



South Staffordshire Council

Report of the Leader of the Council

Date: 26th March 2024

Introduction and Overview

This report provides a summary on matters that have been the subject of consideration at Cabinet meetings February 2024 – March 2024.





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Date	Report Title	Lead Cabinet Member/ area	Summary	Outcome
6.02.2024	Approval of governance for Distribution of Community Wellbeing Funds	Councillor Roger Lees BEM – Corporate	The Council has been successful in attracting Health Inequalities Funding (£236,000) from the Covid Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) which is held by Staffordshire County Council. This fund combined with funding from the Council’s Community is the best Medicine Funding (£30,000), Community Wellbeing funding (£20,000) and the West Midlands Interchange Community funding (£65,000) is proposed to be launched as one ‘Community and Wellbeing’ funding package totalling (£370,000), to maximise the reach and benefit to residents and communities across the district, the report set out the Governance arrangements for determining applications for bids against this funding.	Governance proposal approved.
13.02.2024	Quarter 3 Budget Monitoring	Councillor Roger Lees BEM – Finance	<p>The report set out the projected financial position for the council as at the end of quarter 3 (31st December 2023).</p> <p>The current projection is there will be a positive variance of £3.246m compared to budget at the end of 2023/24. Of this, £2.087m will be transferred into earmarked</p>	Cabinet noted the improved position.



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			<p>reserves and £1.159m back into the General Fund.</p> <p>This is an improved position compared to quarter 2 and the main reason for this is due to additional Section 31 grants that have been confirmed relating to Business Rates reliefs.</p>	
20.02.24	DFG Shared Service Update	Councillor Robert Reade – Welfare Services	<p>The purpose of the report is to provide an update on the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) shared service with Stafford Borough Council.</p> <p>The report details the performance since the new service began in April 2023, the committed and pipeline spend for this financial year, and the plans for the development of the team to futureproof the workforce.</p>	Cabinet noted the average number of weeks from referral to completion is already improving from previous years.
20.02.2024	Integrated Performance Management (IPM) Report	Councillor Roger Lees BEM – Corporate	<p>The report provided an update as of 31st December 2023 for Quarter 3 of 2023/24 on performance, finance, and risk. This includes results against performance targets set to monitor delivery of the Council Plan 2020 – 2024.</p> <p>This is the final year of the current Council Plan.</p>	Cabinet noted there continued to be a strong performance across the Council in quarter 3 with 17 of the 21 indicators being on target, matched by financial performance. Also, noting the new indicators set by the Office for Local Government



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20.02.2024	South Staffordshire Council Plan 2024-2028	Councillor Roger Lees BEM – Corporate	<p>The report shared with Cabinet the first draft of the new Council Plan for 2024-28.</p> <p>Every four years the Council produces a new Council Plan, following the election of a new Council. Prior to the plan being produced the relevant data sets are updated, including the Place Narrative and the Locality Profile. These documents feed into the production of the new plan providing insight into the key challenges and opportunities the district faces, whilst also informing the new vision and priorities. A resident survey is also carried out and again survey results are used to inform plan content.</p>	Cabinet approved the draft Council Plan for 2024 -2028.
27.02.24	Proposed Civic Policy	Councillor Roger Lees BEM - Governance	For Members to consider a formal Civic Policy setting out the role of the Chairman of the Council, to assist the Chairman to understand their role and responsibilities and to provide guidance for when undertaking civic duties. The policy provides clarification on the range of civic functions held, the election process and guidance on use of civic regalia.	Cabinet approved the Civic Policy.
27.02.24	Major Projects - Monthly Overview	Councillor David Williams - Commercial Assets and Estates	This report provides a monthly update on all live major projects from the Commercial, Assets and Estates Team. Live projects include Unit 4E, Wombourne Enterprise Centre,	Cabinet noted the progress on the developments and the imminent completion of Unit 4E.



			<p>Landywood roofing works, Wolverhampton Road houses.</p> <p>At Unit 4E, the fire damaged factory rebuild is on schedule for early completion in April. The new tenant is ready to move in when the building contractor vacates.</p> <p>Wombourne Enterprise park construction is underway, ground works have commenced with the old slab removed and new water attenuation tank locations being dug.</p> <p>Landywood Roofing works contract has been awarded to Jeakins Weir. Orders for decarbonisations materials have been placed and work will commence on site in April when weather conditions improve and are more suited for roofing works.</p> <p>Extension works on Wolverhampton Road houses continue and remains on programme. Both properties are now watertight, and second fix is underway.</p>	
27.02.24	New Build and Damaged Bin Charges	Councillor Kath Perry MBE - Waste Management	The report sets out a proposal for the introduction of charges for the provision of bins at new build properties, and for cost	Cabinet approved the introduction of a cost recovery-based charge for the provision of New



