

Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CABINET

Wednesday 18th November 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

Observer: Councillor Martyn Bolt

288 Membership of Cabinet

All Members of the Cabinet were present.

289 Minutes of previous meetings

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet held 1 September, 22 September, 20 October and 23 October 2020.

290 Interests

No interests were declared.

291 Admission of the Public

It was noted that the information contained at Agenda Item 22 was exempt from publication.

292 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

293 Questions by Members of the Public

Question from Sarah Newton

“WYCA's carbon emission reduction Pathways anticipate the need for vehicle traffic to significantly decrease by 2030 including measures to reduce private car travel by up to 43%. In this context, investing in greater highway capacity is wasteful and short-sighted.

Would it not be more sensible to pause schemes which increase private vehicle capacity and instead review them in the context of the climate emergency and policy changes that will be implemented to achieve targets?”

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

Question from Sarah Newton

“When will there be an official statement regarding the decision to re-design the Cooper Bridge Road Scheme that guarantees the preservation of Nun’s Bank Woods and the Bradley Quarry Nature Reserve?”

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

Question from Sarah Newton

“Please will the Council consider revising the Climate Emergency Declaration to include the preservation of mature trees alongside the planting of new ones?”

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

Question from Sarah Newton

“The tree planting season has just started. Again there is an absence of actions meeting KMC’s claims of contributions to the Northern Forest. When will the Council refrain from repeating unsubstantiated claims about tree planting and actually get some Northern Forest trees planted? Will it be in the last months of 2021 or even later?”

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

Question from James Taylor

“At a previous Cabinet meeting I asked about the public feedback that hadn't been published on the planned improvements at Cooper Bridge and Cllr McBride said in that meeting that plans had been mothballed.

On Monday I read in the Examiner an article by Tony Earnshaw that Richard Hollinson, a senior officer at Kirklees, said all options remain on the table. Therefore, who is right and who is wrong and actually runs the Council, the elected Labour Cabinet or the unelected officers?”

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

Question from James Taylor

“With the delayed local elections due to take place in May 2021 has Kirklees done any work on the possibility that the way the electorate vote in May, may be different from normal?”

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For example, I have a postal vote and Kirklees have my signature so they can check that it is I who casted the vote, if we end up with an all-out postal election, how can each voted be verified when Kirklees don't have everyone's signature on their systems?"

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

Question from James Taylor

"As requested in one of the many emails I receive from Kirklees Together I've recently completed several questionnaires on recycling, planning issues and museums. How are these questionnaires made up?

Are they done "in house" or sub contracted out and who decides on the questions, for example do cabinet sign it off?"

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

Question from Richard Stow

"Kirklees Council is the lead Council for the White Rose Forest. The White Rose Forest is the lead forest for the Northern Forest and Community Forests Trust. Kirklees Council through White Rose Forest is seeking multi million pound funding, to be the lead body for national reforestation delivery.

Kirklees Council has sought the responsibility to lead delivery of national reforestation policy. We face a climate emergency, right now. We are 6 weeks into planting season with little to show. Please Deliver."

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

294 Questions by Elected Members (Oral Questions)

Question from Councillor Bolt

"A question to the Leader, yourself and the Cabinet agree to abide by the Nolan principles, which include openness, honesty, and leadership. We heard in response to a question from Sarah Newton, Cllr McBride say that the options put forward for public consultation on the Cooper Bridge Scheme had been withdrawn. The statement from your Officers categorically says 'At this point in time no formal decision has been taken to eliminate any of the options delivered to date' Who is correct?"

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council.

Question from Councillor Bolt

“The Cabinet have launched another consultation exercise, this time a £2.4m project to link Brighthouse to Bradley. What strategic aims are underpinning this project and will the consultation findings on this occasion be brought back to a public Cabinet meeting for consideration?”

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

Question from Councillor Bolt

“Does the Cabinet support the Local Plan and agree that the first principle of any development should be that it conforms with and supports the Local Plan?”

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

Question from Councillor Bolt

“Referring to a press clipping in December 2014, Councillor McBride said that the future of Dewsbury lies with the relief road, and he was referring to a relief road for Ravensthorpe which was in the pipeline but it could be 2025 before it is finished. If the future of Dewsbury lies with the relief road, that was due to be finished in 2025, when will it start?”

