

## COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 21 JULY 2021

Present: Councillor R D MacRae, Mayor

Councillors: D Bagshaw  
M Brown  
M J Crow  
E Cubley  
T A Cullen  
S Dannheimer  
S Easom  
L Fletcher  
J C Goold  
D Grindell  
T Hallam  
M Hannah  
R I Jackson  
E Kerry  
S Kerry  
H Land  
G Marshall  
J W McGrath  
P J Owen  
J M Owen  
J P T Parker  
S Paterson  
J C Patrick  
D D Pringle  
M Radulovic MBE  
P Roberts-Thomson  
P D Simpson  
H E Skinner  
C M Tideswell  
I L Tyler  
D K Watts  
E Williamson  
R D Willimott

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E H Atherton, S A Bagshaw, L A Ball BEM, B C Carr, S J Carr, M Handley, H G Khaled MBE, L A Lally, P Lally and R S Robinson

### 11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor R I Jackson declared a non-pecuniary interest with being a Committee member on the Bramcote Bereavement Services agenda item 15.1, minute item 28.1 refers.

## 12 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 May 2021 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

It was noted that Councillor M J Crow had replaced Councillor P D Simpson as Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

## 13 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor gave a resume of his engagements. He had attended thirty official engagements since May including the launch of the Beeston Art Trail, a golden wedding anniversary and had raised two flags for the Armed Forces Day.

Future events that were being planned for the Mayors chosen charity, Broxtowe Youth Homelessness, included a charity bike ride to coincide with Big Green Week and community celebration with readings, prayers, poems, music and songs.

The Mayor was saddened to inform the meeting of the recent death of ex-Councillor Joan Briggs. There was a minute's silence to remember her by. Many tributes were read out and a suggestion of a blue plaque around Beeston and a request for the Council to plant a tree in memory of her.

## 14 PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

There were no petitions presented.

## 15 LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader updated Councillors on relevant matters of interest and stated that currently, limited Council services were being affected by rising numbers of employees that had to self-isolate due to COVID-19. Some refuse collection services had been delayed and this was having a negative impact on standards of delivery. The Leader had received many calls from businesses within Broxtowe expressing concern how they could continue to run their business under the current self-isolation system. The Leader met with the Leader of the County Council to urge him to pass onto Government concerns about business continuity and the need for exceptions to be made to self-isolation for double vaccinated staff in critical front line roles. A letter had been sent to Darren Henry MP and Lee Anderson MP requesting that contact be made with the Treasurer and Secretary of State of Government to support businesses who were following the self-isolation rules. A response had been received from Darren Henry MP that he had written to the Secretary of State for additional grants to be made available to Broxtowe to enable to assist with supporting businesses whilst they were still facing self-isolation of staff and affecting them financially.

With the rising rates of COVID infection the Leader was satisfied the plans for ensuring the safety and wellbeing of the employees was being undertaken with hybrid and flexible working.

The Leader was delighted that the Council had taken positive steps to ensure poorer families had access to affordable food. He highlighted the food clubs that would be running over the Summer period.

Another scheme that had been worked in partnership to access funding was the Holiday Activity fund. The programme would be run for 5 to 16 year olds who are eligible for free school meals. Sessions would run throughout August.

The Leader had attended both Kimberley and Eastwood tasks and finish groups to discuss the Levelling-up bids. The groups were currently considering the results of the local consultation and debating proposals that were deliverable and consistent with both the needs of the communities and local people's views and wishes.

Discussions had been held with the County Council Leader with opportunities, through devolution and the levelling up white paper, for Broxtowe to obtain the much needed additional funding for the East Midlands area including continuing the fight for the certainty for the HS2 station at Toton to enable to progress with the ambitions for EMDevco.

Updates were provided around the Greater Nottingham Joint Planning Advisory Board and the uptake of units associated around the new cinema development in Beeston.

The Secretary of State had visited Barton Quarter, the new housing development in Chilwell. It was described as an outstanding example of high quality design and showed what the planning system can deliver when developers and planners work well together. An application of 622 new homes would be submitted shortly to be constructed as part of the enterprise zone within Beeston. The scheme was intended to be a beacon of modular construction.

The year-end outturn had shown that the Council had been able to weather the worst of the pandemic without imperilling the financial stability. The Leader thanked Officers and Members for their support.

## 16 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

## 17 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

### 17.1 THE FOLLOWING QUESTION WAS SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR G MARSHALL FOR THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL:

"Does the Leader of the Council agree with me that the recent government announcement to axe the £20 uplift in Universal Credit will impact on the most vulnerable in our society. Therefore, will the Leader write to the Secretary of State stating our opposition to such a move and insist that the uplift be permanently retained".

