

COUNCIL

17 JULY 2018

PRESENT:

R. J. Awty (Chairman)
Bacon, Mrs N (Vice Chairman)

Banevicius, Mrs S. W.
Boyle, Mrs M. G.
Constable, Mrs B. L.
Cox, R. E.
Drinkwater, E. N.
Eagland, Mrs J. M.
Evans, Mrs C. D.
Humphreys, K. P.
Leytham, D. J.

Little, Mrs E. A.
Mosson, R. C.
Marshall, T.
O'Hagan, J. P.
Pullen, D. R.
Rayner, B. L.
Salter, D. F.
Shepherd, Miss O. J.
Spruce, C. J.

Stanhope MBE, Mrs M.
Strachan, R. W.
Tittley, M. C.
Tranter, Mrs E. H.
M. A. Warfield
White, A. G.
Woodward, Mrs S. E.
Yeates, B. W.

25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (IF ANY)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs Barnett, Bamborough, Eadie, Grotorex, Mrs Pullen, Ray, Smith and Wilcox.

26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

27 TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF ANNUAL COUNCIL HELD ON 15 MAY 2018

It was proposed and duly seconded "that the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 15 May 2018 as printed and previously circulated be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

28 TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 26 JUNE 2018

It was proposed and duly seconded "that the Minutes of the Meeting of the special Council held on 26th June 2018 as printed and previously circulated be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman."

Mr Mark Hooper, Democratic and Legal Officer was thanked by the Council for producing a detailed record of the meeting.

29 TO RECEIVE THE RETURNING OFFICERS CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR AND REPORT OF DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE FOR WARD NO 10 (CURBOROUGH)

It was reported that Colin Ball had been elected as a District Councillor for Curborough Ward at an election on 5 July 2018 and that his Declaration of Acceptance of Office had been completed. Councillors Mrs Woodward and Pritchard welcomed Councillor Ball to the Council.

RESOLVED: That the Returning Officer's Certificate of Election for Councillor Ball for Curborough Ward be received.

30 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) Councillor Colin Ball

The Chairman welcomed the newly elected Councillor Ball to the Council.

(b) Chairman's Blog

The Chairman reported that his blog was now up and running and available for all to see what he is doing during his term in office.

He said he took part in the 100th anniversary of Aethelflaed, Lady of the Mercians and was pleased to see Councillor Miss Shepherd play the role of the ruler.

(c) Chairman's Civic Service

The Chairman reminded Councillors of the Civic Service on Sunday 22nd July at 3pm at St. Michael's Church.

(d) Sam Gillian

The Chairman welcomed Mr Gillian who was on work experience within Legal and Democratic Services to the chamber.

31 REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL ON CABINET DECISIONS FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 12 JUNE AND CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS (GREY ENCLOSURE).

1 – Money matters 2017/18: review of the Financial Performance Against the Financial Strategy – April to March 2018

Councillor Mrs Evans asked what the implications of the Capital Programme slippage was and what the money would be spent on. Councillor Pritchard replied that had not been discussed but was most likely be from DFGs. He stated that he would confirm the details of the slippage and give the information to all Members.

2 – Compulsory Purchase Order at Land at the Windmill, Grange Lane, Lichfield

Councillor Mrs Woodward asked, on behalf of Councillor Drinkwater what the cost and purpose was of the CPO. Councillor Pritchard reported that it was to enable and facilitate development with a nil cost to the Council.

3 – Community Infrastructure Levy: Allocating and Spending CIL: Additional Guidance

Councillor Mrs Banevicius asked if CIL would be split evenly across the District. Councillor Pritchard replied that that it would be spent where needed and Burntwood would not be ignored. He informed the Council that there was body which considered all needs for CIL monies along with the CIL123 document.

6 - Allocation of Non Site Specific Section 106 Relating to Planning Application 03/00627/OUT (Hawksyard)

Councillor Cox stated that he welcomed the decision overall but accepted with a heavy heart that allocation of S106 monies had been given for projects in Brereton and Ravenhill parish in Cannock Chase as it was a lot of money for one project when there were so many others in the area. Councillor Pritchard reported that Armitage with Handsacre was granted all funds that were applied for.

