

Contact Officer: Helen Kilroy

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CABINET

Tuesday 18th December 2018

Present: Councillor David Sheard (Chair)
Councillor Viv Kendrick
Councillor Musarrat Khan
Councillor Naheed Mather
Councillor Peter McBride
Councillor Cathy Scott
Councillor Graham Turner

Observers: Councillor Eric Firth

Apologies: Councillor Shabir Pandor (Chair)
Councillor Masood Ahmed

137 Membership of the Committee

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Cllr S Pandor and Cllr M Ahmed.

138 Interests

Cllr C Scott declared an interest in agenda item 10 Review of KNH in that she had a relative who lived in a property owned by KNH.

139 Admission of the Public

All items were considered in public session.

140 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

141 Public Question Time

No questions were asked.

142 Member Question Time

No questions were asked.

143 Quarter (2) Corporate Performance Report

Cabinet gave consideration to a report providing an overview of the Council's corporate performance at the end of Quarter 2 2018/19.

The report outlined a quarterly overview of impact, improvement and risk against each of the seven Kirklees Outcomes, within the context of what was set out in the newly formatted Corporate Plan.

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Cabinet raised concerns in relation to the new format of the report and felt that it did not contain enough detail in order for members of the public to be able to understand the content.

RESOLVED -

(1) That the report be noted.

(2) That further improvements be made to future reports as indicated at the meeting.

144 Calculation of Council Tax Base 2019/20

Cabinet gave consideration to a report seeking approval from Council for the various tax bases, which would apply to the Kirklees area for the financial year 2019/20 in connection with the Council Tax. There were no proposed changes to the current Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) for 2019/20.

RESOLVED -

That the 2019/20 Council Tax base for the whole of the Kirklees area, and the Council Tax bases for the five Parish and Town council areas be referred to the meeting of Council on 16 January 2019 for approval and to form part of the budget process:

Whole of Kirklees 118,708.56

Denby Dale 5,771.84

Holme Valley 9,998.83

Kirkburton 8,910.47

Meltham 2,820.42

Mirfield 6,617.91

145 Council Tax - Empty Property Premium

Cabinet gave consideration to a report advising that Council could now determine under s11B of The Local Government Finance Act 1992 to increase the premium for long term empty properties from 50% to 100% meaning that owners of those properties would PAY 100% in council tax from 1st April 2019.

The report also advised that Council could further determine that in these cases, the 100% premium rate would apply for a further 3 years; on the 5th anniversary of the empty status a 200% premium rate could be applied (earliest effective date 1st April 2020) and then 300% premium rate after 10 years (earliest effective date 1st April 2021).

Cabinet considered the recommendation to Council to make such a determination in respect of 2019/20 and subsequent years.

RESOLVED -

(1) That a recommendation be brought before Council that it make the Determination set out below:

“This council determines that in accordance with section 11B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 it will set a premium that applies the maximum afforded by the Act under sections 11B(1A) (1B) and (1C) with effect from the dates set out in those sections:

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(1a) For the financial year beginning on 1 April 2019 the “relevant maximum” is 100.

(1b) For the financial year beginning on 1 April 2020 the “relevant maximum” is –

- (a) in respect of any dwelling where the period mentioned in subsection (8) ending on the relevant day is less than 5 years, 100;
- (b) in respect of any dwelling where the period mentioned in subsection (8) ending on the relevant day is at least 5 years, 200.

(1c) For financial years beginning on or after 1 April 2021 the “relevant maximum” is— Page 46

- (a) in respect of any dwelling where the period mentioned in subsection (8) ending on the relevant day is less than 5 years, 100;
- (b) in respect of any dwelling where the period mentioned in subsection (8) ending on the relevant day is at least 5 years but less than 10 years, 200;
- (c) in respect of any dwelling where the period mentioned in subsection (8) ending on the relevant day is at least 10 years, 300.

(2) That work commence integrating this into the incentivising of bringing empty property back into use to increase Housing supply.

146

Review of KNH

Cabinet considered a report on the outcome of the Council’s independent review of Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing Ltd (KNH) coupled with the KNH Board’s review of governance and to make recommendations on the future direction of the management of the Council’s Housing Service.

Cabinet noted that section 1.0.1 be amended to read “To reduce the number of Board Members from 15 to 9 to be made up of 6 Council representatives and three tenant members”.

Cabinet thanked all the officers within the Council and at KNH for their hard work and commitment to this review.

RESOLVED -

Cabinet approved:-

(1) The recommendations of the KNH Board outlined in 5.2 of the report;

(2) The implementation of the changes to the Articles of Association as set out in Appendix 1 of the report and summarised in 5.2 of the report and in addition to this the council appoints Naz Parkar – Service Director, Growth and Housing – to be delegated with authority to attend the proposed EGM and/or sign any relevant documentation to make the changes on behalf of the council as the sole member of KNH.

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(3) The role of the strengthened Board would be to oversee housing operations and to act as a single purpose vehicle to deliver the housing management and maintenance service.

(4) That Housing Policy and Strategy, housing/asset investment and HRA Business planning matters would be determined by the Council, Cabinet or Council officers with advice from KNH officers;

(5) The Council would establish a specific Housing Strategy Steering Group with cross-party representation to work with the KNH Board and help guide Cabinet decisions. This group would be supported by the Tenant Panel to ensure the tenants' voice is central to decision making.

(6) These arrangements are interim for the next to 12-18 months and will remain under review until the regulatory and legislative landscape begins to settle.