

Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

## KIRKLEES COUNCIL

### CABINET

**Tuesday 12th November 2019**

Present: Councillor Shabir Pandor (Chair)  
Councillor Viv Kendrick  
Councillor Musarrat Khan  
Councillor Naheed Mather  
Councillor Peter McBride  
Councillor Carole Pattison  
Councillor Cathy Scott  
Councillor Rob Walker

Observers: Councillor Mohan Sokhal  
Councillor Martyn Bolt

Apologies: Councillor Graham Turner

Cabinet held a minute of silence in respect of Councillor Paul Kane.

**71 Membership of Cabinet**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Turner.

**72 Minutes of previous meeting**

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 August 2019 be approved as a correct record.

**73 Interests**

No interests were declared.

**74 Admission of the Public**

It was noted that all agenda items would be considered in public session.

**75 Deputations/Petitions**

Cabinet received a deputations from (i) Dr Richard Stow, on behalf of Kirklees Climate Emergency Trees Moorland and Rewilding Sub Group, and (ii) Mr Gideon Richards, on behalf of Kirklees Climate Emergency Group, in response to the report at Agenda Item 7. (Minute No. 77 refers).

**76 Member Question Time**

Cabinet received questions from Cllr Bolt requesting (i) that the consideration of Agenda Item 7 be deferred to enable further public engagement and (ii) that, having given consideration to purdah restrictions, Cabinet receive contributions from public attendees. A response was provided by the Leader of the Council.

**77 Kirklees Climate Emergency Declaration and the Kirklees Air Quality Strategy and Five Year Air Quality Action Plan**

(Under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 36(1) Cabinet received a representation from Councillor Bolt)

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which set out (i) the findings of the Climate Emergency Working Party (ii) the proposed response of the Cabinet to the Climate Emergency and (iii) the Council's five year Air Quality Action Plan and Strategy. A presentation was delivered by Richard Hollinson, Head of Major Projects, which provided an overview of climate emergency in terms of international, national, regional and local strategic context, progress made on the resolution of Council to date, the work of the Climate Emergency Working Party, current achievements by the Council and proposed next steps and recommendations.

Cabinet noted the work that had been undertaken subsequent to the approval of a Motion at Council during January 2019, which declared a climate emergency. The report set out the proposed response to the Climate Emergency, and next steps for (i) addressing air quality challenges (ii) outlining an ambitious plan, including local leadership and (iii) empowering partners and residents to take action. It also provided details of the Council's plans for tackling its contribution to transport related emissions, which included a programme of accelerated electric vehicle procurement, an electric vehicle strategy and an air quality action plan. Cabinet noted that these actions, in addition to the work outlined within the Climate Emergency Working Party programme, would signify a response to the climate emergency within the Council.

The report advised that the immediate response to the climate emergency and air quality challenges would be to invest in low emission transport, focusing on electric vehicles, and that the Council's electric fleet would be doubled in size. In addition, there would be an aim to have one of the highest densities of electric charging points for public use outside of London.

Cabinet noted that a number of significant achievements had already been made to address the challenges presented, including the roll-out of next generation street lighting, an innovative approach to school catering and extensive insulation improvements to homes, directly benefitting local residents.

The report advised that, subject to approval, the Council would immediately progress the phase 1 climate emergency proposals, as detailed within the considered report, and begin the preparation of phase 2 proposals in advance of the 2020 budget setting process.

**RESOLVED –**

- 1) That with regards to Climate Emergency, Cabinet;
  - (i) notes the content of this report and progress made to date regarding the Council's Climate Emergency Declaration in accordance with the Council resolution dated 16 January 2019, including progress on; publicising the Climate Emergency declaration, the work undertaken regarding the environmental audit of Kirklees Council, the reporting on

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progress on improving our recycling rate, the setting up of a Councillor Working Party, the reporting of agreement on protocols regarding Environmental Impact of new Council policy and the reporting of progress on collaboration with other Local and Regional authorities on emission reduction projects as appropriate