10 – Friarsgate

Councillor Mrs Woodward referred to the decision of purchasing the Police Station and that the cost rose from £1.4m to £1.913m and requested clarification as to why this had happened. She also asked if any discussions had taken place with the Police and Crime Commissioner regarding the purchase. Councillor Pritchard informed the Council that the £1.4m figure was for the purchase of the Police Station. He reported that the extra amount included demolition and insurance costs. He also reported that some of these extra costs had been offset with the Police having a unit within the Friarsgate scheme to use as an office but as that this was no longer happening, the full amount had been recalculated for the purchase.

32 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE JOINT ECONOMIC GROWTH, ENVIRONMENT & DEVELOPMENT AND STRATEGIC (OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY) COMMITTEE HELD ON 30 MAY 2018

It was proposed and duly seconded “that the Minutes of the Joint Economic Growth, Environment & Development and Strategic (Overview & Scrutiny) Committees held on 30 May 2018 as printed and previously circulated be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.”

33 REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMUNITY, HOUSING AND HEALTH (OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY) COMMITTEE (GREEN ENCLOSURE)

Councillor Miss Shepherd submitted the report on the items considered by the Community, Housing & Health (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee on 31 May 2018.

2 – Update on the Merger of Burton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Derby Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Councillor Ball stated that he had concerns at the statement that there would not be any redundancies and hoped for some evidence to back this up as this has been the case elsewhere. He requested that the subject remain as an item on the work programme for the Committee to monitor.

Councillor Mrs Evans requested further information on the proposed bus service between the Burton and Derby hospital sites and what the cost of the service would be. She had concerns that it would be further to travel from Burntwood especially for elderly and this should be considered.

Councillor Mrs Banevicius hoped that the quality of services provided would improve from the current offer.

Councillor Miss Shepherd responded that the item would return to the Committee in January or March to receive a further update. She assured that the Committee would continue to seek assurance that there would not be any redundancies along with information regarding bus services.

Councillor White stated that he wished to see improvements of services and this should be a clinically led process. He reported that there would be a reshaping of provisions and gave the example that treatment for stroke would move to Derby as the specialists are at that site with the option of attending Queens hospital if required. He said he was reassured that the Samuel Johnson and Sir Robert Peel community hospitals would remain along with the Accident & Emergency Unit at Queen's Hospital for the foreseeable future.

COUNCILLOR WHITE DECLARED A PERSONAL INTEREST AS A MEMBER OF THE SUSTAINABILITY & TRANSFORMATION PLAN BOARD

Councillor Mrs Constable reminded the Council that the public needed reassurances too and there was concern regarding travel.

Councillor Leytham reported that initially the Staffordshire County Council Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee was reluctant of the merger but this had changed through further scrutiny and they were now satisfied.

Councillor Mrs Woodward said she supported the merger however felt more detail was required and she was pleased that the item would be returning to the Committee. She felt that the NHS could not afford to have specialists in all centres and services needed to be sustainable. She believed a there needed to be a clear communications plan to residents to help the community to understand.

4 – Standing Items

Councillor Mrs Woodward asked whether the Committee could track the progress of the cessation of services at Hawthorn House.

COUNCILLOR WHITE DECLARED A PERSONAL INTEREST AS THE STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH, CARE AND WELLBEING

COUNCILLOR MRS EAGLAND DECLARED A PERSONAL INTEREST AS A MEMBER OF THE STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL HEALTH STAFFORDSHIRE SELECT COMMITTEE

Councillor Mrs Baker stated that as the new Chairman for the Committee she had noted the request and would put it on the work programme.

34 REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ECONOMIC GROWTH, ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY) COMMITTEE (BUFF ENCLOSURE).

Councillor Cox submitted his report on the items considered by the Economic Growth, Environment and Development (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee on 20 June 2018.

2 – Work Programme

Councillor Ball remarked that he would be joining the Committee and asked the Chairman whether he felt there was a need for a cross party working group to consider plans for the Friarsgate site.

Councillor Cox responded that the Committee would look at plans as and when appropriate and the item would be included on the work programme.

35 THE CHAIRMEN INDICATED BELOW TO MOVE THAT THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES (VOLUME 48 PART 1 MINUTE BOOK) BE RECEIVED AND, WHERE NECESSARY, APPROVED AND ADOPTED.

(a) Planning Committee – 4 June 2018

It was proposed by Councillor Marshall “that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 4 June 2018 be approved and adopted.”

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 4 June 2018 be approved and adopted.

