

## **BOROUGH OF TELFORD & WREKIN**

### **Minutes of the Meeting of the Borough of Telford & Wrekin held on Thursday, 11 January 2018 at 6.00pm at The Place, Oakengates, Telford**

#### **Present:**

Councillors S L Barnes, S Bentley, M Boylan, A J Burford, S P Burrell, L D Carter, E A Clare, G K Cook, S Davies, N A Dugmore, A J Eade, A R H England, N A M England, R C Evans, I T W Fletcher, V A Fletcher, J A Francis, C A Furnival, K R Guy, M B Hosken, J Jones, R T Kiernan, A Lawrence, N C Lowery, C N Mason, A D McClements, R Mehta, J C Minor, L A Murray, T J Nelson, R A Overton, J Pinter, G C W Reynolds, S A W Reynolds, S J Reynolds (Mayor), H Rhodes, K S Sahota, P J Scott, J M Seymour, R J Sloan, C F Smith (Speaker), M J Smith, B D Tillotson, K T Tomlinson, W L Tomlinson, C R Turley, P R Watling and D G Wright

#### **58. Prayers**

In the absence of a member of the clergy, no prayers were said.

#### **59. Apologies for Absence**

Councillors K T Blundell, E J Carter, E J Greenaway, J Loveridge and A A Meredith.

Councillor J C Ashford was absent from the meeting.

#### **60. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor A J Burford declared an interest in minute number 69 due to his position as joint Chair of the Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee and indicated that he would abstain from the vote.

Councillor S P Burrell declared an interest in minute number 69 due to his Membership of the Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee and indicated that he would abstain from the vote.

Councillor H Rhodes declared an interest in minute number 69 due to her Membership of the Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee and indicated that he would abstain from the vote.

Councillor R J Sloan declared an interest in minute number 69 due to his recent past Membership of the Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee and indicated that he would abstain from the vote.

#### **61. Minutes of the Council**

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2017 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

## **62. Leader's Report & Announcements**

The Leader expressed thanks to staff, volunteers and contractors for minimising disruption during the significant snowfall seen across the borough in December 2017. He noted the success of the Pantomime and the European Christmas Market. The Leader was pleased to report that the Telford Land Deal had attracted £236m of investment into the borough over the preceding 18 months and noted that the deal would facilitate the expansion of Maiden's of Telford at Donnington Wood Retail Park. Success such as this resulted in increased business rates and the Leader expressed disappointment that the Council had been unsuccessful in its joint bid (with Shropshire and Herefordshire Councils) for retention of 100% business rates.

The Leader referred to the budget strategy, ongoing savings required and the Administration's ongoing efforts to keep Council Tax low.

He went on to note that the Council continued to work to further instil Pride in the Community to make Telford a place to proud of through the Pride Fund. He also welcomed the noticeable affect additional powers granted to Enforcement Officers had had on the environment in terms of the number of fines issues for littering and fly-tipping and a reduction in illegal traveller encampments.

Looking ahead, the Leader noted continued concern regarding the Future Fit process and expressed delight at plans for the Borough's upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations.

## **63. Mayor's Announcements**

The Mayor looked forward to an exciting remainder of his term of office and thanked those who offered continued support for his chosen charity, Severn Hospice which had benefited from a number of generous sources over the Christmas period. This included those who had made voluntary donations at the 'snow day' performances of the Pantomime at Oakengates Theatre and Council staff who had taken part in the Annual Christmas Raffle.

## **64. Public Questions**

- (i) The following question to Cllr A D McClements, Cabinet Member: Transport, Infrastructure & Broadband was submitted by Carol Scott MBE:

"T&W is supportive of WASPI women born in 1950's therefore would the council consider in any future budget following the Mayor Greater Manchester lead, Merseyside Council and TFL to issue bus passes to those women in the Borough still waiting and suffering hardship due to their delayed State Pension."

Cllr A D McClements, Cabinet Member: Transport, Infrastructure & Broadband responded to the question, setting out the current position with regard to the national statutory scheme for concessionary passes and fully committed budget.

Using a number of assumptions around usage by the subject group, the Cabinet Member set out the potential cost of introducing a scheme. She went on to explain

the associated challenges with regard to the logistics of operating a bespoke scheme separate to the national provision, that schemes operated elsewhere were done so as a result of funding opportunities provided by devolution deals, and the significant financial challenges facing the Council.

Councillor McClements concluded by confirming that despite the significant budget challenges the Council faced, she would include this request for consideration during the next round of budget setting and, in the meantime, would look at any other opportunities that may arise which would help to develop the kind of scheme alluded to for any group which would benefit from a better, more affordable, fit for purpose public transport infrastructure that aided Telford being a better place to live work, learn and do business.

#### **65. Cabinet Decisions Made Since the Last Meeting of the Council**

Members received the report on the Cabinet decisions made since the last meeting of the Council. There were no questions.

#### **66. Recommendations from Cabinet**

Cabinet – 7 December 2017

##### (i) Community Safety Partnership Strategy 2017-2019

Superintendent Tom Harding of West Mercia Police and the Chair of the Community Safety Partnership presented the report which set out the “Safer Telford and Wrekin Strategy 2017-19” for approval.

