

STATEMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL TO FULL COUNCIL – 17TH JANUARY 2018

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 met on the 4th January 2018 and is due to meet again on the afternoon of the 17th January 2018. Decisions are detailed under Items 4 and 5 of this report.

2. **By-Elections**

The two by-elections in Bradwell and Newchapel took place on 14th December 2017. I am pleased to say that there were no reports of any issues or problems and the whole process went according to the detailed plans which were put in place. We can now start to rebuild public confidence in the elections system in the Borough. I congratulate the 2 newly elected Councillors and welcome them to the Council.

3. **Election Apology**

The new administration is working to implement the recommendations of the Independent report into issues faced by voters in Newcastle-under-Lyme at the 8th June General Election. Part of that was a pledge to issue an apology to those affected. This was done during the week before Christmas using information available from a number of sources including the Council's records, the local MP and other candidates who stood in the General Election.

4. **Cabinet Meeting of the 4th January 2018**

1. Joint Local Plan Preferred Options

Cabinet agreed to publish the Preferred Options Consultation Document with the results of the public consultation being brought back to Cabinet later in the year.

2. Economic Development Strategy

The Draft Economic Development Strategy is to be put out to consultation with partner organisations, local businesses and wider community.

3. Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk of Abuse or Neglect – Policy and Procedure

The updated Safeguarding Policy and accompanying procedure for delivery in the Borough was approved.

4. General Fund and Capital Programme Budget Monitoring 2017/18

The Portfolio Holder submitted a Budget Monitoring Report that showed an overspend of £102,000 for Period 8 as at 30 November 2017.

As a result of the problems we have inherited from the previous administration it is anticipated that these could result in an overspend of up to £300,000 by the end of the financial year.

5. Waste and Recycling

Cabinet has agreed to set up a task and finish group to review the Council's recycling and waste service.

This follows the well-publicised long-running problems that escalated during December and into January as a result of bad weather conditions and increased volumes of recycling.

6. Two other reports agreed by Cabinet were:

Procurement for Elections Printing Service and Potential Disposal of Blackfriars Car Park.

5. Cabinet Meeting of the 17th January 2018

To follow.

6. Forward Plan

The Forward Plan covering the period from January to April 2018 can be found at:

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

**Councillor Simon Tagg
Leader of the Council**