(b) Planning Committee – 2 July 2018

It was proposed by Councillor Marshall “that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 2 July 2018 be approved and adopted.”

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 2 July 2018 be approved and adopted.

(c) Employment Committee – 3 July 2018

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Baker “that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Employment Committee held on 3 July 2018 be approved and adopted.”

Councillor Mrs Woodward asked how it was ensured that Members sign up to the Equality and Diversity Strategy. Councillor Mrs Baker reported that training was provided and was well attended by Councillors. She also reported that all staff were made aware of the Strategy and given a copy as well as at interview stage.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Employment Committee held on 3 July 2018 be approved and adopted.

(d) Regulatory and Licensing Committee – 5 July 2018

It was proposed by Councillor B. Yeates “that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Regulatory and Licensing Committee held on 5 July 2018 be approved and adopted.”

Councillor Mrs Stanhope noted that Scrap Metal Licensing was a Cabinet function and requested that Cabinet Members informed residents of applications to ensure they know how many are operating in their area.

Councillor Mrs Woodward expressed the importance of the Environmental Crime Strategy for Lichfield and requested that maintenance of open space be checked by all Members as these areas can become degraded over time.

Councillor White also welcomed the Environmental Crime Strategy and requested that the Chairman work with other agencies to monitor commercial fly-tipping in the area. He reported that it was an increasing issue with tippers coming from the north of the County to illegally dispose of waste in the more rural areas. He noted that private land owners had the greatest difficulties with this problem.

Councillor B. Yeates reported that the Committee were keeping an eye on all fly-tipping and he would ensure that all members are informed of open space maintenance matters.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Regulatory and Licensing Committee held on 5 July 2018 be approved and adopted.

36 MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES

It was proposed by Councillor Pritchard “that the changes to the membership of Committees as submitted be approved.”

Councillor Mrs Woodward said she was pleased that her concerns of the lack of replacement Members on Strategic (Overview & Scrutiny) Committee had been considered and that Councillor Rayner would now be joining the Committee. She welcomed him to the Committee and looked forward to working with him and his valuable input.

RESOLVED: That the Membership of Committees and Outside Bodies as submitted be approved.

37 REVISED PAY POLICY STATEMENT

Councillor Mrs Woodward noted the Gender Pay report and that Lichfield District Council was doing well compare to other local authorities and private companies however more could still be done to improve. She also felt that the workforce was not biased towards one gender with 54% women and 46% men and flexible working patterns were supportive but should be monitored.

Councillor Ball asked for a report on roles that have essential car user allowance with details of the split between higher and lower grade officers.

Councillor Mrs Little responded that she would get this information to Councillor Ball.

Councillor Mrs Banevicius noted that there was 312 members of staff and asked how many there were in 2015 and the cost of consultancy since that date. She noted that there were four apprenticeships out of a target of seven and asked how many were under the age of 25 as she felt young people were not being helped.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Boyle, seconded by Councillor Mrs Little and

RESOLVED: That the 2018/19 Pay Policy Statement be approved.

38 QUESTIONS

Q1. Question from Councillor Rayner to the Leader of the Council:

“As the village of Fradley grows it has become clear to members of the Parish Council that a larger body of representatives would be best placed to represent the Community. The Parish Council has asked if the Council would consider expanding the membership of the Parish Council to ensure the new community’s needs are heard at a local level. Please may the Council confirm whether this will be considered moving forward by Lichfield District Council.”

Response from the Leader of the Council:

“It is important that parish councils represent an identifiable community and that they have sufficient capacity to undertake their work. Of course over time the size and shape of parishes need to be reviewed so that they reflect the communities and areas that they serve.

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 describes how such reviews are conducted and how any changes are agreed and implemented.

The Act says that Lichfield District Council is considered to be the ‘principal council’ on parish matters in this area and it has the authority to decide where parish councils are established; where parish boundaries are drawn and the number of councillors for each parish council.

To consider changes affecting such matters, the council must conduct a community governance review to ensure that any decision takes into account the views of local people. A review can be initiated by a decision of this council, or by the submission of a petition of parish residents.

The council acknowledges that it is some time since parishes were reviewed in the district and that recent and planned housing developments may mean that some boundaries between parishes may no longer be sensible or that the size of some councils may not be quite right.