- (ii) approves the actions as set out at section 5 of the considered report, which will form 'Phase 1' of the climate emergency work programme, and agrees that the work will commence immediately
  - (iii) pursuant to (ii) above, delegates authority for the development and resourcing of further phases of the climate change emergency work programme to the Strategic Director (Economy and Infrastructure), in conjunction with the Cabinet Portfolio Holders for Greener Kirklees, and Culture and Environment
  - (iv) agrees to prioritise the budget setting requirements deriving from both the Climate Emergency and Air Quality proposals in this report as part of the budget setting process for Council to consider in February 2020
- 2) That with regards to Air Quality, Cabinet;
- (i) notes the content of the report, approves the Kirklees Council Air Quality Action Plan and resolves that the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Greener Kirklees and the Strategic Director (Economy and Infrastructure) jointly sign Kirklees Council Air Quality Action Plan
  - (ii) delegates authority to Service Director (Environment) to make arrangements for the signed and approved 'Kirklees Council Air Quality Action Plan' to be sent to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) for assessment
  - (iii) delegates authority to Service Director (Environment) in consultation with Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Greener Kirklees to amend the 'Kirklees Council Air Quality Action Plan', if upon assessment by Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs the assessment requires the action plan to be amended
  - (iv) delegates authority to Head of Public Protection in consultation with Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Greener Kirklees to make future amendments or updates to the Action Plan as part of on-going review of air quality and the actions Kirklees Council is taking, and that updates to the Action Plan be reported to DEFRA through Annual Status Reporting.
  - (v) delegates authority to Head of Public Protection to make arrangements for the approved action plan and any future amendments to the approved action plan to be published on the Council's Website
  - (vi) notes the content of the report and approves the Kirklees Council Air Quality Strategy
  - (vii) delegates authority to Service Director (Environment) to publish the aforementioned strategy on the Council's Website
  - (viii) delegates authority to Service Director (Environment) in consultation with the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Greener Kirklees to make future changes to the Air Quality Strategy and decisions in respect of the strategy

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- (ix) notes the contents of the report and that the progress on the commitments within the Air Quality Action Plan will be reported each year to the Department of Environment and Rural Affairs through the publication of the Annual Status Report.
- 3) That Officers be requested to report to future meetings of Cabinet with detailed proposals in relation to (i) step-change in electric vehicle charging infrastructure (ii) a further increase in the Council's electric vehicle fleet and (iii) encouraging the use of electric and low-emission vehicles
- 4) That the report and resolutions of this meeting be referred to the meeting of Council on 13 November 2019, for information

### 78 **Corporate Safeguarding Policy**

Cabinet received a report which sought approval of the Corporate Safeguarding Policy 2019. Cabinet were advised that an audit review conducted in 2017 had identified areas for improvements including giving consideration to highlighting a commitment to safeguarding within a policy document, and consequently the development of a corporate safeguarding policy.

The Council's safeguarding policy, which set out a duty of care of staff to safeguard, prevent and report harm was appended to the considered report and included information on responsibilities of safeguarding and reporting procedures.

It was noted that the policy and corporate safeguarding agenda would be managed by the Corporate Safeguarding Oversight Group.

**RESOLVED** - That the Corporate Safeguarding Policy 2019 be approved.

### 79 **Peer Challenge Feedback Report and Action Plan**

Cabinet received a report which set out recommendations arising from the corporate peer challenge which had taken place from 9 to 12 July 2019. An action plan appended to the considered report set out proposals to address the recommendations, which had been focused upon areas which the LGA considered to be critical to the performance and development of a Local Authority. Cabinet noted that the feedback report had identified key strengths of (i) strong communities with strong identities (ii) dedicated and committed staff and (iii) an ambitious investment budget, and that the recommendations were designed to complement and add value to the Council's performance.

Cabinet welcomed the findings of the peer challenge team, which had been formulated following engagement with over 300 people including staff, councillors and external partners. It was noted that delivery of the recommendations would be monitored through alignment of progress reporting against the corporate plan.

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### **RESOLVED -**

- 1) That the Peer Challenge feedback report be received and noted.
- 2) That the action plan appended to the report, which sets out the Council's response to the recommendations arising from the LGA Corporate Peer Challenge, be endorsed and referred to Council for approval.