The Leader replied by stating how many claimants were currently receiving Universal Credit and how many had arrears. Staff had received training and were being proactive to help and support claimants. It was predicted 800,000 people would lose their jobs in retail and hospitality by the end of the year also. Axing the £20.00 a week Universal Credit was causing a worry to claimants. He stated that he would write a letter to the Secretary of State to ask to reconsider axing the £20.00 a week Universal Credit. Removing it was unnecessary and unsustainable for local families. Figures on debts currently indicated the £20.00 a week cut would increase rent arrears and this would fall to the Public Sector.

A Supplementary Question was asked by Councillor G Marshall:

“Does the Leader agree that we should also write to the Secretary of State highlighting the dismay of the Discretionary Housing Payment allocation decision and demand to reinstate to pass levels in order to protect the most vulnerable in our Communities?”

The Leader replied that the Discretionary Housing Payment allocation for 2021/22 had been the lowest he had known. £88,000 had already been allocated for this year leaving only £11,000 for the remainder of the year. It was the life blood for families and communities in greatest need. He hoped that Councillor R I Jackson and S J Carr would co-sign the letter to Darren Henry MP, Lee Anderson MP and the Secretary of State to restore Broxtowe’s Discretionary Housing Payment to a level of dignity to provide people with greatest needs with the life- blood not just to exist but to live also.

## 18 MEMBERS' SPEECHES ON WARD ISSUES

### 18.1 SPEECH BY COUNCILLOR P J OWEN

Councillor P J Owen raised the ongoing issue with the ability to get in touch with the Council by telephone. He had a request from a constituent to raise this issue in a public forum. His constituents had stated that they had tried multiple times to get through and one resident had spent over two hours waiting for the call to be answered. Councillor P J Owen said this Council should offer a full and unreserved apology to the residents of the Borough for the failures of systems we have in place to allow them to contact the Council.

In response the Leader of the Council offered his sincerest apology. He gave reasons why for example staff self-isolating and operating from home. However, said improvements would be made with a replacement telephony system operating by the end of August 2021 with the integration of the systems into Microsoft Teams and replacement of the switchboard within the Contact Centre by the end of the year. Officers had been dealing with a high volume of calls and would be working with service areas to provide solutions. He agreed it was common courtesy to answer the phone. The Leader would be visiting officers face-to-face to ensure immediate improvement.

## 19 QUESTIONS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no questions on outside bodies.

20 DECISIONS FROM COMMITTEE MEETINGS

There were no questions on the decisions from Committee meetings.

21 NOTICE OF MOTIONS

21.1 THE FOLLOWING MOTION HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE JOINT GROUP:

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor T Hallam and Seconded by Councillor M Radulovic MBE

“ Broxtowe Borough Council notes:

- 1) That Broxtowe is a distinct community and not simply an extension of Nottingham;
- 2) That considerable work has been put in by many people to creating the community feel of the borough
- 3) That Broxtowe has never been one constituency for parliamentary purposes since the constituencies were redrawn in the 1970's
- 4) That the Boundary Commission is required to work independently and not to seek to favour any political party in its recommendations.
- 5) That the Boundary Commission are required by law to propose new constituency boundaries to ensure that all constituencies have between a certain minimum and maximum number of voters
- 6) That the Borough of Broxtowe is too large as a whole to constitute one constituency as it would exceed the maximum number of voters permitted in the latest review
- 7) That in their latest proposals the Boundary Commission propose removing Eastwood and Brinsley from the Ashfield Constituency and placing them in the Broxtowe Constituency
- 8) That the Boundary Commission also propose removing Kimberley and Nuthall from the Broxtowe Constituency and placing them in Nottingham North.

Broxtowe Borough Council further notes:

- 9) That the MP for Broxtowe has proposed an alternative arrangement whereby Kimberley and Nuthall are retained in the Broxtowe Constituency and that parts of Beeston are placed into the Nottingham South constituency.

Broxtowe Borough Council regrets that the rules on constituency size mean that it is unavoidable that part of Broxtowe Borough will not be in the Broxtowe Constituency.

Broxtowe Borough Council believes:

- 1) That each of Nuthall, Kimberley and Beeston are distinct communities in their own right, and that the boundaries of these are well understood.
- 2) That residents in Beeston do not see themselves simply as a part of Nottingham, but rather as residents of Beeston.

- 3) That as the whole of Broxtowe cannot form one Parliamentary Constituency it is preferable for entire communities to be in the same constituency.

