

Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CABINET

Monday 29th June 2020

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

Observers: Councillor Bill Armer
Councillor Martyn Bolt
Councillor David Hall
Councillor Aleks Lukic
Councillor Andrew Marchington
Councillor Bernard McGuin
Councillor Alison Munro
Councillor Richard Smith
Councillor Mohan Sokhal
Councillor John Taylor
Councillor Mark Thompson
Councillor Lesley Warner
Councillor Michael Watson

Apologies: Councillor Musarrat Khan

205 Membership of Cabinet

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Khan.

206 Interests

No interests were declared.

207 Admission of the Public

It was noted that exempt information was submitted in respect of Agenda Item 9, and was appended at Agenda Item 11 (Minute No. 215 refers).

208 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

209 Questions by Members of the Public (Written Questions)

Cabinet received the following questions from Members of the Public;

Question from James Taylor

“How many brown garden bins are there in Mirfield, and since collections started at the end of February for this year, what percentage of those garden bins have been collected on their scheduled collection date?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet member for Culture and Environment (Councillor Walker)

Question from James Taylor

“Out of 10 collections for my brown bin so far this year, it has only been emptied on the scheduled day five times.

What does Cabinet think about this level of service, for which I'm paying a premium?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet member for Culture and Environment (Councillor Walker)

Question from James Taylor

“On Gardeners World they are always talking about how you can get cheap compost from some Local Authorities as some Local Authorities that collect garden waste then turn it into compost and sell it back to residents, not only helping the environment but also helping out residents who are keen gardeners.

Once my brown bin has been emptied what actually happens to all the garden waste collected throughout the borough?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet member for Culture and Environment (Councillor Walker)

Question from James Taylor

“Cabinet can't have failed to notice many residents commenting on social media including newspaper websites questioning how much KMC has paid to buy The George Hotel.

Will Cabinet be transparent and disclose to council tax payers the full purchase price of The George Hotel, or will it be a case in a few weeks' time, of reading in the paper a quote from an Kirklees officer stating "it's not in the public interest to know."?

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration (Councillor McBride)

210 Questions by Elected Members (Oral Questions)

Cabinet received the following questions from Members of the Council;

Question from Councillor J Taylor:

“Please can you confirm who took the decision in light of the Covid pandemic to not take any action to evict illegal occupations of council land? Why was there a u-turn on this policy a week on Friday?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration (Councillor McBride).

Question from Councillor R Smith:

“I just want you to confirm please that, as soon as this possession order is granted by the County Court in Huddersfield, that you enforce this immediately?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services (Councillor Turner).

Question from Councillor Watson:

“Following on from the same issue, why has it taken so long for us to get to the position of serving the papers when it seems to have been a very effective way of dealing with this matter?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services (Councillor Turner).

Question from Councillor McGuin:

“With regards to Penistone Road and Station Road junction, after 4 accidents within 16 days in June and after being highlighted last year as a dangerous junction by Councillors, will Cabinet support measures to the junction safer?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Culture and Environment (Councillor Walker).

Question from Councillor Munro:

“I’ve made demands for lights at this junction and a reduction of the speed limit along Penistone Road, but all I am getting back from highways is that they are insisting on us implementing a small scale scheme and this will not address the increase in the volume of traffic, it will not address queuing traffic at the junction and it will not address vehicles speeding on Penistone Road and it will not provide a safe space for cyclists.

Councillor Walker has referred to the fact that we are having a meeting on Friday but do you know if they are considering a substantial scheme? Will they please put lights in at this junction and reduce the speed limit along Penistone Road?”

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A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Culture and Environment (Councillor Walker).

Question from Councillor Armer:

“In non-Covid times, what plan does the Council have for dealing expeditiously with trespassers bringing vehicles onto Kirklees land?”

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council.

Question from Councillor Bolt:

“You said earlier on that the law is the law and the policy is the policy, so bearing in mind the Criminal Justice and Order Act 1994, which gives specific remits for Councils to do in case of illegal encampments, why aren't you following the law? Section 77 of that Act refers to specific powers of the councils.”

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council.

