

Contact Officer: Leigh Webb

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CABINET

Tuesday 20 October 2020

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

Observers: Councillor Martyn Bolt
Councillor John Taylor
Councillor Nigel Patrick
Councillor Elizabeth Smaje
Councillor Anthony Smith

270 Membership of Cabinet

All Members of Cabinet were present at the meeting.

271 Minutes of previous meeting - 1 September and 22 September 2020

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meetings held on 1 September and 22 September 2020 be approved as a correct record

272 Interests

Councillors Mather and Pattison advised that, in their capacity as Board Members for Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing, they had been granted dispensations on Agenda Item 9, and were permitted to speak but not vote on the item.

273 Admission of the Public

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

274 Questions by Members of the Public (Written Questions)

Cabinet received the following question from members of the Public;

Question from James Taylor

“What work is the Council doing to enable that some form of Remembrance Services will be able to take place across the Borough on Remembrance Sunday. As Cabinet will be aware the Remembrance Sunday service in Mirfield is usually one of the largest in the country. I’m aware we’re all in a difficult position at the

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moment with local lockdowns, however do the Council feel something will be able to happen abiding of course by national and local restrictions?”

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council.

Question from James Taylor

“On Wednesday night/Thursday morning for the first time this Autumn the Spen Beck at Northorpe and the River Calder at Ledgard Bridge both were recorded on the gov.uk website as exceeding the floodline on the relevant graphs.

What work has the local authority been undertaking to protect businesses and households since the River Calder reached it's highest ever recorded level of 5.40 metres on 9th February 2020 and has Kirklees been raising any concerns of flooding or making any recommendations to the Environment Agency?”

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

Question from James Taylor

“Looking at the plans that Network Rail published on Monday 5th October for the proposed rail line upgrade between Huddersfield and Westtown I read that moving part of the line on the Colnebridge/Mirfield border would lead to the damage and loss of wildlife habitats especially for badgers and bats.

If and when this projects "get on track" does Kirklees have a duty of care in trying to protect wildlife and their habitats even if the land isn't owned by Kirklees but Network Rail?”

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

Question from James Taylor

“I follow Kirklees on social media and get emails from Kirklees Together which tend to be full of useful information and no doubt @kirkleeswinter twitter feed will be coming out of hibernation soon so may I ask what are the current grit stock levels in readiness for Winter and how do stock levels compare to previous years?”

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

275 Questions by Elected Members (Oral questions)

Cabinet received the following questions from Members of the Council;

Question from Councillor Bolt

“Where was a decision taken to mothball the Mayoralty and reduce the duties and engagements of the Mayor.”

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A response was provided by the Leader of the Council.

Question from Councillor Bolt

“Who took the decision in August 2020 to withdraw funding for the provision of civic remembrance events across the Borough.”

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council

Question from Councillor A Smith

“Could the Covid-19 protection work programme of the Kirklees Cohesion Team be rolled out across the Borough”

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council.

Question from Councillor Patrick

“How long will it be before the school drop off point on school land adjacent to Thongsbridge Co-op is delivered.”

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

Question from Councillor J Taylor

“Why are 2 out of 3 speed indicators in the Kirkburton Ward currently not working?”

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council.

Question from Councillor Patrick

“In four sites in the Holme Valley south properties have been flooded as a result of new builds. How confident are you that new homes being built on a former landfill site that secures the safety of new home owners and existing property owners?”

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

Question from Councillor J Taylor

“Why are Kirklees Council still unable to currently recycle cardboard?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Greener Kirklees (Councillor Mather).

Question from Councillor Bolt

“Where can residents see Kirklees Council’s response to the Trans Pennine route upgrade?”

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

Question from Councillor Patrick

Why has action been taken by the public rights of way service against people who have replaced field gates with electric gates to prevent rural crime?”

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

Question from Councillor Bolt

“Where is the information relating to 3 changes that have been agreed, following the public consultation, in relation to the Cooper Bridge By Pass”

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

276 Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Report – Consultation on the Future Arrangements for the Management of the Council’s Residential Housing Stock

Councillor Smaje, Chair of Overview Management Committee, presented a report from the Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Panel setting out the findings on the consultation process and the on-going work relating to the future arrangements for management of Kirklees social housing stock. The Panel was initially established by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC) in November 2019 to carry out a focussed piece of work to identify the best option(s) for the Council to achieve the right balance of risk and outcomes for local residents in relation to the housing stock for which it is the landlord. The outcome of that scrutiny exercise was reported to Cabinet on 21st May 2020 setting out a number of recommendations which were noted by Cabinet as part of its consideration of the options for the future management of its housing stock on 2nd June 2020.

The Ad-hoc Panel have continued their work over the summer period and the report set out their findings.

RESOLVED –

1. That the responses from the Ad-hoc Scrutiny Panel as set out in Appendix A be noted, including the Panel’s recommendation for further work to be undertaken in respect of:
 - youth engagement
 - strengthening the tenant voice
 - learning from the consultation to be put in place
 - how any changes in governance structure for housing going forward enables engagement and listening to the wider tenant and leaseholder body.
 - ensuring that the housing panels contribute to the cabinet decisions
2. That the request for how ward councillors can have greater involvement moving forward be explored.

