

CABINET

Wednesday, 17th January, 2018
Time of Commencement: 2.00 pm

Present:- Councillor Simon Tagg – in the Chair

Councillors Holland, Johnson, Northcott, Sweeney and J Waring

Officers Executive Director (Resources and Support Services) - Kelvin Turner, Executive Director Operational Services- David Adams, Executive Director (Regeneration and Development) - Neale Clifton, John Tradewell - Acting Chief Executive / Head of Paid Service and Jayne Briscoe - Democratic Services Officer

1. **APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest stated.

3. **MINUTES**

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 4 January, 2018 be agreed as a correct record.

4. **TRAVELLER ENCROACHMENT ON WOLSTANTON COMMON - PROPOSED DETERRENT MEASURES**

A report was submitted which sought approval for a scheme to deter traveller encroachment onto Wolstanton Common. The Portfolio Holder for Environment and Recycling reported that the local community had raised sufficient funding to pay for the timber bollards to be installed around the boundaries of the Common which would help to deter future unauthorised encroachment whilst preserving the open nature of the Common.

The Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Wellbeing welcomed the proposals, particularly in view of potential benefits to community safety and was joined in her support for the scheme by the Portfolio Holders for Planning and Regeneration and Finance and Resources who referred to the costs related to the clearing up of the area following previous incursions.

Resolved (i) That Cabinet approve the scheme and authorise the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Recycling to take all necessary steps to implement the scheme, including the seeking of formal consent from the Duchy of Lancaster and

appointment of a contractor, with the scheme being financed from the funds secured via community donations and Staffordshire County Council.

(ii) That Cabinet authorises the Executive Director – Operational Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Recycling to implement similar measures to other areas of the Common in the future should the need arise and funding be available.

5. **ASSET MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

Following the change in Administration, a previous decision of the Cabinet (8/11/2017) relating to the Councils Asset Management Strategy was reconsidered. The “call-in” in relation to this item had been withdrawn.

The Portfolio Holder for Corporate and Service Improvement People and Partnerships noted that the recently commissioned Stock Condition Review would not be completed until April/May 2018 and the Local Joint Plan Preferred Options Document was due to be the subject of a consultation exercise in February 2018, and that this should provide direction in terms of Council-owned land.

In conclusion he considered that the legislation which was put in place to protect Village Green status should be respected.

Resolved: (i) That members accept the reasons for the call-in made following the decision of the previous Cabinet and rescind that decision with immediate effect.

(ii) That officers be asked to bring an updated Asset Management Strategy to a future Cabinet after the completion of the Stock Condition Review and the consultation on the Joint Local Plan Preferred Options Document.

(iii) That officers continue to focus on marketing the large sites that have the benefit of resolutions to grant planning permission with a view to achieving their disposal at the earliest opportunity.

6. **REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS**

A report was submitted which reviewed progress on the completion of the revenue and capital budgets for 2018/19 following agreement of the 5 year Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources thanked the Executive Director – Resources and Support Services and his staff for their work in identifying savings and opportunities to increase revenue which had helped to close the funding gap for 2018/19.

With regard to Council Tax, the figures were set out for both an increase of 2.99% and a £5 (2.70% increase). It was noted that additional savings would need to be found if an increase of 2.70% was agreed.

Resolved (i) That the assumptions set out in the report be approved.

(ii) That the Cabinet recommend to full Council an increase in Council Tax of 2.7% for 2018/19.

(iii) That the Finance, Resources and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee be asked to consider what comments it wishes to make on the draft Budget and Council Tax proposals before the final proposals are considered at Cabinet on 7 February 2018.

7. SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES

A report was submitted to Cabinet which sought approval to the proposed scale of fees and charges to apply from April 2018.

Resolved: That the fees and charges proposed to apply from 1 April 2018, as set out in Appendix 1 be approved.

8. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no Urgent Business.

9. DISCLOSURE OF EXEMPT INFORMATION

Resolved: That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following matter because it is likely that there will be disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972.

10. SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES - CONFIDENTIAL APPENDIX

Resolved: That the report be noted.

11. ATTENDANCE AT CABINET MEETINGS

COUNCILLOR SIMON TAGG
Chair

Meeting concluded at 2.30 pm