			<p>recovery for replacement bins where they are damaged by the user.</p> <p>The report builds on the initial 2022/23 RPP proposals which aim to mitigate the growing cost of supplying new and replacement bins in specific circumstances by means of a reasonable cost recovery charge made to the party requesting the new or replacement bins. This policy will not extend to circumstances where a bin is damaged during collection, or where a resident qualifies for additional free capacity under our existing policies (e.g. offensive waste collection need).</p>	<p>build properties (with the charge payable by the developer of the properties) and Replacement bins where the cause of the request is due to damage by the user (e.g. used for inappropriate purposes, melted due to hot contents) or the user would like to replace a functional bin (e.g. due to the bin not being clean).</p>
05.03.24	Pay Policy Statement for 2024/2025	Councillor Roger Lees BEM - Corporate	<p>The Council is required to prepare a Pay Policy Statement for each financial year and proposed Pay Policy Statement for 2024/25.</p> <p>The Pay Policy Statement has been updated to reflect nationally agreed pay awards and any figures set out within the policy, for example pension contribution rates and pay multiples.</p> <p>The report also proposes the adoption of a new Talent Attraction and Retention Policy and an updated Market Supplement Policy recognising that recruitment and retention are</p>	<p>Members supported the pay policy statement 2024/25, adoption of a Talent and Retention policy and the updated Market Supplement policy, contributing to the council being an “employer of choice.”</p>



			now considered to be the most significant workforce challenges facing Local Government.	
05.03.24	Street Scene – Additional Crew	Councillor Kath Perry MBE – Community Services	<p>Environmental maintenance enhancements on Council owned land are commonly identified and raised by Members during the scheduled ward walk programme and on an ad hoc basis. Whilst the current staffing resources within Street Scene allows the team to complete our scheduled work programme to a high standard. There are challenges to meet ad hoc requests without impacting on service standards across our core operations.</p> <p>To address this gap and to enhance our open spaces a recommendation to introduce a dedicated Street Scene crew in addition to our core operations which would be Member led targeting local issues on District Council owned land was supported by Cabinet on 21st November 2023 and subsequently approved as part of the RPP process and the Councils financial budgets for 2024/2025 and 2025/2026.</p> <p>It is proposed to allocate work on a ward basis providing an equitable split across members</p>	Members supported the approach of allocating in the first year the additional resources by ward and welcomed the members briefing scheduled March 14 th .



			which equates to 12 days per ward across the first year of the programme.	
12.03.24	Proposed Corporate Enforcement Policy for Consultation	Councillor Rita Heseltine – Regulatory Services	<p>The Regulator’s Code issued by the Department for Business Innovation and Skills requires that local authorities review and update their Enforcement Policy on a regular basis.</p> <p>The Enforcement Policy provides guidance to all officers engaged in enforcement work on behalf of the Council and gives all businesses and individuals clear guidance on how we go about enforcement.</p> <p>The revised draft Enforcement Policy has been updated to reflect changes in legislation and service standards.</p> <p>The report proposes a draft Enforcement Policy for engagement with stakeholders prior to its implementation.</p>	Members supported the draft Enforcement policy for further engagement with stakeholders.
12.03.24	Proposed Statement of Gambling Principles 2024-2027 For Consultation	Councillor Rita Heseltine – Regulatory Services	<p>The Gambling Act 2005 requires that local authorities review and publish their Statement of Gambling Principles (Gambling Policy) every 3 years.</p> <p>The Statement of Gambling Principles, or Gambling Policy, provides the framework</p>	Members supported the draft Gambling policy for consultation.



			<p>within which Licensing and Regulatory Committee and Officers make decisions on matters relating to the Gambling Act 2005.</p> <p>The Gambling Act requires that the Gambling Policy must be consulted on and specifies who must be consulted.</p> <p>The report proposes a draft Gambling Policy to approve for consultation.</p>	
12.03.24	The Council's Response to the Governments Consultation on Reforms to Social Housing Allocations	Councillor Robert Reade – Welfare Services	<p>The purpose of the report is to outline the Council's proposed response to the Governments consultation on reforms to social housing allocations.</p> <p>The consultation will inform secondary legislation proposed for - Part 6 of the Housing Act 1996. The Secretary of State may prescribe classes of persons eligible or ineligible for an allocation of social housing and may also prescribe qualification criteria local housing authorities use to allocate social housing. The consultation will also inform new eviction grounds under the Housing Acts 1985 and 1988.</p> <p>It is not proposed within this consultation to change the rules or guidance on reasonable</p>	Members supported the draft response to the consultation which will be shared with all members and noted the potential implications on demands for temporary accommodation.



			<p>and additional preference that local housing authorities follow to prioritise allocations.</p> <p>The proposed responses highlight the need for change to the allocation of social housing to ensure this limited resource is allocated fairly, however, the current proposals will have a significant impact on our ability to support many who approach us as homeless and could lead to individuals needing to be placed in costly Temporary Accommodation for what could be many years.</p>	
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