

COUNCIL

14 MAY 2024

PRESENT:

Councillors Anketell, Ashton, Ball, Banevicius, Booker, Bragger, Checkland, Coe, Cox, Cross, Farrell, D Ennis, L Ennis, Evans, Galvin, Harvey-Coggins, Henshaw, Hill, Holland, Hughes, Leung, Marshall, Mears, Norman, Powell, Pullen, Ray, Robertson, Rushton, Salter, Silvester-Hall, A Smith, J Smith, Strachan, P Taylor, S Taylor, Trent, Vernon, Warfield, Whitehouse, M Wilcox, S Wilcox, Woodward and B Yeates

103 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (IF ANY)

Apologies were received from Cllrs Bennion, Hawkins and Ho.

104 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr M. Wilcox declared an interest in Item 7 - Report of The Leader of The Council on Cabinet Decisions – Disabled Facilities Grants Framework - as any reference to the Better Care Fund sits within his portfolio as a Staffordshire County Council Cabinet member.

Cllrs Ball and Robertson declared an interest in Item 18 - To Change the Medium-Term Financial Strategy to Build a Leisure Centre in Lichfield – as this is within their ward.

Cllr Hughes declared an interest in Item 3 - Election of Chair of The Council for The Ensuing Year (Followed by Declaration of Acceptance of Office) – and vacated the room in advance of this item.

Cllr Farrell and Chief Executive Simon Fletcher both later declared an interest in Item 14 - Delivering Temporary Accommodation for Vulnerable Residents – as Directors of LWMTS.

105 ELECTION OF CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE ENSUING YEAR (FOLLOWED BY DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE)

The Vice-Chair Cllr Holland (in the Chair) asked for nominations.

Cllr Woodward nominated Cllr Hughes. This was seconded by Cllr Robertson.

RESOVLED: Cllr Hughes was elected as Chair of Lichfield District Council for the ensuing year.

Councillor Hughes made and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. Councillor Hughes then thanked Members for her election as Chair.

106 TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Subject to the amendments proposed by members, the Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 May 2024 were approved as a correct record.

107 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL FOR THE ENSUING YEAR (FOLLOWED BY DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE)

The Leader, Cllr Pullen, nominated Cllr Holland. This was seconded by Cllr Powell.

RESOLVED: Cllr Holland was elected as Vice-Chair of Lichfield District Council for the ensuing year.

Councillor Holland signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and thanked Members for his appointment as Vice-Chair.

108 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair confirmed details of a Civic Service would be forthcoming.

The Chair confirmed that her chosen charity for the year would continue to be MHA Communities South Staffordshire and looked forward to supporting them.

109 REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL ON CABINET DECISIONS FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 7 MAY 2024 AND CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS.

Councillor Pullen submitted his report on Cabinet Member Decisions.

110 MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was proposed by Cllr Marshall, seconded by Cllr Checkland and

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 08 April 2024 be approved and adopted.

111 MINUTES OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

It was proposed by Cllr Whitehouse, seconded by Cllr Vernon and

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 April 2024 be approved and adopted.

112 REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF AUDIT COMMITTEE

Cllr Whitehouse submitted the Report of the Chair of Audit Committee to Council.

113 MEMBERSHIP OF CABINET, COMMITTEES, PANELS AND OTHER APPOINTMENTS (INCLUDING ALLOCATION OF SEATS AND APPOINTMENTS BY POLITICAL GROUPS)

It was proposed by Cllr Pullen and duly seconded by Cllr Woodward "that the Membership of Cabinet, Committees and Panels including the allocation of seats and appointments by Political Groups as submitted be approved." Both members congratulated Cllr Whitehouse on his appointment to the Cabinet.

RESOLVED:

(1) That the political allocation of seats on Committees and Panels be agreed.

(2) That the appointments to the Cabinet, Committees and Panels as submitted by the Group Leaders be approved.

(3) That the Constitution be amended to reflect the changes made.

114 ELECTION OF CHAIRS AND APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES, PANELS ETC.

It was proposed by Cllr Pullen and duly seconded by Cllr Farrell “that the Chair and Vice-Chair of Committees and Panels as submitted be approved.”

