

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes

THURSDAY, 28 FEBRUARY 2019

PRESENT: Councillor J T Jones (Chair)

Councillors R Alcock, A Banks, M Bowen, J Bull, B Cawley, J Davies, M A Deaville, S Ellis, B Emery, E Fallows, K Flunder, A Forrester, M Gledhill, T Hall, K Harrison, A Hart, N Hawkins, G Heath, I Herdman, B A Hughes, K J Jackson, P Jackson, C R Jebb, B Johnson, I Lawson, L D Lea, G Lockett, M A Lovatt, M M Lovatt, I J Lucas, L A Malyon, T McNicol, D Ogden, C Pearce, N Podmore, D Price, S E Ralphs MBE, T Riley, P Roberts, S Scalise, D Shaw, H Sheldon MBE, D Trigger, E Wain, R Ward, P Wilkinson, C Wood, P Wood and M Worthington

APOLOGIES: Councillors C J S Atkins, G Bond, J Redfern, J Walley and A Wilkinson

Prayers were offered by Reverend Dr Phil Locket.

47 **FORMER CHIEF EXECUTIVE - TONY LAW**

The Council observed a minute silence in memory of Tony Law, a former Chief Executive of the Authority, who had recently passed away.

48 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED - That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 5 December 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

49 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following declarations were made:-

Agenda Item	Member Declaring Interest	Nature of Interest
Matters relating to the CCG consultation	Cllrs. P. Wood and Riley	Other Interest – family members employed by NHS
Matters relating to Council Tax	Cllr. Lockett	Other – dispute on property currently co-owned with regards to Council Tax

Agenda Item	Member Declaring Interest	Nature of Interest
General - Matters relating to Licensing	Cllrs. Wain, Deaville and P. Wilkinson	Other – anything related to licensing.

50 **CHAIRMAN'S OR LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE, IF ANY.**

On-Street Parking Charges

The Leader of the Council referred to the County Council's intention to introduce on-street parking charges in the Staffordshire Moorlands. Given the level of interest in the issue the Chairman agreed to the consideration of this item. Councillors raised their concerns with regards to the adverse effect such charges would have on the economic growth of towns, impact on traders and the risk that the approach may result in vehicles being parked on unsuitable streets in order to avoid charges. Councillors acknowledged that whilst there may be a need to introduce such charges elsewhere within Staffordshire there should not be a one-size-fits-all approach applied in the implementation of the On-Street Parking Strategy.

Councillors unanimously requested that the deliberations of the Authority be forwarded to the County Council.

RESOLVED:

That the concerns of the Council with regards to the implementation of On-Street Parking Charges be forwarded to Staffordshire County Council.

Retiring Members

Group Leader's announced that a number of councillors would not be seeking re-election at the forthcoming elections and paid tribute to their long service and contribution to the Council.

51 **REPORT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE HEARINGS PANEL.**

RESOLVED:

That the findings of the report be noted.

52 **TO CONSIDER AND DEBATE ANY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CABINET, OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANELS AND COMMITTEES, IF ANY.**

53 **AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE - 8 FEBRUARY 2019 - TREASURY MANAGEMENT UPDATE**

RESOLVED:

That the treasury management position as at 31st December 2018 be noted.

54 **AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE - 8 FEBRUARY 2019 - 2019/20 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

That the Annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) 2019/20 be approved.

55 **CABINET - 12 FEBRUARY 2019 - 2019/20 BUDGET & MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2019/20 TO 2022/23**

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England)(Amendment) Regulations 2014, councillors voted as follows:

Those voting **FOR**:

Councillors Banks, Bowen, Cawley, Davies, Deaville, Ellis, Emery, Fallows, Flunder, Forrester, Gledhill, Hall, Harrison, Hart, Hawkins, Heath, Herdman, Hughes, K. Jackson, P Jackson, Jebb, Johnson, Jones, Lawson, Lea, M.A. Lovatt, Lucas, McNicol, Ogden, Pearce, Podmore, Price, Ralphs, Riley, Roberts, Scalise, Shaw, Sheldon, Trigger, Wain, Ward, C, Wood and Worthington. **(43)**

Those voting **AGAINST**:

Councillor Alcock **(1)**

ABSTENTIONS:

