

M3CAB4

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KIRKLEES METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

CABINET

Wednesday 6 November 2002

Present: Councillor K Pinnock in the Chair
Councillors Battye, Beever, Payne, A Pinnock, Raistrick, Simpson, J R
Smithson and S A Smithson

Observer: Councillor Sheard

Scrutiny representatives: Councillors Calvert and K Sims

270 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 9 October 2002 were approved and signed as a correct record.

271 Admission of the Public

The Cabinet agreed that Agenda Items 1-14 be taken in public session and that Agenda Items 17 Car Parking in Huddersfield - Budget Pressures be also be taken in public session.

272 Public Question Time

Councillor Sheard enquired as to why it is Council policy not to supply electricity to allotments and whether the policy would be reviewed.

Councillor J R Smithson replied that he would be pleased to review the policy.

273 New Education Legislation and Expenditure Plans for Education

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report which informed of significant new legislation and Government policy proposals and which proposed establishment of the Kirklees Schools Forum.

The Education Act 2002 set out the Government's plans for education into the foreseeable future along with the outcomes of the comprehensive spending review. The Green Paper on the Schools Workforce was expected in the Autumn which would set out the Government's plans to develop the workforce and take into account teachers' unions complaints about workload, cost to schools of supply cover and growth of support staff and which would supplement the Government's evidence to the school teachers' pay review body.

RESOLVED - That the issues set out in the report be noted on the basis that further reports will be forthcoming and that the proposals for establishing a Kirklees Schools Forum be approved.

274 Proposed Policy for Gifted and Talented Pupils

The Cabinet gave consideration to a policy for gifted and talented pupils. Provision for gifted and talented pupils had become a priority for the present Government and many initiatives impacting on provision for these pupils had been implemented. It had therefore become necessary to revise the Kirklees guidance and to develop a statement of policy indicating the role the LEA would have in helping pupils to reach their potential. The work in Kirklees would be supported by the first gifted and talented conference in the LEA in November 2002.

RESOLVED - That the draft policy be adopted.

275 Howden Clough Football Development

The Cabinet received a report which informed that a bid had been submitted to the Football Foundation to provide new changing and playing facilities at Batley Sports and Tennis Centre and which sought consideration to progress the scheme if the bid was successful.

RESOLVED -

(1) That the Cabinet note that a bid has been submitted and agreed that if it is successful and depending on the final tendering cost the scheme can progress in order:-

- * enhance facilities available to the community on a pay and play basis.
- * provide sports development opportunities to a wider audience.
- * improve on site facilities to the school.
- * address issues of equity and social inclusion.

(2) That in future Area Committees should be consulted on such reports.

276 Proposed Development of Sports Facilities at Norristhorpe Recreation Ground by Norristhorpe Junior Football Club

The Cabinet gave consideration to a scheme of improvements to local facilities at Norristhorpe Recreation Ground.

Leisure and Recreation Services was responsible for the management and maintenance of Norristhorpe Recreation Ground. The site was used for football with two junior size pitches and there was a newly refurbished children's play area on site. Norristhorpe Junior Football Club had approached the Council seeking to develop a building on the site for the purpose of fulfilling their requirements for changing facilities and car parking.

RESOLVED -

(1) That as the scheme meets corporate aims and objectives the area of land known as Norristhorpe Recreation Ground be leased for the purpose of development of sports facilities to Norristhorpe Junior Football Club.

(2) That the Head of Estates, Property and Markets be authorised to negotiate the terms of the lease in order to satisfy the requirements of the funding body. The terms should be established recognising the community benefit to be derived from the development and the activities of the Club. The terms of the lease to also protect the right of free public access and existing use of the site.

(3) That Officers of Leisure and Recreation Services be authorised to seek planning permission in connection with the proposed development.

277 White Rose Forest Accountable Body

The Cabinet was asked to consider making a bid by the Local Authority for the role of White Rose Forest Accountable Body.

The White Rose Forest was a West Yorkshire wide Partnership which sought to assist economic regeneration via Urban Forestry projects.

If the Local Authority was successfully bid for the role of accountable body responsibilities would be extended to include employment of all White Rose Forest staff, management of grant aid schemes and organisation of the White Rose Forest Steering Group. Grant aid and income would cover additional costs incurred by the Local Authority due to this additional responsibility. The medium term aim would be to develop the White Rose Forest as a Charitable Trust and Company Ltd. by Guarantee.

RESOLVED - That the Local Authority make a bid for the role of accountable body.

278 Quality Protects Programme 2002/03 - Capital Grant for ICT for Looked After Children - Approval to Spend

The Cabinet gave consideration to spending the £69,000 capital grant awarded as part of the Government's Quality Protects Programme 2002/03 to provide personal computers for children in residential and foster care.

RESOLVED - That approval be given to spend the quality protects capital grant in 2002/03 as detailed in the submitted business case with the expectation that the number of children who can benefit from the initiative be maximised.

279 Investment Strategy for Public Sector Housing for 2003 and Beyond
The Cabinet gave consideration to proposals and the framework for the investment of the public sector housing stocks for 2003 and beyond.

The report dealt with the approach which had been prepared by Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing on the assumptions that the inspection report gave at least a 2 star rating and thereby released additional resources. The approach set out the basis on which schemes would be prioritised.

RESOLVED - That the proposed strategy for prioritising investment as contained in the report be supported.