277

Decision on the Future Model for the Management and Maintenance of Kirklees Council Housing

Cabinet gave consideration to a report setting out the outcome of the formal tenant engagement on the management and maintenance of the housing stock and status of the recommendations from the previous Cabinet report of 2nd June 2020; to ask that Cabinet ratifies their previous ‘in principle’ decision to change the model for management of its housing stock to an in-house delivery model and to consider and approve the proposed approach to delivery and implementation set out in the report.

The report also provided information on the outcomes of the formal tenant engagement requested by Cabinet along with any recommendations from the Ad-Hoc Scrutiny meeting on 21st September 2020 and comments from the KNH Board Special Meeting, who were supportive of the approach, held on 28th September 2020. At these meetings, a final update on the findings from the engagement (to 26th August 2020) were presented, along with options for ensuring the tenant’s voice is heard in strategic decision making if services were joined with the Council.

RESOLVED -

1. That Cabinet note the outcome of the formal tenant and leaseholder engagement on the management and maintenance of the housing stock carried out June-September 2020
2. That Cabinet notes the work and recommendations of the Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Panel.
3. That Cabinet ratifies their previous ‘in principle’ decision to change the model to an in-house delivery model in light of the information provided in the report and agrees to proceed to seek a mutual termination of the current contract with KNH by 31.3.21 in order to directly manage the arrangements for its housing stock.
4. That Cabinet approves the proposed approach to Assurance and Tenant Involvement.
5. That authority be delegated to:
 - the Strategic Director for Adults and Health in consultation with the Portfolio holder to take all relevant steps to implement the decision.
 - the Service Director Legal, Governance and Commissioning to enter into all relevant legal documents on behalf of the Council to enable implementation of the decision.

278

Council Budget Strategy Update; 2021-2022 and following years

Cabinet considered a report to determine the approach to the annual update of the Council’s Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) which is reported to full Council each year, and sets a framework for the development of draft spending plans for future years by officers and Cabinet. The provisional budget strategy in the report provides a budget planning framework to consider subsequent budget proposals that will deliver a balanced revenue budget for the following financial year 2021/22 and indicative funding and spending forecasts for the following 4 years. This report also provided a framework for an updated multi-year capital plan.

RESOLVED –

1. That the funding and spend assumptions informing the updated budget forecasts as set out in section 2.3 to 2.15 of the report be noted

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2. That the current and forecast earmarked reserves and general balances as set out at Appendix B be noted
3. That the corporate budget timetable and approach set out at Appendix F be noted.
4. That the report be submitted to Council on 21 October 2020 with a recommendation:

- (i) That the revised Minimum Revenue Provision Policy as set out in Section 2.14 of the report be approved
- (ii) That the decision on preferred option for Business Rates Pool arrangements for 2021/22 to be delegated to the Chief Executive and Service Director – Finance, in consultation with the Leader and Corporate Portfolio holder, as per Section 2.4 of the report be approved
- (iii) That the updated multi-year capital budget plans as set out at Appendix D be approved
- (iv) That the flexible capital receipts strategy set out in Section 2.17 of the report be approved
- (v) That the financial planning framework set out in Section 1.4 of the report be approved
- (vi) That the budget consultation approach and timetable set out in Section 3 of the report be approved.

279

Our Council Plan

Cabinet gave consideration to a report setting out provision for a one-year extension to the existing 2018 – 2020 Corporate Plan. For this revision the name of this key document has been changed from ‘Corporate Plan’ to ‘Council Plan’ to clarify its council and community-wide nature and impact. The revised Plan puts tackling inequalities front and centre and presents it as the Council’s critical mission going forward. The Council Plan was due to be redeveloped earlier this year but was put on hold due to the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic. As a result, a one-year extension to the existing Plan is proposed.

Appended to the Plan, a supporting document ‘Measuring our impact and progress against the 2018/20 Corporate Plan’ was submitted which provides information on the direction of travel for the Plan’s longer-term population indicators, as well as a narrative presenting a summary of current progress against each of the outcomes and the Council’s key delivery commitments in the previous 2018/20 Plan. It sets out the Council’s ongoing commitment to our shared outcomes and provides an update in the context of the coronavirus pandemic and our recovery framework. The revised Plan puts tackling inequalities front and centre and presents it as Kirklees critical mission going forward.

RESOLVED –

Cabinet recommends approval of “Our Council Plan” to full Council at its meeting on 21 October 2020 (with delegated authority to the Chief Executive to make any subsequent required amendments in consultation with the Leader).

280 Tackling Inequalities

Cabinet received a report setting out proposals for an Inequalities Commission that will work closely with partners and communities to direct and instigate action, focus on better understanding of the issues faced, and take forward clear actions to advance equality in Kirklees. This work will build on recent activity to tackle immediate inequalities that people have faced as a direct impact of the coronavirus pandemic and will also include initial actions to address immediate priorities.

RESOLVED – That Cabinet approve the three priority actions and that Cabinet recommends that Council notes the report and endorses the establishment of the Inequalities Commission