Councillors Bull, Malyon, P. Wilkinson and P. Wood **(4)**

RESOLVED:

- That the General Fund Budget for 2019/20 as detailed in **Appendix A (section 8)** be approved
- That the revised Medium-Term Financial Plan (2019/20 to 2022/23) as detailed in **Appendix A**, including the revised Capital Programme (attached at Annex A) be approved
- That the Capital Strategy 2019/20 as set out in **Appendix B** be approved
- That the proposed Fees and Charges for 2019/20 as detailed in **Appendix C** be approved
- That the proposed Procurement Forward Plan for 2019/20, providing the authority to procure based on procurement activity detailed in **Appendix D** be approved
- That a Band D Council Tax of £150.54 for 2019/20 (an increase of 2.9% from 2018/19) be approved
- That a Band D Council Tax of £51.93 for Leek and £10.44 for Biddulph for 2019/20 (an increase of 2.9% from 2018/19) in respect of Special District Expenses be approved

- That the Chief Finance Officer's view that the level of reserves are adequate for the Council based on this budget and the circumstances in place at the time of preparing it (**Appendix A section 7**) be noted

The Leader of the Council thanked Council officers for their work in the production of the budget.

56 **SETTING THE COUNCIL TAX**

RESOLVED:

That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council in accordance with Sections 31A and 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011):

- (a) £31,685,984 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (2) of the Act. (*Gross Expenditure on General Fund Services, Special District Expenses and Parish Precepts*)
- (b) £25,026,050 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) of the Act. (*Gross Income including External Financing and the Use of Reserves*)
- (c) £6,659,934 being the amount by which the aggregate at (a) above exceeds the aggregate at (b) above calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A (4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year (*Amount to be Funded from Council Tax*)
- (d) £201.28 being the amount at (c) above divided by the tax base, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31 (B) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year. (*Average Local Council Tax*)
- (e) Appendix B being Council Tax for the SMDC District divided by the tax base plus the Parish Precept and any amounts of special items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area divided the local tax base. (*Band D Charges for each Parish*)
- (f) Appendix C being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at (e) above by the number which, in the proportion applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands (*Charges for all Bands*)
- (g) Appendix D being the aggregate of the local charges in (f) above and the amounts levied by major precepting authorities. (*Total Council Tax charge for each Band in each Parish*)

Local Council Tax at Band D – 2019/20

Parish	£
Alstonefield	200.13
Alton	180.79
Bagnall	173.62
Biddulph	216.23
Blore	170.05
Bradnop	161.90
Brown Edge	177.04
Butterton	198.78
Caverswall	172.11
Cheadle	223.27
Checkley	191.10
Cheddleton	182.01
Consall	168.57
Cotton	203.17
Dilhorne	172.85
Draycott	177.15
Endon	172.85
Farley	184.72
Fawfieldhead	194.93
Forsbrook	175.63
Grindon	178.20
Heathylee	161.57
Heaton	163.20
Hollinsclough	160.85
Horton	165.91
Ilam	169.14
Ipstones	191.04
Kingsley	188.16
Leek	225.71
Leekfrith	160.54
Longnor	195.80
Longsdon	166.67
Oakamoor	178.00
Onecote	180.43
Quarnford	171.59
Rushton	164.77
Sheen	162.50
Tittesworth	170.54
Warslow	192.79
Waterhouses	192.30
Werrington	190.08
Wetton	189.67
Whiston	182.55

