

Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

## **KIRKLEES COUNCIL**

### **CABINET**

**Tuesday 5th April 2016**

Present: Councillor Jean Calvert (Chair)  
Councillor Erin Hill  
Councillor Viv Kendrick  
Councillor Shabir Pandor  
Councillor Cathy Scott  
Councillor Graham Turner

Apologies: Councillor David Sheard (Chair)  
Councillor Steve Hall  
Councillor Peter McBride

**265 Membership of the Committee**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors S Hall, McBride and Sheard.

**266 Minutes of previous meeting**

**RESOLVED** - That the Minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2016 be approved as a correct record.

**267 Interests**

No interests were declared.

**268 Admission of the Public**

It was noted that all Agenda Items would be considered in public session.

**269 Deputations/Petitions**

No deputations or petitions were received.

**270 Member Question Time**

No questions were asked.

**271 Solar PV Programme 2014-2017**

Cabinet received a report which (i) provided an update on the progress made against the target of installing 2000 solar photo voltaic systems on Council houses (ii) provided information on recent changes published by the Department of Energy and Climate Change regarding a 60% reduction in the Feed in Tariff rate for all solar PV systems registered after 15 January 2016 (iii) highlighted the impact which the

changes would have upon the project and (iv) asked Cabinet to give consideration as to whether to continue with the project.

The report advised of revised expenditure and income projections and indicated that the revised estimate on the full programme of 2000 installations was now -£1982,557, compared with an original projection of +£2,600,000. Cabinet noted that, to date, 574 systems had been installed and that the estimated surplus at this time was +£1,982,557.

Cabinet were of the view that, given the impact of the revised Feed in Tariff and revised project expenditure and income projections, it would be appropriate to end the project. It was noted that the primary risk in proceeding with the scheme would be the impact upon the Housing Revenue Account at a time when there is already pressure linked to Welfare Reform. The project had been designed to be self-financing in the medium term, but the reduction in the Feed in Tariff rate would mean that there would be no return on the capital outlay.

**RESOLVED -**

(1) That the progress of installing 574 solar photo voltaic systems, against the original target, be noted.

(2) That the recent changes published by the Department of Energy and Climate Change, resulting in a 60% reduction in the Feed in Tariff rate for all systems registered after 15 January 2016, and the subsequent impact upon the financing of the project, be noted.

(3) That approval be given to the Council withdrawing from the programme of works, subject to panels being provided to homes where a commitment has been given to complete works and/or where works have already started.

(4) That, based upon the revised Feed in Tariff, the revised project expenditure and income projections, and the pressure upon the Housing Revenue Account, it be agreed that the project be ended.

**272**

**Overview of progress made in relation to changes to specialist provision for disabled children and those with special educational needs across Kirklees**

Cabinet received a report which provided an overview of progress in relation to changes to specialist provision for children and young people with additional needs in the areas of autism, speech, language and communication, physical impairment and sensory impairment, from December 2014, and also highlighted areas where further reconfiguration was needed in order to best meet existing and future demand.

The report requested approval to carry out a non-statutory consultation on proposed changes to the existing specialist provisions at Ashbrow School and Thornhill Junior and Infant School for children with speech, language and communication needs, and to complete legal process following the closure of the specialist provision at Moldgreen Community Primary School for children with autism.

The report set out details on the background of the review of specialist provision for children with special educational needs, and the current pattern of primary and secondary provision.

**RESOLVED -**

(1) That Officers be authorised to develop plans for a non-statutory consultation to; discontinue the specialist provisions for children with speech, language and communication needs at Ashbrow School and Thornhill Junior and Infant School; discontinue the specialist provision for autism at Moldgreen Community Primary School and; relocate resources to a centralised primary outreach provision hub for speech, language and communication needs and autism across Kirklees.

(2) That authority be delegated to the Director of Children and Adult Services in consultation with Cabinet Portfolio Leads to (i) develop consultation materials on the basis of the proposals (ii) organise and carry out a non-statutory consultation on the proposals and (iii) request that a further report on the outcomes of the non-statutory consultation be submitted to Cabinet for consideration.