Broxtowe Borough Council therefore resolves to write to the Boundary Commission indicating support in principle for the proposed changes to the Broxtowe Constituency boundaries that they have proposed, and also to express our opposition to any alternative proposal which would result in Beeston being split into two for parliamentary purposes.”

Members debated the motion and Councillor P J Owen called for a recorded vote, which was seconded by at least five other Councillors. The Voting was as follows.

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstention</u>
D Bagshaw	M Brown	
T A Cullen	M J Crow	
S Dannheimer	E Cubley	
D Grindell	S Eason	
T Hallam	L Fletcher	
M Hannah	J C Goold	
H Land	R I Jackson	
R D Macrae	E Kerry	
G Marshall	S Kerry	
J W McGrath	J M Owen	
S Paterson	P J Owen	
J C Patrick	J Parker	
M Radulovic MBE	D Pringle	
H E Skinner	T Roberts-Thomson	
C M Tideswell	P D Simpson	
I L Tyler	R D Willimott	
D K Watts		
E Williamson		

On being put to the meeting, the motion was carried.

## 21.2 THE FOLLOWING MOTION HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE JOINT GROUP:

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor D K Watts and seconded by Councillor G Marshall.

“Broxtowe Borough Council notes:

- 1) That the council declared a climate emergency in 2019
- 2) That as part of the response to the climate emergency the council is committed to reducing its carbon footprint
- 3) That it is now fully recognised that vehicles powered by the internal combustion engine are a significant source of greenhouse gases, and domestic car use is a significant contributor to this
- 4) To tackle climate change it is important that there is an efficient and accessible public transport alternative that people can be encouraged to switch to.
- 5) That in February 2019 the franchise to operate the Midland Mainline rail area was awarded to East Midlands Railway, a company owned by Abellio, who began operating in August 2019.

- 6) That Abellio were the operators of the ScotRail franchise which ended early because of poor performance on their behalf.
- 7) That an Emergency Measures Agreement (“EMA”) between the Secretary of State for Transport and Abellio was entered into on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020. This EMA commits the operator to seek “to ensure that, as far as possible, operational performance and the provision of Passenger Services is maintained” during the Covid-19
- 8) That East Midlands Railways have encountered problems with older parts of their fleet no longer able to be used because of the lack of disabled facilities on board.
- 9) That since a new timetable was introduced early in 2021 there have been significant difficulties with the service provided by EMR
- 10) That since 2018 the East Coast Mainline has been under public ownership following the collapse of the franchise arrangement for that line.

Broxtowe Borough Council therefore notes with regret:

- 1) The decision of East Midlands Railways to remove 54 services stopping at Beeston each day from its revised timetable, including a significant reduction in the number of services between Beeston and Nottingham and the complete withdrawal of the service between Beeston, Attenborough and Matlock.
- 2) That although these changes are described by EMR as temporary they have given no indication of any date by which they will be brought to an end.
- 3) That these changes will inevitably lead to a modal shift in transport usage and will lead to a significant growth in journeys by private car.
- 4) That this increase in car usage will have a detrimental impact on the efforts of the council and other bodies to reduce carbon emissions and achieve the targets set out in the Green Futures programme;
- 5) That the reduction in services will cause inconvenience for residents of Beeston and Attenborough
- 6) That this decision was implemented with no consultation with passengers or local authorities and at very short notice.

Broxtowe Borough Council does not believe:

- 1) That the difficulties encountered by EMR justify the extreme reduction in services through Beeston and Attenborough that has been implemented.
- 2) That the cuts to services are in compliance with either the wording or the spirit of the EMA.

Broxtowe Borough Council therefore calls on East Midlands Railways to reverse these cuts to its service as a matter of urgency, and to commit immediately to a deadline for doing so.

Broxtowe Borough Council further calls on the Secretary of State for Transport to actively review the performance of East Midlands Railways and to consider the early termination of their franchise and returning their services to public ownership and operation.”

On being put to the meeting the motion was carried.

21.3 THE FOLLOWING MOTION HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP:

The following Notice of Motion had been received from Councillor H Land and seconded by Councillor T A Cullen.