Local Council Tax All Bands – 2019/20

Parish	BAND A	BAND B	BAND C	BAND D	BAND E	BAND F	BAND G	BAND H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Alstonefield	133.42	155.66	177.89	200.13	244.60	289.08	333.55	400.26
Alton	120.53	140.62	160.70	180.79	220.96	261.14	301.32	361.58
Bagnall	115.75	135.04	154.33	173.62	212.20	250.79	289.37	347.24
Biddulph	144.15	168.18	192.20	216.23	264.28	312.34	360.38	432.46
Blore	113.37	132.26	151.15	170.05	207.84	245.63	283.42	340.10
Bradnop	107.93	125.93	143.91	161.90	197.87	233.86	269.83	323.80
Brown Edge	118.03	137.70	157.37	177.04	216.38	255.73	295.07	354.08
Butterton	132.52	154.61	176.69	198.78	242.95	287.13	331.30	397.56
Caverswall	114.74	133.87	152.98	172.11	210.35	248.61	286.85	344.22
Cheadle	148.85	173.66	198.46	223.27	272.88	322.50	372.12	446.54
Checkley	127.40	148.64	169.86	191.10	233.56	276.04	318.50	382.20
Cheddleton	121.34	141.57	161.78	182.01	222.45	262.91	303.35	364.02
Consall	112.38	131.11	149.84	168.57	206.03	243.49	280.95	337.14
Cotton	135.45	158.02	180.59	203.17	248.32	293.47	338.62	406.34
Dilhorne	115.23	134.44	153.64	172.85	211.26	249.68	288.08	345.70
Draycott	118.10	137.79	157.46	177.15	216.51	255.89	295.25	354.30
Endon	115.23	134.44	153.64	172.85	211.26	249.68	288.08	345.70
Farley	123.15	143.67	164.19	184.72	225.77	266.82	307.87	369.44
Fawfieldhead	129.95	151.62	173.27	194.93	238.24	281.57	324.88	389.86
Forsbrook	117.09	136.60	156.11	175.63	214.66	253.69	292.72	351.26
Grindon	118.80	138.60	158.40	178.20	217.80	257.40	297.00	356.40
Heathylee	107.71	125.67	143.61	161.57	197.47	233.38	269.28	323.14
Heaton	108.80	126.94	145.06	163.20	199.46	235.74	272.00	326.40
Hollinsclough	107.23	125.11	142.97	160.85	196.59	232.34	268.08	321.70
Horton	110.61	129.04	147.47	165.91	202.78	239.65	276.52	331.82
Ilam	112.76	131.56	150.34	169.14	206.72	244.32	281.90	338.28
Ipstones	127.36	148.59	169.81	191.04	233.49	275.95	318.40	382.08
Kingsley	125.44	146.35	167.25	188.16	229.97	271.79	313.60	376.32
Leek	150.47	175.56	200.63	225.71	275.86	326.03	376.18	451.42
Leekfrith	107.03	124.87	142.70	160.54	196.21	231.89	267.57	321.08
Longnor	130.53	152.29	174.04	195.80	239.31	282.83	326.33	391.60
Longsdon	111.11	129.64	148.15	166.67	203.70	240.75	277.78	333.34
Oakamoor	118.67	138.45	158.22	178.00	217.55	257.11	296.67	356.00
Onecote	120.29	140.34	160.38	180.43	220.52	260.62	300.72	360.86
Quarnford	114.39	133.46	152.52	171.59	209.72	247.86	285.98	343.18
Rushton	109.85	128.16	146.46	164.77	201.38	238.00	274.62	329.54
Sheen	108.33	126.39	144.44	162.50	198.61	234.73	270.83	325.00
Tittesworth	113.69	132.65	151.59	170.54	208.43	246.34	284.23	341.08
Warslow	128.53	149.95	171.37	192.79	235.63	278.48	321.32	385.58
Waterhouses	128.20	149.57	170.93	192.30	235.03	277.77	320.50	384.60
Werrington	126.72	147.84	168.96	190.08	232.32	274.56	316.80	380.16
Wetton	126.45	147.52	168.59	189.67	231.82	273.97	316.12	379.34
Whiston	121.70	141.99	162.26	182.55	223.11	263.69	304.25	365.10

