

**STATEMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL TO FULL COUNCIL – 21<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY 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 7<sup>th</sup> February 2018 and is due to meet again on the afternoon of the 21<sup>st</sup> February 2018. Decisions are detailed under Items 6 and 7 of this report.

2. **Waste and Recycling Cabinet Task & Finish Group**

The cross-party Cabinet Task & Finish Group under the Chairmanship of Councillor Trevor Johnson has started its review of the Council's Waste and Recycling System.

Interim measures to deal with the problem of missed collections are being implemented as and when required and measures to help deal with issues associated with windy days are being considered.

3. **BID and Town Centre**

The Leader met with the Business Improvement District (BID) Manager and Vice Chair to discuss issues relating to the Market; CCTV; Town Centre Car Parking and future use of the Guildhall.

4. **Sports Facilities in Kidsgrove**

The Cabinet has published its response to the business case submitted by the Kidsgrove Sports Centre Community Group.

Council officers are now working with the Community Group to develop their business case further.

A further update will be brought to the Cabinet meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018.

5. **Castle House**

Staffordshire County Council's building contractor, Kier, have not yet completed the Castle House project to a satisfactory standard in accordance with the building contract.

The fundamental issue relates to the grey facing material applied to the rear façade of the building which needs to be reinstalled to an appropriate quality and standard.

Kier have accepted this and are preparing a programme in liaison with the relevant sub-contractor.

The Council is obviously keen to move into Castle House but will only do so when it is ready for occupation and use.

HDD – our development partner for the wider regeneration of Ryecroft – have agreed to move back the date for taking possession of the vacated Civic Offices building to enable satisfactory completion of Castle House.

Kier and their contractors are bearing all of the costs of the delay and not the public sector partners waiting to move into the new shared accommodation.

6. **Cabinet Meeting of the 7<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

**1. Revenue and Capital Budgets and Council Tax 2018/19**

Cabinet agreed to recommend the Revenue Capital Budget and Council Tax to Full Council of the 21<sup>st</sup> February 2018, which includes a Council Tax increase of 2.7%.

**2. Financial and Performance Management Report to End of Quarter Three (October-December) 2017-18**

Cabinet Members reviewed the Financial and Performance Data for the period to December 2017.

7. **Cabinet Meeting of the 21<sup>st</sup> February 2018**

Cabinet considered a report relating to petitioning on the High Speed Rail (West Midlands - Crewe) Bill that forms part of the Agenda of the Council Meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> February.

8. **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**