It is understood that a community governance review can take 12 months to complete. Given the need to consult widely with the community and with other stakeholders, it is anticipated that a review will be scoped in late 2019.”

Councillor Rayner then asked the following supplementary question:

“Is this to be scoped in 2019 and when will it go forward as a review?”

Councillor Pritchard responded

“It will be scoped in 2019 to go forward in 2020”

Q2. Question from Councillor Mrs Woodward to the Leader of the Council:

In his New Year’s Message for 2018 which is still on the District Council website, the Leader said:

“Looking back on 2017, there have been many highlights. We demolished the former Tempest Ford showroom and garage site and two houses on Frog Lane in Lichfield, in

preparation for Friarsgate. The site is now ready for construction work to start on the main scheme, which includes shops, restaurants, a cinema, housing and more, this coming year.

Would the Leader accept that he was overly optimistic in this judgement of the Friarsgate project?"

Response from the Leader of the Council:

"I have a generally optimistic approach to life, and whilst hindsight is a great thing, I did have and still hold the belief that although the present Friarsgate Scheme is at an end, we do now have a wonderful opportunity to develop this and other sites within the City to deliver what Lichfield requires and deserves in today's changing markets.

Councillor Mrs Woodward then asked the following supplementary question:

"This was more blind optimism and the demolition of Tempest Ford is regarded as a highlight? We have all received the email from the owner and I have emailed the Leader of the Council for a meeting with all key stakeholders and no date has been set as yet despite reminders. The formal response given was insulting."

Councillor Pritchard gave the following response

"It has been difficult to get all parties together as it includes external people but as soon as I have dates, I will come back to you."

Q3 Question from Councillor Ball to the Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services, Housing and Wellbeing:

"What is the current average weekly rent for 1, 2 and 3 bedroomed homes class as "affordable rent" homes and also the current average weekly rent for the same type of properties classed as "social rent" homes in Lichfield District and how many of the 50 social housing for rent dwellings built in 2015/16 and 2016/17 were "affordable rent" homes and how many were "social rent" homes?"

Response from the Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services, Housing and Wellbeing:

"The latest available information that we can access on the average weekly rents of Registered Providers with housing stock in Lichfield District is shown in the table below.

Lichfield District average rents at 31 st March 2017	1 bed	2 bed	3 bed
Average weekly Affordable Rent for general needs properties	£87.84	£102.76	£118.16
Average Weekly Social Rent for general needs properties	£77.05	£87.49	£99.07

Note: the Affordable Rent figures include service charges; the Social Rent figure excludes any service charges.

The source of this information is: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/statistical-data-return-2016-to-2017> It has been supplied to Homes England (formerly the

Homes and Communities Agency) by all Registered Providers through an annual statistical return.

Of the 50 social housing for rent homes built in 2015/16 and 2016/17, 45 were affordable rent and 5 were social rent.”

Councillor Ball then asked the following supplementary question:

“I am surprised social rent is not much lower than affordable rent. Out of 50 affordable homes, only five are social rent. Does the Cabinet Member agree that is appalling?

Councillor A Yeates gave the following response:

“I have found out that social and affordable rents can differ from road to road and is not an exact science and I am working with Officers and with your help will move this subject forward.”

Q4 Question from Councillor Ball to the Cabinet Member for Corporate and Customer Services, Revenues and Benefits:

What is the average waiting time for people to receive Universal Credit in Lichfield District and also the longest and shortest waiting times in the District, since Universal Credit was introduced to Lichfield?”

Response from the Cabinet Member for Corporate and Customer Services, Revenues and Benefits:

“This data is not kept by Local Authorities as Universal Credit (UC) is administered by the Department for Work and Pensions. (DWP) The DWP regularly report on various statistics and have this month published a “Universal Credit Statistical Ad hoc: Length of payment delays for New Claims to Universal Credit.” This is a national report and there is no specific data to the Lichfield District.

The full report can be found here

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/723427/length-of-payment-delays-for-new-claims-to-universal-credit-feb-2018-statistics.pdf

Councillor Ball then asked the following supplementary question:

“I believe there are serious flaws with Universal Credit and find it concerning that 73% of UC tenants are in debt. The Audit Commission has reported on this. Does the Cabinet Member agree with my concerns?

Councillor Mrs Little then gave the following response

“I would like to investigate this further and also meet with Councillor Ball to discuss all his concerns in more depth.”

