

Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CABINET

Friday 1st May 2020

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

Apologies: Councillor Peter McBride

150 Membership of Cabinet

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor McBride.

151 Minutes of Previous Meetings

RESOLVED - That the Minutes of the meetings held on 14 January and 25 February 2020 be approved as a correct record.

152 Interests

No interests were declared.

153 Admission of the Public

All agenda items were considered in public session.

154 Written Questions

Cabinet received the following written questions from Members of the Council;

Question from Councillor Lukic to the Cabinet Member for Greener Kirklees (Councillor Mather)

Sands Lane, Sands Road and Hollinroyd Road in Dewsbury have long been fly tipping hotspots, and the problem is particularly acute at the moment.

Will Cabinet introduce covert camera surveillance here and at other hotspots to help catch more perpetrators?

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

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Question from Councillor Lukic to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration (Councillor McBride)

Would you please provide an update on the review of car parking charges in Dewsbury?

The Cabinet Member for Resources (Councillor Turner) replied on behalf of Councillor McBride.

Question from Councillor Lukic to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Pandor)

Under the devolution deal you have agreed, the Mayor of West Yorkshire is due to take over the responsibilities of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

As the PCC election due this year is not taking place, do you agree that the post should now be retired in 2021 when the first Mayor is elected?

The Leader of the Council replied thereto.

Question from Councillor Greaves to the Cabinet Member for Resources (Councillor Turner)

In regards to small business grants, by when will the outstanding claims be processed and paid out?

Will the businesses who have not yet submitted a claim be proactively contacted?

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

Question from Councillor Greaves to the Cabinet Member for Greener Kirklees (Councillor Mather)

When will the Household Waste sites reopen and how will access and use be controlled?

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

Question from Councillor Greaves to the Cabinet Member for Resources (Councillor Turner)

In respect of the impact of Covid 19, when will updated revenue and capital budget plans be released?

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

Question from Councillor Lawson to the Cabinet Member for Greener Kirklees (Councillor Mather)

Can you put any figures to the amount of fly tipping clearances since 23rd March, the scale of any increase and the amounts of identifiable domestic versus business waste? Related to this, are there any figures on calls to the Council complaining about waste fires in domestic settings?

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

Question from Councillor Lawson to the Cabinet Member for Greener Kirklees (Councillor Mather)

The rise in domestic waste will have increased, what financial impact has that had on the refuse collection service?

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

Question from Councillor Lawson to the Cabinet Member for Culture and Environment (Councillor Walker)

How many reports of closed Rights of Way has the Council received and how many of these have been opened through enforcement action?

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

Question from Councillor Lawson to the Cabinet Member for Health and Social care (Councillor Khan)

Do Council home care staff who deal with the most vulnerable residents have sufficient PPE to do their job safely and have they had appropriate training?

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

Question from Councillor Lawson to the Cabinet Member for Resources (Councillor Turner)

Will money received so far from central government cover our expected extra Covid-19 spending?

The Cabinet Member replied thereto.

Question from Councillor Lawson to the Cabinet Members for Children's Services (Councillor Kendrick) and Health and Social Care (Councillor Khan)

Can you highlight what is being done to ensure vulnerable adults and children continue to get the protection they need during Lockdown?

The Cabinet Members replied thereto.

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Cabinet received the following written questions from Members of the Public;

Question from Christine Hyde to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Pandor)

Are you including the costs of community Covid19 contact tracing and isolation in your estimates of the financial impact of Covid 19 on the Council?

The Leader of the Council replied thereto.

Question from Christine Hyde to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Pandor)

Are you setting up a community contact tracing and isolation strategy, pilot, or initiative in Kirklees? If not, why not? Will Kirklees Public Health be in the driving seat. If not, why not?

The Leader of the Council replied thereto.

Question from Christine Hyde to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Pandor)

What are the current covid19 death figures for Kirklees, including people who have died in care homes and at home?

The Leader of the Council replied thereto.

Question from Christine Hyde to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Pandor)

As you will know, West Yorkshire and Harrogate Integrated Care System has announced a fund to support community level interventions that reduce gaps in health outcomes for population groups in West Yorkshire and Harrogate. The focus is on groups who are most vulnerable to the direct health implications of COVID-19 and the indirect social implications of the control measures such as isolation and shielding.

