Chairs of Regulatory Committees be noted.

13. MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

(1) Implementation of the new 2016 Recycling Service

A motion was received, proposed by Councillor Loades and seconded by Councillor Sweeney regarding the implementation of the new 2016 Recycling Service. Subsequently an amendment to the motion was proposed by Councillor Burch and seconded by Councillor Snell.

Members debated the motion and amendment and, following a vote in favour of a motion that the question be now put, a vote was taken on the amendment as set out below:

After "The Council notes..." delete all text and replace with.

"that the Leader of the Council, Portfolio Holder and Deputy Council Leader have made public apologies via the Reporter, the Sentinel and Radio Stoke to all residents affected by the changes to the new recycling system.

This Council further notes that the Leadership took swift and decisive action to deal with problems when they arose and ensured that problems were addressed as quickly as possible.

This Council recognised the Leadership's commitment to transparency and scrutiny by quickly establishing an independent report to investigate what went wrong and what lessons can be learnt.

This Council welcomes the news from the Leader that the independent report is now complete and will be published in its entirety and scrutinised by the Council's scrutiny committees.

The Council resolves that all recommendations from the independent report and the subsequent scrutiny process be submitted to the Cabinet for their consideration."

Resolved: That the above amendment to the motion be carried.

(2) State Pension Arrangements for Women born in the 1950s

The following motion was received, proposed by Councillor Wright, seconded by Councillor Rout, calling for fair transitional state pension arrangements for women born in the 1950s:

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

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

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

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

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

This Council requests that our Leader write a letter calling upon the Government to reconsider transitional arrangements for women born on or after 6th April 1951, so

that women do not live in hardship due to pension changes they were not told about until it was too late to make alternative arrangements.”

Resolved: That the above motion be carried.

(3) Bradwell Hospital

The following motion was received, proposed by Councillor Jones, seconded by Councillor S. Hambleton regarding the proposed deregistering of 67 community care and rehabilitation beds at Bradwell Hospital:

This Council notes:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This Council believes:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This Council resolves:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Resolved: That the above motion be carried.

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

The following questions were submitted:

1. From Councillor Sweeney to the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture:
Question: The Conservative led County Council has invested a figure, via the Penda Partnership , in the region of £30,000 to support the feasibility study for a new leisure facility in Kidsgrove.

What provision has been made in the Borough Council budget to deliver the Labour manifesto commitment of a new Leisure Centre in Kidsgrove?

Reply: We are grateful to the Penda Property Partnership and Staffordshire County Council for their work which has allowed the preparation of a business case for Kidsgrove Leisure Centre. The Capital Budget is not yet set. Existing facilities will remain open until funds for the new offer are in place.

Supplementary comment: Council was informed 2 meetings ago that funding was in place.

No reply given.

2. From Councillor Sweeney to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing:
Question: In the Newcastle under Lyme Locality profile published October 2016 by the County Council, Kidsgrove is listed as the ninth most at risk ward in Newcastle under Lyme. Can the relevant portfolio Holder explain why this

area has been selected for additional resources in the Miners estate report that went to Cabinet on the 14th September where there are eight worse at risk areas in the Borough?

Reply: Action is specifically being taken in the Miners estate which has been identified as being amongst the 20% most deprived areas in the country. The allocation of additional resources was agreed by Cabinet on 14 September 2016. Properties were originally intended to have a limited life. Enhancement works aim to improve occupancy and community cohesion.

3. From Councillor Sweeney to the Portfolio Holder for Finance, IT and Customer:

Question: One of the decisions of Cabinet on the 14th September was *“That officers be authorised to re-prioritise existing staff resources, in consultation with relevant Portfolio Holders, in order that this initiative can be effectively co-ordinated and managed by the Partnerships Team. That a further report is submitted to Cabinet in October 2016 outlining the medium term resource implications to ensure future delivery can be sustained “*

In this member lead Co-operative Council, what direction have members given to officers about where resources will be taken from to support work on the Miners Estate Galleys Bank Kidsgrove?

Reply: Kidsgrove is a pilot multi-agency project which will then be rolled out across the Borough. Additional resources are being directed into the Communities Team who will manage the project. Early emphasis will be placed on the housing function to address the absence of social housing. It is accepted that the Housing section will need additional resources for this and other initiatives. Priorities will need to be re-determined.

Supplementary question: When will a report be submitted to Cabinet?

Reply: Anticipated to be December meeting. Priorities need to be determined as part of the budget setting process.

4. From Councillor Snell to The Leader:

Question: Since the last full council, further announcements have been made by Staffordshire County Council as to their plans to mitigate the deficit in the 'Better Care Fund' caused by the reduction in funding by the CCG and Government cuts. This includes the closure of Brighton House in Silverdale and the end of direct care provision by the County Council for Newcastle Residents who may need respite or residential care.

As a signatory to the 'Better Care Fund' and a financial contributor, what, if any, attempts have the County Council made to discuss the impact that their decisions may have on Newcastle residents with this council and what discussions, if any, have the County Council instigated with Newcastle Borough Council regarding how our residents money is used as the County Council continues to cut services?

Reply: Brief information was received on decisions taken by the Portfolio Holder for Health, Care and Wellbeing under delegated authority. Budget reductions in a number of other service areas have affected the Borough. eg School Crossing Patrols, Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Services.

Supplementary Question: Given that the £15 million deficit in the BCF has not been fully made up, will the Leader seek information from the County Council on other areas under review?

Reply: Assurances given that detailed information will be sought a future meetings of Staffordshire Leaders and Chief Executives.

15. RECEIPT OF PETITIONS

There were no petitions received.

16. STANDING ORDER 18 - URGENT BUSINESS

There was no Urgent Business.

THE MAYOR COUNCILLOR IAN WILKES
Chair

Meeting concluded at 10.10 pm