Q5 Question from Councillor Ball to the Leader of the Council:

“Can the Leader please tell me the level of financial reserves that the District Council had at the end of the last Labour administration’s time in office and what is the level today?”

Response from the Leader of the Council:

"The Usable Reserves at 31/3/2000 was £28.345m (Audited Accounts in the financial year political control changed of May 1999) and at 31/3/2018 was £17.255m (Unaudited Accounts)"

Councillor Ball then asked the following supplementary question:

"Out of the £17.255m reserves is free and not committed and how much has been spent in Burntwood and Lichfield?"

Councillor Pritchard gave the following response

"I will get back to you with exact amounts but on the question regarding reserves however £4.4m was allocated for Burntwood Leisure Centre, £1.8m for Disability Grants and £2.6m for the depot in Plant Lane in Burntwood.

Q6 Question from Councillor Mrs Evans to the Cabinet Member for Operational Services, Leisure and Waste:

"In answer to my supplementary question on the 26 June regarding Redwood Park in Burntwood, Councillor Leytham said "he would take steps to ensure the information provided is correct and the actions referred to have been implemented." Can he now tell me what he has done since then to make progress on this issue?"

Response from the Cabinet Member for Operational Services, Leisure and Waste:

"In the first instance I met with Chris Cook, Head of Leisure & Operational Services following the last Council meeting to systematically review the bullet points provided by Chris relating to previous actions undertaken by LOPS regarding the removal of the park gate locking service on 1st September. I am pleased to confirm the accuracy of the information provided and further confirm that all suggested actions had been duly implemented.

Since that time the LOPS team have continued to monitor the situation and confirm that to date no robust evidence has been provided to support the view that incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) has increased. It is however acknowledged that residents have raised concerns within the vicinity regarding the potential for an increase in ASB.

In order to identify some form of intervention in relation to Redwood Park, the Head of LOPS and Operational Services Manager (Gary Brownridge) met with Councillors Evans & Woodward in Burntwood on 2nd July to discuss the potential for members of the community to act as key holders and develop an informal "friends of" group to assist with control of vehicle access into the Park. On 6th July Chris Cook & Gary Brownridge subsequently met with two members of the community adjacent to Redwood Park and discussed and agreed a process and procedure for controlled entry for vehicles and keys have subsequently been provided. The assistance of the local members and the community is appreciated and this will be reviewed in September."

Councillor Mrs Evans then asked the following supplementary question:

"It was a positive meeting but the Police agree that there is a rise in anti social behaviour. Can we have the figures of this rise?"

Councillor Leytham gave the following reply

"I will get these figures of all ASB in Parks throughout the district to you"

Q7 Question from Councillor Mrs Evans to the Cabinet Member for Operational Services, Leisure and Waste:

"In view of the considerable problems caused by plastics, particularly those which are discarded and causing immeasurable harm to the environment, can Councillor Leytham please tell me what further steps he is going to take, to ensure Lichfield District Council is addressing the situation?"

Response from the Cabinet Member for Operational Services, Leisure and Waste:

"As far as the Joint Waste Service is concerned we will continue to provide all residents with the opportunity to recycle plastic bottles, trays and pots at the kerbside. We also provide a commercial recycling service which allows businesses to recycle plastic.

We employ 2 recycling officers who work directly with residents to encourage and educate them on minimising waste and correct recycling.

The Council's new draft Environmental Crime Strategy has very recently been approved for consultation and whilst this does not contain proposals to specifically tackle plastic waste, it does seek to tackle littering and fly tipping, which should reduce the amount of plastic waste affecting the environment on a local level.

If there are any instances of fly tipping we clear the site quickly and on every occasion try and find evidence to identify the offenders. We are also working with the communications team in relation to the potential of utilising the Bartec system to see if it provides operational improvements."

Councillor Mrs Evans then asked the following supplementary question:

"Can I be assured that collection of plastics will be monitored?"

Councillor Leytham gave the following response

"Yes and education of what can and cannot be recycled will be required as it is very complex."

Q8 Question from Councillor Pullen to the Leader of the Council:

"Can the Leader tell me what discussions have taken place with either him or Officers over LEP funding for any projects within the District?"

Response from the Leader of the Council:

"On behalf of the Council officers have been involved in discussions about possible LEP funding to support regeneration in Burntwood and separately feasibility work in respect of Lichfield City Centre. The first of these would potentially deliver infrastructure improvements which would unlock a development site, the second is to consider the viability and mix of development capable of being delivered on a site within the city centre.

