

Chairman - Councillor P M M Farrington

Present (for all or part of the meeting):-

Councillors:

F Beatty	Economic Development and Planning Portfolio
J M Pert	Community and Health Portfolio
J K Price	Environment Portfolio
R M Smith	Deputy Leader and Resources Portfolio

Also present                      Councillor M Phillips

Officers in attendance:-

Mr T Clegg	-	Chief Executive
Mr R Simpson	-	Head of Operations
Mr J Dean	-	Democratic Services Officer

#### **CAB16 Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting held on 1 July 2021 as published on 2 July 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

#### **CAB17 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C V Trowbridge and Dr T Redpath, Corporate Business and Partnerships Manager.

#### **CAB18 Yarnfield and Cold Meece Parish Neighbourhood Area Application**

Considered a report seeking approval to designate Yarnfield and Cold Meece Parish as a Neighbourhood Area for the purpose of producing a Neighbourhood Plan within the remit of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by the Localism Act 2011 and further following such designation, to publish details of the same.

The Cabinet Member, Economic and Development and Planning Portfolio highlighted the proposals as set out in paragraph 2 of the report to which the Cabinet moved directly to voting on the recommendation.

Councillor J M Pert noted that it was pleasing to see the Parish Council wishing to take this step which would bring positive benefits to local residents.

RESOLVED:- that the proposals of the Cabinet Member, Economic Development and Planning Portfolio be approved as follows:-

- That:-
- (a) Yarnfield and Cold Meece Parish be designated as a Neighbourhood Area;
  - (b) Once so designated authorise the publishing of the information set out below on the Council's website and in such other manner so as to ensure that the designation be brought to the attention of people who live, work or carry on business in the neighbourhood area:
    - (i) the name of the neighbourhood area;
    - (ii) a map which identified the area; and
    - (iii) the name of the relevant body who applied for the designation.

**CAB19 Government Grant Funding Stafford Borough Garden Community Proposals**

Considered a report seeking extension to previously approved delegation arrangements associated with the grant funding secured to support the proposed Meecebrook garden community and to secure identical delegation arrangements for additional grant funding received in 2021.

The Cabinet Member, Economic Development and Planning Portfolio highlighted the proposals as set out in paragraph 2 of the report to which the Cabinet moved directly to voting on the recommendation.

RESOLVED:- that the proposals of the Cabinet Member, Economic Development and Planning Portfolio be approved as follows:-

- That:-
- (a) authority to spend the Ministry of Homes Community and Local Government (MHCLG) Garden Communities grant of £750,000, received in 2019 be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Meecebrook Programme Board, for the financial year 2021-22;
  - (b) authority to spend the Ministry of Homes Community and Local Government (MHCLG) Garden Communities grant of £360,000, received in 2021 be delegated to

the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Meecebrook Programme Board, for the financial year of 2021-22;

- (c) the delegation be reviewed by Cabinet for subsequent financial years.

## **CAB20 Community Wellbeing Partnership - Update**

Considered a report updating Members on the work undertaken by the Community Wellbeing Partnership.

In introducing the report, the Cabinet Member, Community and Health Portfolio, welcomed Ben Adams and Helen Fisher to their roles as new Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and respective deputy for Staffordshire following their election successes. The Council enjoyed a close relationship with said office and received a significant amount of funding to commission a number of projects as detailed in paragraph 5.5 of the report.

Councillor Pert concluded his comments by congratulating Officers involved in this area of work for their achievements in delivering the outcomes as illustrated during the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic, before highlighting the proposal as set out in paragraph 2 of the report to which the Cabinet voted on the recommendation.

**RESOLVED:-** that the proposal of the Cabinet Member, Community and Health Portfolio be approved as follows:-

That the content of the report be noted.

## **CAB21 Anti-Social Behaviour Policy**

Considered a report seeking approval of the revised Anti-Social Behaviour Policy for Stafford Borough Council.

