

STATEMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Submitted by : Councillor Stephen Sweeney

Portfolio: All

Wards affected: All

Purpose of the Report

To provide an update for Members on the activities and decisions of the 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 Cabinet and to enable questions and comments on the statement to relevant Portfolio Holders.

Background

The papers for the full Council meeting on 27 July had already been finalised by the time the Cabinet met on 20 July. This report therefore updates on the decisions made by Cabinet at its July meeting.

Town Centre Public Realm

The Cabinet approved a joint scheme to help reinvigorate Newcastle town centre. This will see a programme of works jointly funded by the Borough Council and County Council. The programme will deliver significant improvements for businesses and residents, particularly by enhancing access arrangements.

Collection of Household Bulky Waste

The Cabinet approved the appointment of the Furniture Mine charity to provide collection of household bulky waste from residents. This will start on 1 October 2011. The charity currently operates a collection services across North Staffordshire and during the last year collected 5,194 items which are then supplied to people on benefits or low incomes.

Lyme Valley (North) Cycle Route

This project, led and funded by Staffordshire County Council, will create a cycle route in the Lyme Brook corridor linking Clayton, the town centre and Silverdale. The route will be of benefit to local schools, residents and businesses. The Cabinet was pleased to facilitate this development by agreeing access across Borough Council land.

Jubilee 2 Update

Cabinet has noted that the construction of Jubilee 2 is on target and within budget with over seventy percent of the build now completed. A grant from Sport England of £400,000 has also been secured to support the development.

Cemetery Memorial Safety Programme

Cabinet has approved a further phase of the council's cemetery memorial safety programme for the period 2011-15.

Plans and Strategies

The Cabinet has approved a revised Procurement and Action Plan. The strategy will enable the council to continue to secure best value through its purchasing. Cabinet has endorsed an equestrian strategy and action plan. The strategy has been developed with the Equestrian Society. Cabinet has commissioned work on a housing allocations policy, affordable housing framework and strategic tenancy strategy. These are the local response to changes in national policy. It has also commenced preparations for the new Community Infrastructure Levy. It has endorsed an initial position regarding the proposed high speed rail link (HS2). Cabinet has requested the Economic Development and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee to undertake detailed work on both Community Infrastructure Levy and HS2 to assist in formulating the borough council's policy position on these matters.

Forward Plan

The Forward Plan covering the period 1 September to 31 December 2011 can be found at:

<http://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/forwardplan>

The next Cabinet meeting is to be held on 7 September. A report detailing the decisions made at this meeting will be made to the Council meeting on 19 October.

Councillor Stephen Sweeney
Leader of the Council