

STATEMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL TO FULL COUNCIL – 5TH SEPTEMBER 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 has not met since the last Full Council of 19th July 2018.

2. **Grot Spot Environmental Clean-Up Team**

In response to complaints received from residents who experience problems with fly tipping on privately owned land such as rear alleyways and other accessible spaces, a successful trial was conducted in April this year targeting known grot spots in the Town and Wolstanton Wards. It is now intended that this approach is rolled out across the Borough on a 4 week cyclical basis starting in September this year. A prioritised list of the worst affected areas will be compiled and a team deployed for a day to clear as much of the waste as possible in the allotted time. Requests for clean ups from members and residents when received will be added to the list for the next scheduled clearance day. Issues should be reported through the Council's Customer Service Centre in the usual way.

3. **In Bloom & Champion of Champions Finals**

2018 has been the biggest year for the Borough's In Bloom campaign yet. Not only did the Council compete in the Heart of England Region but also for the first time ever, the National Champion of Champions Finals, which is the absolute pinnacle of the competition. This meant that there has been huge efforts put in by our residents, businesses and staff in preparing and ensuring the Borough looked its best. I would like to thank everyone involved this year and we now await the Regional competition results on 20th September and then the Champion of Champions results on 19th October.

4. **Modern Slavery Charter**

Following the successful motion at last Full Council to subscribe to the Anti-Slavery International's Anti-Slavery Charter a report has been drafted for the Finance, Assets & Performance Scrutiny Committee taking place on 20th September.

The Council reaffirms its commitment to work towards greater transparency toward the people/officers working in the Council's supply chain and to developing a supply chain code of practice to which all our strategies and high value suppliers will need to abide by.

5. **2018 Heatwave**

This spring and summer heatwave placed additional pressure on our staff who worked in the extreme temperatures for an almost unprecedented period. I would like to place on record my thanks to teams such as Streetscene, Recycling and Waste, Parking Enforcement and many others who put up with the sweltering conditions to ensure that services were delivered to residents without disruption.

6. **A new deal between Newcastle Borough Council & Staffordshire County Council**

I had a very productive meeting with the Leader of Staffordshire County Council, Philip Atkins, and officers from both authorities relating to key joint priorities between the two Councils. These are focused around our Town Centres, Keele University, Knutton and Kidsgrove. Details will now be worked up with a view to a report being presented to both Cabinets in due course.

7. **Constitution and Member Support Working Group**

The first meeting of the Constitution and Member Support Working Group took place in August. The Group is tasked with reviewing the Council's Constitution with its findings being brought back to a future Full Council.

8. **Guildhall**

The Council has launched an on-line consultation to help inform the future community based use of the building. Discussions continue to go well with organisations that have expressed an interest of being located in The Guildhall. The consultation can be accessed via the Council's website – www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk.

9. **Forward Plan**

The Forward Plan covering the period from 1/9/18 to 31/12/18 can be found at:

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

Councillor Simon Tagg
Leader of the Council