The Cabinet Member, Community and Health Portfolio, highlighted the statutory nature of the policy which aimed to reassure local residents and support victims of said crimes through the adoption of a clear policy by reinforcing the Council's commitment to reducing anti-social behaviour.

Councillor Pert then highlighted the proposal as set out in paragraph 2 of the report to which the Cabinet voted on the recommendation.

**RESOLVED:-** that the proposal of the Cabinet Member, Community and Health Portfolio be approved as follows:-

That the Policy be approved.

## **CAB22 Financial Penalties for Housing Standards Offences**

Considered a report seeking the adoption of a Model Financial Penalty Matrix for housing standards offences, to replace the existing penalty matrices relating to offences under the following laws:

- Housing Act 2004
- Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm (England) Regulations 2015
- The Redress Schemes for Lettings Agency Work and Property Management Work (Requirement to Belong to a Scheme etc) (England) Order 2014

and the introduction of the Electrical Safety Standards in the Private Rented Sector (England) Regulations 2020, to be implemented using the Model Financial Penalty Matrix.

The Cabinet Member, Community and Health Portfolio, highlighted the recommended model template as set out in appendix 1 of the report and confirmed that the enforcement of any penalties would be the final course action taken in respect of this matter. Councillor Pert highlighted proposals as set out in paragraph 2 of the report to which the Cabinet voted on the recommendation.

**RESOLVED:-** that the proposals of the Cabinet Member, Community and Health Portfolio be approved as follows:-

- That:-
- (a) a Model Financial Penalty Matrix be adopted to replace existing schemes, and be used as the framework for assessing future financial penalties as new housing standards laws are enacted;
  - (b) enforcement of The Electrical Safety Standards in the Private Rented Sector (England) Regulations 2020 be included within the proposed new Model Financial Penalty Matrix;
  - (c) authority for future technical amendments to the Model Financial Penalty Matrix as a result of changes in legislation, case law or guidance, be delegated to the Head of Service in consultation with the appropriate Cabinet Member.

## **CAB23 Climate Change and Green Recovery Progress Report**

Considered a report providing an update on the activities undertaken by the Council in relation to climate change and green recovery.

The Cabinet Member, Environment Portfolio, was pleased to submit this report which demonstrated the significant progress made in a short time frame, and noted his pride in Officers for their efforts. Councillor Price illustrated the detail as set out section 5 of the report before highlighting the proposal as set out in paragraph 2, to which the Cabinet voted on the recommendation.

RESOLVED:- that the proposal of the Cabinet Member, Environment Portfolio be approved as follows:-

That progress be noted and the report be submitted to Council in September 2021.

The Leader of the Council thanked the Cabinet Member and his Officers for their work in this field, of which the Council were a leading example amongst Local Authorities in Staffordshire. Councillor Farrington was disappointed to note the lack of attendance of representatives of local environmental groups and opposition Members at the meeting during consideration of this important issue.

**THIS ITEM IS NOT SUBJECT TO CALL IN AND WILL BE REFERRED TO COUNCIL ON 14 SEPTEMBER 2021.**

#### **CAB24 Land East of Fairway - Local Nature Reserve Declaration**

Considered a report proposing declaration of a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) on land adjacent to Fairway, Stafford.

The Cabinet Member, Environment Portfolio confirmed his pride and excitement in submitting the report which demonstrated the commitment of the Council in terms of protecting and enhancing the natural environment. The proposal would provide the largest Council owned LNR and was the perfect opportunity to enhance green corridors within Stafford and surrounding areas. Councillor Price concluded his comments by highlighting the proposal as set out in paragraph 2 of the report to which the Cabinet voted on the recommendation.

The Leader of the Council and Cabinet colleagues were unanimous in supporting the proposal and thanked Councillor Price and his Officers for their efforts in bringing this project to fruition.

RESOLVED:- that the proposal of the Cabinet Member, Environment Portfolio be approved as follows:-

That the Council owned land at Fairway (as indicated on the map in Appendix 1 of the report) be declared as Local Nature Reserve (LNR).

CHAIR