“This Council notes that:

- a) The government have now published the Electoral Integrity Bill;
- b) This bill contains provisions to require voter ID;
- c) There is no evidence that there is any problem in the United Kingdom with voter impersonation;
- d) Research in 2015 by the Electoral Commission found that 7.5% of the electorate (3.5 million people) did not have access to photo ID.
- e) The Electoral Commission’s 2021 winter tracker found that more disadvantaged groups are more likely to not have ID, including the unemployed (11%), those renting from a local authority (13%) or housing association (12%), as well as disabled people (8%). The government’s commissioned research found that older voters (aged 85+) were less likely than those in younger groups to have ID that was recognisable (91% compared to 95%–98%). It also found that those with severely limiting disabilities, the unemployed, people without qualifications, and those who had never voted before were all less likely to hold any form of photo ID.
- f) In the 2019 local elections where Broxtowe was a pilot area showed that 231 Broxtowe residents were turned away from polling stations for not having the correct ID, and that of these 69 people failed to return later. If this was replicated across each of the 363 district or unitary council areas in Great Britain this would mean that 83,853 people would be turned away at the polling stations and of these 25,047 people would not return to vote.
- g) These figures do not include people who did not attempt to vote because they did not have the right ID or those who left after talking to party tellers before entering the polling station.
- h) That research by the cabinet office showed that implementing full voter ID across the country was likely to cost up to £20million per general election;
- i) That requiring voters to produce ID is likely to act as a method of voter suppression;
- j) The Conservative MP David Davis said that “Voter ID will potentially disenfranchise thousands of people. It is an illogical and illiberal solution to a non-existent problem.”

This Council calls on the government to abandon proposals to introduce voter ID and calls on both our MP’s to vote against these proposals.”

Members debated the motion and Councillor J Parker called for a recorded vote, which was seconded by at least five other Councillors. The voting was as follows:

For  
D Bagshaw  
T A Cullen

Against  
M Brown  
M J Crow

Abstention  
L Fletcher



S Dannheimer	E Cubley
D Grindell	S Eason
T Hallam	J C Goold
M Hannah	R I Jackson
H Land	E Kerry
R D Macrae	S Kerry
G Marshall	J M Owen
J W McGrath	P J Owen
S Paterson	J Parker
J C Patrick	D Pringle
M Radulovic MBE	T Roberts-Thomson
H E Skinner	P D Simpson
C M Tideswell	R D Willimott
I L Tyler	
D K Watts	
E Williamson	

On being put to the meeting the motion was carried.

#### 21.4 THE FOLLOWING MOTION HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM COUNCILLOR M RADULOVIC MBE:

The following Notice of Motion had been received from Councillor M Radulovic MBE and seconded by Councillor R I Jackson.

“This Council is greatly concerned at the proposals in the White Paper to introduce ‘zoning’ and to reduce or remove the role of planning applications in the planning system. This would unacceptably reduce or remove the scope for local planning authorities to assess detailed applications on their merits. It would also unacceptably reduce the involvement of local residents and communities in the planning process and remove their right to object to specific applications. The Council strongly urges the Secretary of State to reconsider these proposals.”

Members supported this motion with the inclusion of the minor amendment to include Darren Henry MP and Lee Anderson MP in the letter to reconsider the proposals to the Secretary of State.

On being put to the meeting the motion was carried.

#### 22 AWSWORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Councillors were asked to seek the resolution to ‘make’ (adopt) the Awsworth Neighbourhood Plan, following a successful referendum result on 10 June 2021.

The referendum asked the question: ‘Do you want Broxtowe Borough Council to use the Neighbourhood plan for Awsworth to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?’ the number of votes cast in favour were 401 and those in favour of no was 57. The turnout was 27.6%

Section 38A (4) (a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) requires the Council to 'make' (adopt) the Awsworth Neighbourhood Plan when more than half of those voting had voted in favour of the Plan.

**RESOLVED that:**

- 1. The Council 'makes' (adopts) the Awsworth Neighbourhood Plan.**
- 2. Authority be given to the Chief Executive to issue a statement setting out this decision (the 'Decision Statement')**

23 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

**RESOLVED that, under Section 100A of the Local Government Act, 1972, the public and press be excluded on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act.**

24 REFERENCE

24.1 PURCHASE OF AFFORDABLE HOMES AT BRAMCOTE

8 July 2021  
Finance and Resources Committee

With the minor amendment to include the Leader of the Opposition and Leader of Liberal Democrats within paragraph 2, the motion was carried.

**RESOLVED that:**

- 1. Subject to confirmation from the Council's external accountant (GL Hearn) that the scheme can be accommodated within the HRA business plan, up to the amount contained within the report, be allocated in the HRA capital programme for 2022/23 to 2025/26 for the construction of up to an amount of rented and shared ownership homes at the site contained within the report.**
- 2. A delegation be made to the Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer, following consultation with the Chairs of Finance and Resources, Housing and Policy and Performance Committees, for all approvals relating to the purchase, financing acquisition and construction of the homes.**
- 3. A delegation be made to the Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer to agree a compliant procurement route to allow the building contract to be entered into.**