Cllr Woodward proposed an amendment to the proposal, seconded by Cllr Robertson, replacing seven nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair of committees with the following members:

- Cllr P Taylor as Chair of Audit Committee
- Cllr J Smith as Chair of Member Standards Committee
- Cllr Harvey-Coggins as Chair of Planning Committee
- Cllr Ashton as Vice-Chair of Planning Committee
- Cllr Evans as Chair of Regulatory & Licensing Committee
- Cllr Banevicius as Chair of Employment Committee
- Cllr Mears as Vice-Chair of Employment Committee

This amendment was approved by Council.

Cllr Pullen proposed an amendment to the amended motion, seconded by Cllr Farrell, replacing four nominations for Vice-Chair of committees with the following members:

- Cllr Yeates as Vice-Chair of Regulatory & Licensing Committee
- Cllr Ho as Vice-Chair of Audit Committee
- Cllr S Wilcox as Vice-Chair of Employment Committee
- Cllr Hill as Vice-Chair of Member Standards Committee

This amendment was approved by Council. It was then

RESOLVED:

(a) that the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of committees and panels etc. be approved as amended.

Cllr Woodward nominated Cllr Norman as Chair of Overview & Scrutiny committee. This was seconded by Cllr M. Wilcox.

RESOLVED:

(b) That Councillor Norman be appointed as the Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee

115 APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

It was proposed by Councillor Pullen and duly seconded by Councillor Farrell “that the appointment of representatives on outside bodies as submitted be approved.”

Cllr Woodward proposed an amendment, seconded by Cllr D. Ennis, appointing Cllr Robertson as the representative on the Police, Fire & Crime Panel with Cllr P Taylor as the substitute.

This amendment was approved by Council.

RESOLVED: That the appointment of Representatives on Outside Bodies as amended be approved.

116 DELIVERING TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION FOR VULNERABLE RESIDENTS

Cllr Pullen proposed the report which introduced a proposal for Lichfield District Council to directly intervene and invest in the current under-provision of temporary accommodation across the district, to Council. This was seconded by Cllr Cox.

RESOLVED:

(1) Full Council approves the spend of commuted sums and Right to Buy receipts, projected to the end of the current financial year, on delivering new temporary accommodation in the district, and to delegate the selection of units to the Cabinet Member for Housing & the Local Plan, S151 Officer and Assistant Director for Customer, Resident & Business Services, subject to a completed options appraisal.

(2) Full Council requests the purchase, refitting and management of the properties purchased using the funding agreed, for the purpose of delivering new temporary accommodation, is carried out by the council's wholly owned company LWM Traded Services Ltd.

(3) Full Council acknowledges that a wrap-around support package will be required to ensure the welfare of individuals and families placed in the temporary accommodation units and the ongoing maintenance and management of units, and delegates the delivery of an options appraisal and selection of the most effective support package to the Cabinet Member for Housing & the Local Plan, the S151 Officer and Assistant Director for Customer, Resident & Business Services, subject to the costs of the delivery being within approved budgets.

(4) Full Council approves an increase of the approved budget in the capital programme for new temporary accommodation in the district by £979,000 from £1,178,000 to £2,157,000 with funding provided by additional projected housing capital receipts of (£979,000). Full Council acknowledges that future commuted sums and capital receipts may be allocated to further affordable housing as part of the normal budget monitoring process.

117 LICHFIELD DISTRICT 2050 STRATEGY

Cllr Pullen proposed the Lichfield District 2050 Strategy to Council. This was seconded by Cllr Woodward.

RESOLVED:

(1) That the Lichfield District 2050 Strategy and the Year 1 Delivery Plan be endorsed for adoption.

(2) Finalising the details of the Lichfield District 2050 Strategy and the Year 1 Delivery Plan be delegated to the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive, prior to final publication.

118 QUESTIONS

No questions were received under Procedure Rule 11.2.

119 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: "That as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business, which would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972"

IN PRIVATE

120 TO CHANGE THE MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY TO BUILD A LEISURE CENTRE IN LICHFIELD

Consideration was given to a change to the medium-term strategy to build a leisure centre in Lichfield.

(Please see confidential Minutes).

(The Meeting closed at 7.21 pm)

CHAIR