Staffordshire County Council as Highway Authority and with the support of the District Council are seeking GBSLEP funding to assist with completion of the Lichfield Southern Bypass having separately gained Government funding in the amount of £5m to deliver the project.

Monies totalling £5 million from the GBSLEP and SSLEP were committed to the former Friarsgate scheme to support non-commercial elements – following the decision of the Council in respect of that scheme discussions are now taking place with the GBSLEP and SSLEP about whether the aforementioned monies could be still utilised to support related non-commercial infrastructure or would need to revert back to the LEP's for re-allocation.”

Q9 Question from Councillor Mrs Tranter to Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services, Housing and Wellbeing:

“Can the Portfolio Holder tell me what progress has been made in delivering new health facilities for Burntwood?”

Response to Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services, Housing and Wellbeing:

“Staffordshire County Council have been working with NHS England and the Darwin Practice (formerly the Spires Practice and Fulfen Practice who have recently merged) to bring forward a new health centre development at the site of the County Council owned Greenwood House.

South East Staffordshire and Seisdon Peninsula Clinical Commissioning Group submitted an application to NHS England's Estates and Technology Transformation Fund in June 2016 for the design and construction costs of the new health centre. This application was confirmed as being successful in May 2017, subject to a due diligence process.

Further design work has been carried out by the County Council's appointed architects over the past 12 months to finalise the design of the building.

A report seeking further permissions to proceed with the project is due to be considered by Staffordshire County Council's Cabinet tomorrow (Wednesday 18th July). Full details of the recommendations can be found on the SCC website”

<http://moderngov.staffordshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=123&MId=8628&Ver=4>

Councillor Mrs Tranter then asked the following supplementary question:

“How long does the due diligence on Greenwood House take?”

Councillor A. Yeates gave the following reply

“I will let you know as soon as I receive any information however there is a meeting at Staffordshire County Council tomorrow.”

Q10 Question from Councillor Rayner to the Leader of the Council:

“What consultation has taken place in relation to the Fairer Funding Review being undertaken by Government and our settlement under the Regional Support Grant.”

Response from the Leader of the Council:

“I attended the LGA Annual Conference at the beginning of July, where a number of Authorities like ourselves who are facing a negative Regional Support Grant Settlement expressed real concern to James Brokenshire the new Secretary of State

for Housing, Communities and Local Government, who agreed to look into this position once the consultation period had finished and before any decisions were taken.”

The consultations we have responded to and lobbying we have undertaken in relation to Local Government Finance including the Fair Funding Review:

Self Sufficient Local Government : 100% Business Rate Retention – Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government from 05/7/2016 to 26/9/2016 – responded 26/9/2016

Business Rates Reform : Call for Evidence on Needs and Distribution – Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government from 05/7/2016 to 26/9/2016 – responded 26/9/2016

Business Rates Design of the Reformed System - Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government from 15/2/2017 to 3/5/2017 – responded 3/5/2017

Business Rates Retention Inquiry – Communities and Local Government Select Committee – responded 14/11/2017

Financial Sustainability of Local Authorities – National Audit Office – responded 07/12/2017

2 Letters to Michael Fabricant MP on Negative Revenue Support Grant and Business Rates and New Homes Bonus in February 2018.

Fair Funding Review - Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government from 19/12/2017 to 12/03/2018 – responded 12/3/2018

Technical Paper 3 : Spreading the Risk of Valuation Losses across the Local Government Sector to reduce volatility - Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government – responded 29/6/2018

Q11 Question from Councillor Mrs Boyle to the Deputy Leader of the Council:

“Is the Deputy Leader involved in any negotiations with the West Midlands Combined Authority or the elected Mayor in relation to Housing allocations in Lichfield District, particularly concerning the Green Belt?”

Response from the Deputy Leader of the Council to Councillor Mrs Boyle:

“No, there are no discussions taking place with either the WMCA or WMCA Mayor concerning housing allocations in Lichfield District. The Council has recently undertaken a public consultation as regards a future Local Plan Review – any possible allocation of land for housing over and above that contained in our adopted Local Plan Strategy and soon to be examined Land Allocations Document, will be considered as part of this exercise.”

(The Meeting closed at 7.20 pm)

CHAIRMAN