APPENDIX D

Total Council Tax – 2019/20

Parish	BAND A	BAND B	BAND C	BAND D	BAND E	BAND F	BAND G	BAND H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Alstonefield	1,159.10	1,352.29	1,545.47	1,738.65	2,125.01	2,511.39	2,897.75	3,477.30
Alton	1,146.21	1,337.25	1,528.28	1,719.31	2,101.37	2,483.45	2,865.52	3,438.62
Bagnall	1,141.43	1,331.67	1,521.91	1,712.14	2,092.61	2,473.10	2,853.57	3,424.28
Biddulph	1,169.83	1,364.81	1,559.78	1,754.75	2,144.69	2,534.65	2,924.58	3,509.50
Blore	1,139.05	1,328.89	1,518.73	1,708.57	2,088.25	2,467.94	2,847.62	3,417.14
Bradnop	1,133.61	1,322.56	1,511.49	1,700.42	2,078.28	2,456.17	2,834.03	3,400.84
Brown Edge	1,143.71	1,334.33	1,524.95	1,715.56	2,096.79	2,478.04	2,859.27	3,431.12
Butterton	1,158.20	1,351.24	1,544.27	1,737.30	2,123.36	2,509.44	2,895.50	3,474.60
Caverswall	1,140.42	1,330.50	1,520.56	1,710.63	2,090.76	2,470.92	2,851.05	3,421.26
Cheadle	1,174.53	1,370.29	1,566.04	1,761.79	2,153.29	2,544.81	2,936.32	3,523.58
Checkley	1,153.08	1,345.27	1,537.44	1,729.62	2,113.97	2,498.35	2,882.70	3,459.24
Cheddleton	1,147.02	1,338.20	1,529.36	1,720.53	2,102.86	2,485.22	2,867.55	3,441.06
Consall	1,138.06	1,327.74	1,517.42	1,707.09	2,086.44	2,465.80	2,845.15	3,414.18
Cotton	1,161.13	1,354.65	1,548.17	1,741.69	2,128.73	2,515.78	2,902.82	3,483.38
Dilhorne	1,140.91	1,331.07	1,521.22	1,711.37	2,091.67	2,471.99	2,852.28	3,422.74
Draycott	1,143.78	1,334.42	1,525.04	1,715.67	2,096.92	2,478.20	2,859.45	3,431.34
Endon	1,140.91	1,331.07	1,521.22	1,711.37	2,091.67	2,471.99	2,852.28	3,422.74
Farley	1,148.83	1,340.30	1,531.77	1,723.24	2,106.18	2,489.13	2,872.07	3,446.48
Fawfieldhead	1,155.63	1,348.25	1,540.85	1,733.45	2,118.65	2,503.88	2,889.08	3,466.90
Forsbrook	1,142.77	1,333.23	1,523.69	1,714.15	2,095.07	2,476.00	2,856.92	3,428.30
Grindon	1,144.48	1,335.23	1,525.98	1,716.72	2,098.21	2,479.71	2,861.20	3,433.44
Heathylee	1,133.39	1,322.30	1,511.19	1,700.09	2,077.88	2,455.69	2,833.48	3,400.18
Heaton	1,134.48	1,323.57	1,512.64	1,701.72	2,079.87	2,458.05	2,836.20	3,403.44
Hollinsclough	1,132.91	1,321.74	1,510.55	1,699.37	2,077.00	2,454.65	2,832.28	3,398.74
Horton	1,136.29	1,325.67	1,515.05	1,704.43	2,083.19	2,461.96	2,840.72	3,408.86
Ilam	1,138.44	1,328.19	1,517.92	1,707.66	2,087.13	2,466.63	2,846.10	3,415.32
Ipstones	1,153.04	1,345.22	1,537.39	1,729.56	2,113.90	2,498.26	2,882.60	3,459.12
Kingsley	1,151.12	1,342.98	1,534.83	1,726.68	2,110.38	2,494.10	2,877.80	3,453.36
Leek	1,176.15	1,372.19	1,568.21	1,764.23	2,156.27	2,548.34	2,940.38	3,528.46
Leekfrith	1,132.71	1,321.50	1,510.28	1,699.06	2,076.62	2,454.20	2,831.77	3,398.12
Longnor	1,156.21	1,348.92	1,541.62	1,734.32	2,119.72	2,505.14	2,890.53	3,468.64
Longsdon	1,136.79	1,326.27	1,515.73	1,705.19	2,084.11	2,463.06	2,841.98	3,410.38
Oakamoor	1,144.35	1,335.08	1,525.80	1,716.52	2,097.96	2,479.42	2,860.87	3,433.04
Onecote	1,145.97	1,336.97	1,527.96	1,718.95	2,100.93	2,482.93	2,864.92	3,437.90
Quarnford	1,140.07	1,330.09	1,520.10	1,710.11	2,090.13	2,470.17	2,850.18	3,420.22
Rushton	1,135.53	1,324.79	1,514.04	1,703.29	2,081.79	2,460.31	2,838.82	3,406.58
Sheen	1,134.01	1,323.02	1,512.02	1,701.02	2,079.02	2,457.04	2,835.03	3,402.04
Tittesworth	1,139.37	1,329.28	1,519.17	1,709.06	2,088.84	2,468.65	2,848.43	3,418.12
Warslow	1,154.21	1,346.58	1,538.95	1,731.31	2,116.04	2,500.79	2,885.52	3,462.62
Waterhouses	1,153.88	1,346.20	1,538.51	1,730.82	2,115.44	2,500.08	2,884.70	3,461.64
Werrington	1,152.40	1,344.47	1,536.54	1,728.60	2,112.73	2,496.87	2,881.00	3,457.20
Wetton	1,152.13	1,344.15	1,536.17	1,728.19	2,112.23	2,496.28	2,880.32	3,456.38
Whiston	1,147.38	1,338.62	1,529.84	1,721.07	2,103.52	2,486.00	2,868.45	3,442.14