Superintendent Harding took a number of questions from the floor before the recommendations were moved and seconded. Upon being put to the vote, it was by a majority (31 for, 17 against, 0 abstentions):-

**RESOLVED that the Safer Telford and Wrekin Strategy 2017-19 be approved.**

##### (ii) 2017/18 Financial Management Report

Councillor Cllr L D Carter, Cabinet Member: Finance, Commercial Services & Economic Development, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Finance & Human Resources and Chief Financial Officer. It was, by a majority:-

**RESOLVED that the changes to the capital programme as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report be approved**

##### (iii) Council Tax Support Scheme 2018/19 and Council Tax Support Hardship Policy

Councillor R A Overton, Cabinet Member: Housing & Enforcement, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Neighbourhood & Customer Services. It was, by a majority:-

**RESOLVED that –**

- (a) the Council Tax Support Scheme Policy for 2018/19, as shown at Appendix A and the financial impact of the report be noted;**
- (b) the revised Council Tax Hardship Policy and accompanying funding be approved.**

**(iv) Telford & Wrekin Local Plan**

Councillor R A Overton, Cabinet Member: Housing & Enforcement, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Business, Development & Employment.

At the end of a robust and lengthy debate, in accordance with Committee Procedure Rule 9.5, a recorded vote on the motion was taken, the voting being as follows:

*For (30)*

*Councillors A J Burford, L D Carter, E A Clare, G K Cook, S Davies, A R H England, N A M England, R C Evans, K R Guy, J Jones, C N Mason, A D McClements, R Mehta, J C Minor, L A Murray, R A Overton, J Pinter, G C W Reynolds, S A W Reynolds, S J Reynolds, H Rhodes, K S Sahota, P J Scott, R J Sloan, C F Smith, M J Smith, K T Tomlinson, W L Tomlinson, C R Turley, and P R Watling*

*Abstentions (18)*

*Councillors S L Barnes, S Bentley, M Boylan, S P Burrell, N A Dugmore, A J Eade, I T W Fletcher, V A Fletcher, J A Francis, C A Furnival, M B Hosken, R T Kiernan, A Lawrence, N C Lowery, T J Nelson, J M Seymour, B D Tillotson, and D G Wright*

*Against (0)*

**RESOLVED that –**

- (a) the recommendations set out in the Inspector's report on the Examination of the Telford & Wrekin Local Plan (Appendix 1 to the report) and his Schedule of Main Modifications (Appendix 2 to the report) be accepted.**
- (b) the further Local Plan Minor Modifications (Appendix 3 and 4 to the report) be agreed.**
- (c) the changes set out in the Inspector's Schedule of Main Modifications (Appendix 2 to the report), the Minor Modifications (Appendix 3 to the report) and Second Schedule of Minor Modifications (Appendix 4 to the report) be made to the Telford & Wrekin Local Plan (Appendix 5 to the report) and that the Telford & Wrekin Local Plan (Appendix 5 to the report), as amended by incorporating these changes, be adopted by the Council.**
- (d) the Policies Map (Appendix 7 to the report ) be adopted to illustrate geographically the policies in the new Local Plan 2011-2031**

Cabinet – 4 January 2018

(i) 2017/18 Financial Management Report

Councillor Cllr L D Carter, Cabinet Member: Finance, Commercial Services & Economic Development, presented the report of the Assistant Director: Finance & Human Resources and Chief Financial Officer. It was, by a majority:-

**RESOLVED that the changes to the capital programme as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report be approved**

**67. Setting of the Council Tax Base for 2018/19**

Councillor L D Carter, Cabinet Member: xyz presented the report of the Assistant Director: Finance & Human Resources (Chief Finance Officer) which determined the Council Tax base for General and Special Fund purposes for 2018/19. Upon being put to the vote, it was unanimously:-

**RESOLVED – that**

- (a) the calculation of the tax base for 2018/19 as at paragraph 5.6 and Appendix 1 be approved.**
- (b) in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 2012 (SI 2012:2914), the amount calculated for Telford and Wrekin Council Tax base for 2018/19 for its Special Fund Area shall be as per the appropriate parish amounts detailed in Appendix 1 for the parishes listed in paragraph 5.7.**

**68. Questions**

None received.

**69. Notices of Motion**

- (a) Councillor A R H England moved, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 7, the following Motion:**

“This Council calls on SaTH to reverse their recent increase in parking charges at the Princess Royal Hospital at Telford and calls on the Government to replace the projected lost income to avoid a worsening financial deficit for the Trust.”

Councillor G C W Reynolds seconded the Motion.

At the end of a robust debate, a vote was taken on the motion put forward by Councillor England which was CARRIED. In accordance with Committee Procedure Rule 9.5, a recorded vote on the motion was taken, the voting being as follows:

*For (43)*

*Councillors S L Barnes, S Bentley, M Boylan, L D Carter, E A Clare, G K Cook, S Davies, N A Dugmore, A J Eade, A R H England, N A M England, R C Evans, I T W Fletcher, V A Fletcher, J A Francis, C A Furnival, K R Guy, M B Hosken, J Jones, R T Kiernan, A Lawrence, N C Lowery, C N Mason, A D McClements, R Mehta, J C Minor, L A Murray, T J Nelson, R A Overton, J Pinter, G C W Reynolds, S A W Reynolds, S J Reynolds, K S Sahota, P J Scott, J M Seymour, C F Smith, M J Smith, B D Tillotson, W L Tomlinson, C R Turley, P R Watling and D G Wright*

*Against (0)  
Councillors*

*Abstentions (4)  
Councillors A J Burford, S P Burrell, H Rhodes and R J Sloan by virtue of their Membership of Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee.*

*Councillor K T Tomlinson had left the meeting.*

**RESOLVED - that the motion be approved**

The meeting ended at 7.56pm

**Mayor:** .....

**Date:** .....