280 Making Towns and Cities Safe Conference
The Cabinet was asked to give consideration to Member attendance at the Making Towns and Cities Safe Conference taking place on 15 November 2002.

RESOLVED - That Councillor Ann Raistrick, Cabinet Member for Safer Communities and Human Resources be authorised to attend the Making Towns and Cities Safe Conference on 15 November 2002 in Leeds and that the Lead Scrutiny Member be authorised to also attend.

281 Car Parking in Huddersfield - Budget Pressures
The Cabinet gave consideration to the budget implications for shoppers parking in Huddersfield Town Centre, the timing of the introduction of the new Kingsgate tariff and reviewed the issue of Sunday tariffs.

RESOLVED -

(1) That the delayed repair works to the bus station multi-storey car park to March 2003 be noted in order to allow the car park budget to balance this year whilst new growth in shoppers car parking continues to establish itself across Huddersfield.

(2) That the delayed implementation date of 20 January 2003 for the agreed 70p an hour Kingsgate tariff be approved to allow the new Centre to continue to grow and establish its business in its first Christmas trading period.

(3) That the extension of free Sunday parking trial in Huddersfield for the foreseeable future be approved to support growth of the new Sunday shopping trade.

282 Exclusion of the Public

RESOLVED - That acting under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, as specifically stated in each of the undermentioned Minutes.

283 Tender for the Provision of Regional Special Educational Needs Mediation Service
(Exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person)

The Cabinet gave consideration to delegating authority for Officers to enter into a contract to provide a mediation service for children with special education needs and the LEAs participating in the partnership to deal with the Council's role as accountable body to the DFES and the management operation of the partnership.

RESOLVED -

(1) That authority be delegated to the Solicitor to the Council in consultation with the Director of Lifelong Learning and Director of Finance to enter into contracts with (a) Shropshire Mediation Services to provide a mediation service for children with special education needs, (b) the LEAs participating in the partnership to deal with the Council's role as accountable body to the DFES and management and operation of the partnership.

(2) That pending execution of formal contracts payment of £36,937.35 be approved to Shropshire Mediation Service on behalf of the Yorkshire SEN Regional Partnership in respect of the tender for the provision of the Regional Special Educational Needs Mediation Service (1 September 2002 to 31 August 2002).

284 Warrenside, Bradley, Huddersfield
(Exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person)

The Cabinet gave consideration to proposals for the redevelopment of facilities at Warrenside, Bradley by means of entering into a partnership.

RESOLVED -

(1) That the proposal for redevelopment of Warrenside be approved.

(2) That Officers of the Council be authorised to negotiate details of the lease of the peppercorn terms for the reasons outlined or other arrangements to equivalent effect, and to apply for planning permission as necessary.

(3) That joint application for grant aid be made.

(4) That details of the scheme be reported back in due course.

285 Batley Central Estate - Disposal of Sites to Brunell Housing Association
(Exempt information relating to the business affairs of persons other than the Authority)

The Cabinet gave consideration to the disposal of sites for the purpose of redevelopment by Brunell Housing Association to provide affordable housing for rent.

RESOLVED - That the disposal of the identified land and buildings at Batley Central to Brunell Housing Association on terms to be agreed by Estates Property and Markets Service (subject to planning permission) be approved.

286 Tender Evaluation of Two Term Contracts for the Installation of Void Security Measures in North and South Kirklees
(Exempt information relating to the amount of any expenditure proposed to be incurred by the Authority under any particular contract for the acquisition of property or the supply of goods and services)

The Cabinet gave consideration to letting contracts for void security to a value of nearly £300,000.

RESOLVED -

(1) That the award of the South contract to Orbis Protection Ltd. be approved.

(2) That the award of the North contract to Safe Estates Ltd. be approved.

287 Development of Tenancy Support Services
(Exempt information relating to the amount of any expenditure proposed to be incurred by the Authority under any particular contract for the acquisition of property or supply of goods or services.)

The Cabinet gave consideration to establish a Tenancy Support Team within Kirklees Housing Services to provide tenancy support to 16-25 year olds as a resettlement service for refugees as a direct response to identify gaps in current service provision.

RESOLVED - That the proposals for development and implementation of tenancy support services for young people and refugees be approved.

288 Supporting People IT Requirements
(Exempt information relation to any terms proposed or to be proposed by or to the Authority in the course of negotiations for a contract for the acquisition or disposal of property or the supply of goods or services.)

The Cabinet gave consideration to acquisition of an information technology system to support the Supporting People administrative arrangements.

RESOLVED - That the acquisition of the Care Support IT System from OLM on a preferred supplier basis be approved and that the additional funding of £40,000 for the acquisition of the system be approved.

289

Building Services - Approval to Trade, Utilising Spare Capacity
(Exempt information relating to the supply of goods and services and which contained information as to the business affairs of any particular person other than the Authority)

The Cabinet gave consideration to the provision of services to other organisations where the amount was expected to exceed £100,000.

It was suggested that Services should be allowed to advertise in the Technical Press in respect of the provision of services to other organisations without having to wait for a Cabinet meeting. It was agreed that a report identifying the scale of services involved be presented to a future meeting of the Cabinet.

RESOLVED - That Building Services in consultation with the Lead Member for Housing Services, Strategic Finance and Legal Services be authorised to bid or tender/negotiate for the provision of services to other organisations for the purposes set out.