Question from Councillor Warner:

“Regarding the proposed action that the Council is planning to take regarding Black Lives Matter, I know you've had some discussion on this but with the summer holidays coming up and the potential for some innovative creative projects that could be embraced, I wondered where we are with thinking and planning? I'd quite like to be involved as I'm sure others would.”

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council.

Question from Councillor Marchington:

“I've had questions raised by residents with disabilities about accessing the town centres – what consultations were done with residents with disabilities before stopping residents being able to park in parts of central Huddersfield where they used to be able to do so?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Culture and Environment (Councillor Walker).

211 Kirklees Council's Vision for Adult Social Care 2020-2024

(Under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 36(1), Cabinet received a representation from Councillor J Taylor.)

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which sought approval of the Council vision for Adult Social Care 2020-2024. The five year vision document, which was appended to the considered report, had been produced following a request in 2018 to refresh the current vision, which had been published in 2016. It was noted that a series of engagement sessions had taken place with stakeholders, including service

users, carers, user groups and partnership boards, in order to inform and shape the refreshed vision document.

Cabinet noted that the renewed vision set out challenges and ambitions that could only be achieved by working together with people and partners by requiring input from wider services across the Council, from partners and from the voluntary sector.

RESOLVED - That the Vision for Adult Social Care 2020-2024 be endorsed.

212 Re-opening Town Centres (Active Travel and Cultural Interventions)
(Under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 36(1), Cabinet received representations from Councillors Bolt, D Hall, Lukic and J Taylor.)

Cabinet received a report which set out detail of immediate, short term, active travel and cultural interventions, aimed at supporting the re-opening of Dewsbury and Huddersfield Town Centres, and schools. The report advised that the aim of the interventions was to ensure that people could still socially distance and move about safely and that practical measures including signage and pavement stickers were being applied. Details were also provided as to a series of cultural interventions which would help make the town centre environments more welcoming to businesses and residents as the town centres re-open. It was noted that the schemes, which were set out within the Appendix to the considered report, were at various stages of delivery.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the approach set out within the report regarding the implementation of active travel measures, the temporary re-allocation of road space and the installation of cultural interventions in Huddersfield and Dewsbury in order to (i) help assist the economic recovery of these towns (ii) make them attractive places to visit (iii) promote public health (iv) help address the climate emergency and (v) ensure that residents can access these areas safely, be endorsed.
- 2) That the proposed list of cultural interventions, as set out in the Appendix to the report, be approved with an initial budget of £200,000.

213 Adult Social Care Capital Investment Programme - Knowl Park House/Centre of Excellence, Mirfield and The Homestead, Almondbury
(Under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 36(1) Cabinet received a representation from Councillor Bolt).

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which sought approval to proceed with Lead Consultant Architects, following a successful tender exercise for the dementia day care capital programme at Knowl Park House, Mirfield and The Homestead, Almondbury. The report advised that the current facilities were former 1960s residential units which were unsuitable for the delivery of modern day dementia services and needed to be replaced with buildings of modern, appropriate construction and flexible design in order for the best quality care to be provided in appropriate environments.

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Cabinet were advised that the schemes would require the demolition of the existing buildings and that the estimated completion of the site at Knowl Park House was autumn 2022, and The Homestead shortly after. It was noted that the capital planning process would require a further detailed report to be submitted to Cabinet to confirm the design and estimated detailed cost of the schemes and seek approval to the release of appropriate capital funding and permission to tender. The draft commissioning document was attached at as an exempt appendix to the report.

(Cabinet gave consideration to the exempt information at Agenda Item 11 (Minute No.215 refers) prior to the determination of this item.)

RESOLVED –

- 1) That approval be given to the appointment of Lead Consultant Architects following a tendering exercise for the scheme.
- 2) That approval be given to the production of biodiversity reports for the Knowl Park House site.

214 Exclusion of the Public

RESOLVED – That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

215 Adult Social Care Capital Investment Programme - Knowl Park House/Centre of Excellence, Mirfield and The Homestead, Almondbury

(Exempt information within Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, namely information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

Cabinet gave consideration to the exempt information prior to the determination of Agenda Item 9 (Minute No. 213 refers).