57 **PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2019/20**

RESOLVED:

That the Pay Policy Statement for 2019/2020 be approved.

58 **TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ASKED UNDER PROCEDURE RULE NO. 10, IF ANY.**

1. Question to the Leader of the Council received from Councillor Cawley:

“Does the Leader of the Council agree with the North Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Group’s preferred option- Option 6- which closes care beds at Leek Hospital as published in the CCG consultation document “ Have Your Say”?”

Response:

The Leader stated that she was very pleased with the CCG proposals with regards to an increase in services and clinics. However, questions remained about the provision of beds and what the costs would be for nursing home/care home provision. It was important that beds be made available in the moorlands so people would be near to their home. In response to supplementary questions the Leader agreed that more evidence and clarification was required with regards to the demand for services in the Staffordshire Moorlands.

2. Question to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment received from Councillor Lockett:

“I would like to ask what measure’s the Council is doing on the epidemic we have in Leek on dog fouling.”

Response:

“There is no evidence that there an epidemic of dog fouling in Leek. We often find a peak in fouling in the darker nights between December and March but information from our Street Scene Team suggests that the levels of fouling are no worse than in previous years with some signs that this year’s figures will show an improvement.

All sweeping schedules have recently been reviewed and are fit for purpose. The Street Scene Team know the problem areas and they receive additional cleansing.

The Council provides bins in which dog owners can dispose of their waste. This is supported by appropriate signage.

The Council also employs an Environmental Crime Officer to carry out patrols in the area. In the last year the Council issued 56 Fixed Penalty Notices and issued a formal prosecution in respect of environmental crime in the district, including 3 FPNs specifically in relation to dog fouling.

It should be recognised that it is the responsibility of dog owners to pick up after their dog. Members of the public can help by reporting dog fouling to the Council and we will take swift action to remove any dog waste.”

In response to supplementary questions the Portfolio Holder stated that there was no evidence of any increase in dog fouling and that the Council is aware of “hot spot” areas.

3. Question to the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Development and Property received from Councillor Lockett:

“Why are shop tenants able to put whatever they like on shop’s front’s when Derby Street is a Conservation Area. This Council should be more pro-active to remove unacceptable frontage that is not complying with planning regulations. Leek is unique with Listed Building’s and it been dedicated a Conservation Area and should be respected.”

Response:

“Some signage and shop front alterations can be carried out without the need to apply for planning permission or advertisement consent and therefore it is not possible for the Council to control all changes to signage and shop fronts. Other more substantial changes will require permission. Where the Council receives applications for new shop fronts or advertisements it considers carefully the impact on the Conservation Area and Listed Buildings in the context of its Local Plan policies, supplementary planning guidance and national policy. Applications affecting these heritage assets are also subject to consideration by the Council’s Conservation Liaison Panel which includes elected members and representatives of local amenity and heritage bodies. Officers will always negotiate with applicants to seek amendments and improvements to their schemes through the application process. However, the Council will not hesitate to refuse and robustly defend at Appeal applications for inappropriate developments in our town centres and I would draw attention to the recent refusal of inappropriate changes to the shop front of the Society bar in the Market Place, which is currently the subject of a planning appeal.