Does the Cabinet support this fund? If so, please will you explain how this grant, which will apparently fund voluntary and community organisations' efforts at social prescribing for those most negatively affected by Covid 19, is in any way going to tackle these upstream causes of health inequalities?

The Leader of the Council replied thereto.

Question from Christine Hyde to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Pandor)

Is the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee going to do a Health Inequalities Assessment of the Coronavirus Act 2020? Or is the Cabinet itself doing this?

The Leader of the Council replied thereto.

155 Decisions taken during the COVID-19 Pandemic to date

Cabinet received a report which set out details of decisions which had been taken by the Chief Executive under delegated emergency powers from 16 March 2020, to date, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The report also set out an outline of new Cabinet responsibilities targeted at dealing with the immediate consequences of the pandemic, namely protecting lives, livelihoods, and the most vulnerable members of the community; thereby laying the foundation for the recovery of Kirklees in the long term.

The report advised that, as a result of the pandemic, it had not been possible to comply with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1972 enabling decisions to be taken in the physical presence of members at meetings. Consequently, a number of decisions had been taken during this period, having regard to the powers within the constitution, including the emergency powers of the Chief Executive, and delegation to other senior officers.

Cabinet noted that decisions on the following matters had been made by the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, and had been published online; (i) to commence the Governance Review for the West Yorkshire Devolution Deal (ii) proposals relating to non-domestic rates, which were required to enable the Council to operate new schemes to assist businesses (iii) a change to the Council's housing allocation scheme to suspend the full implementation of the enhanced lettable standard and the Home Starter Fund Pilot to increase options and availability of appropriate accommodation for homelessness to increase temporary capacity during the pandemic and in order to comply with requirements from Government (iv) the removal of the 80% limit on entitlements in the Council Tax Reduction Scheme and to allocate 100%, and to implement the Government's Council Tax Hardship Scheme at £150 in line with the Government's Council Tax Hardship Fund guidance (v) agreeing the Highway Capital Programme to enable aspects of highways work to commence quickly and (vi) an amendment of payments to school travel operators during the pandemic.

The report advised that, at the next meeting of Cabinet, a further report would be submitted which would detail the emerging impact of Covid-19 upon overall Council finances, and set out early proposals through the 2019/2020 final accounts process to support the Council's overall financial resilience.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the decisions taken by the Chief Executive under Emergency Powers for the period from 16 March 2020 to date, as set out within the considered report and appendices relating to (i) West Yorkshire Devolution Deal – Review of Governance Arrangements (ii) Business Rates Discounts – additional retail reliefs 2020/2021 (iii) Housing Services Accommodation Update (iv) Covid-19 Government Hardship Fund 2020/2021 (v) Highways detailed Capital Plan 2020/2021 and 2021/22 and (vi) Payment of Operators – School Transport, be noted and endorsed.

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- 2) That, pursuant to (1) above, other actions taken during this period, as set out in the schedule at Appendix 1 of the report, be noted and endorsed.
- 3) That detail regarding any other actions taken by Officers, in order to ensure that steps are in place to manage decisions moving forward, be noted.
- 4) That it be noted that further remote meetings of Cabinet, and other meetings, will be scheduled.
- 5) That the revision of Cabinet Portfolios in order to reflect emergency Cabinet Member responsibilities in supporting citizens, partners and businesses during this period, be noted as follows;
 - Councillor Pandor : leading the immediate response to the pandemic/leading recovery strategy/public health
 - Councillor McBride : immediate support to business/planning the post-pandemic inclusive economy
 - Councillor Kendrick : statutory responsibility for children's social care/safeguarding our most vulnerable children throughout the pandemic
 - Councillor Khan : statutory responsibility for vulnerable adults/responsibility for vulnerable adult social care/safeguarding our most vulnerable adults throughout the pandemic
 - Councillor Pattison : working with schools to maintain services/planning for return to school
 - Councillor Turner : financial oversight / resources
 - Councillor Mather : council staff, including staff wellbeing
 - Councillor Scott : engaging and supporting voluntary sector capacity for immediate responses to the pandemic / strengthening place-based working for the future / north Kirklees
 - Councillor Walker : engaging and supporting voluntary sector capacity for immediate responses to the pandemic / strengthening place-based working for the future / south Kirklees