Where the Council receives reports of unauthorised advertisements or alterations to shop fronts they will be fully investigated by our Enforcement Officers in accordance with the Council’s Enforcement Plan. In the first instance officers will seek to remove or regularise unauthorised signage and works through negotiation and mutual agreement. I would draw Members attention to a recent case at the “Top Cut Barbers” and “Leek Mobiles” shops in Derby Street. Reports of an unauthorised shop front alteration and signage were received by our enforcement team on 15th February. Following an investigation and discussions with the owner and tenant, the panels added to the stall risers and pilasters of the barbers were removed on 26th February and placed within the shop window. In this location they form part of a window display which is exempt from planning control.

The owner of the building is intending to secure the removal of the panels from the stall risers and pilasters of the mobile phone shop shortly and officers are engaging with the shop owners and tenants over a more appropriate form of fascia signage which the Council could support.

A retrospective application has been received for alterations to “The Works” which is currently under consideration by Planning Officers and alterations to the shop front at “Bargain Booze” are currently being pursued by Enforcement Officers.

The Council are committed to being “open for business” and we encourage and welcome new businesses to our town centres but we are equally committed to preserving and enhancing the unique and special character and appearance of our

town centres and conservation areas which help to make the Staffordshire Moorlands such a great place to live, visit, shop and invest.”

4. Question to the Leader of the Council received from Councillor Cawley:

“I wonder what protocols exist between SMDC and bailiffs used by the Council when bailiffs are used to collect Council Tax arrears or other debts from vulnerable people?”

Response:

With the agreement of Councillor Cawley a written response would be issued in reply to the question.

5. Question to the Leader of the Council received from Councillor P. Wilkinson:

“The government has allocated £675 million to regenerate High Streets. This council has identified Cheadle as the Town in greatest need of investment. The bid will be worth up to £10 million but will have to be match funded. How will this bid be match funded?”

Response:

The Prospectus issued by the government for the Future High Street Fund anticipates bids of various sizes from local authorities. The maximum is £25m but the government expects most will be between £5-10m with some below this figure. It is expected that projects will be co-funded but the government states that “co-funding could either be public (e.g. from local areas’ own budgets) or private finance (e.g. co-financing housing infrastructure, private developers)”, or existing central government funding to a place. This Council has agreed a joint growth strategy with Staffordshire County Council which has led to the commissioning of a masterplan to guide investment in the town and it is anticipated that this will bring forward public and private sector investment in the town.

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council has over the past six years invested £1.26m in Cheadle and in addition secured £700,000 investment in affordable homes through the Ascent joint venture, and facilitated a grant of £100,000 from the Rural Enterprise Programme towards redevelopment of empty building into the Daisy Bank business centre. The Local Plan allocates an additional 1166 homes in Cheadle which equates to investment worth £127m and increased household expenditure of £10m per year. It is important that the Council uses this investment from both public and private sources to leverage more funding for Cheadle and the Future High Street Fund offers an opportunity to do this.

In response to supplementary questions The Leader confirmed that the Council was in the process of producing a new masterplan for Cheadle which would be an opportunity to concentrate on what Cheadle needs would be in order to progress in the years ahead.

6. Question to the Leader of the Council received from Councillor Lockett:

“When and who voted for the Leader and Officers of SMDC to be offered the privilege of using the Chairman’s/Vice Chairman’s chauffeur driven vehicle.”

Response:

The Leader of the Council confirmed that she had used the chauffeur driven car service once or twice per year on Council business which were sanctioned by the Chief Executive. In response to supplementary questions the Leader confirmed that in instances where a need had arisen to use the service in a private capacity these had been paid directly by herself and that expenses had not been claimed in such cases.

59 **TO CONSIDER ANY POLITICAL GROUP APPOINTMENTS OR CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP, IF ANY.**

RESOLVED:

That the revised committee allocations be approved (no member voted against).

60 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC:**

RESOLVED - That, pursuant to Section 100A(2) and (4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings whereby it is likely that confidential information as defined in Section 100A (3) of the Act would be disclosed to the public in breach of the obligation of confidence or exempt information as defined in Section 100 I (1) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act would be disclosed to the public by virtue of the Paragraphs indicated.

61 **EXEMPT MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The exempt minutes of the Meeting held on 5 December 2018 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

62 **TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ASKED UNDER PROCEDURE RULE NO. 10.**

A reply was provided for a question relating to information released outside of the Authority.

The meeting closed at 8.47 pm

_____ Chairman _____ Date