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

295 Council Housing IT Replacement System

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which advised that approval had already been given to undertake a procurement exercise to replace the Council’s Housing IT system and that approval was now being sought to draw down capital and award the contract to the winning bidder. The report advised that an indicative budget of £1m had been identified in the Housing Revenue Account Capital Plan for the provision of a system that would improve the service available to tenants by providing more responsive service provision and process efficiencies, including opportunities for tenant self-service and improved frontline delivery.

Cabinet were advised that, following evaluation, four products had been shortlisted and the most suitable product, from a perspective of both quality and price, had been selected. Cabinet were asked to assign the necessary budget, estimated to be circa £1.1m, in order to purchase the system and to ensure sufficient resources were in place for its implementation. The report advised that it would be cheaper to purchase and implement the new system than continue to use the current system and would result in a financial saving over a 7 year period. It was noted that the project would commence in early 2021 with implementation anticipated to take 12 to 15 months.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That approval be given to the drawing down of £1.1m capital from the Housing Revenue Account Capital Plan to enable the contract for the new Housing IT system to be awarded to the winning bidder.
- 2) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director (Adults and Health) to implement this decision.
- 3) That authority be delegated to the Service Director (Legal, Governance and Commissioning) to enter into all relevant legal documents on behalf of the Council to enable implementation of this decision.

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Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan

Cabinet received a report which set out detail of the submission of the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan by Holme Valley Parish Council, in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations (as amended) 2012. The report advised that the Plan had been formally submitted to both the Council and the Peak District National Park Authority on 6 July 2020 and that Officers considered that the submission met the legal requirements to proceed to consultation and independent examination. An assessment of the legal requirements was attached at Appendix 1 of the report.

It was noted that the Council held responsibility for organising the statutory publicity of the plan and that this would commence on 8 December 202 for a period of 8 weeks. The detailed publicity plan was attached at Appendix 3 of the considered report. Appendix 2 of the report listed a number of concerns and detailed comments raised by Officers regarding the content of the plan and Cabinet was asked to endorse the submission of the concerns to the independent examiner.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That authority be delegated to the Head of Planning and Development to progress with publicity (consultation), appointment of an independent examiner (following consultation with Holme Valley Parish Council and the Peak District National Park Authority), participation at the independent examination and to undertake statutory duty to submit representations received during the publicity (consultation) period.
- 2) That the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan and supporting documents be published for publicity (consultation) for a minimum of 8 weeks commencing on 8 December 2020.
- 3) That the Officer comments on the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan, as set out at Appendix 2, be endorsed and submitted to the independent examiner for their consideration.
- 4) That authority be delegated to the Service Director (Growth and Housing) to make non-material amendments to the Council's comments (as endorsed in (3) above) to the independent examiner, or to reflect any further evidence that comes to light prior to the examination.

297 Dewsbury Towns Fund Accelerated Grant & Getting Building Fund

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which provided detail of grant approvals totalling £2.715m and sought approval to implement the associated projects and programmes. The report advised that the recent grant approvals had been received from the Government for capital works to take place in Dewsbury and Huddersfield, and Cabinet were asked to approve the implementation of the schemes and to also to give approval to entering into other agreements with third parties in order to enable the Towns Fund Accelerated Grant Programme and projects to be delivered.

The report set out details of the projects within both the Towns Fund Accelerated Grant, which included improvements to Dewsbury Railway station and improved pedestrian and cycle routes, and the Getting Building Fund Approvals which related to projects at the George Hotel and Huddersfield Arcade.

Cabinet noted that there was limited time available to use the grant and it was therefore suggested that the monies be allocated to other projects within the programme in order to provide flexibility and increased expenditure on some schemes, if necessary, in order to ensure that the funding was fully spent in 2020/21.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the success in receiving the £750,000 Towns Fund Accelerated Grant, and the in-principle approval from Government of £1.965m from the Getting Building Fund, be noted.
- 2) That approval be given to the projects as detailed within section 2 of the considered report.
- 3) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director (Growth and Regeneration) to negotiate and agree with Kirklees Theatre Trust, or another organisation, supported by the Arts Council, agreements to create a Creative Hub at 15 Union Street, Dewsbury, including a grant award of up to a maximum of £200,000.
- 4) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director (Growth and Regeneration) to negotiate and agree with Kirklees College, agreements to enhance open space to the west of Pioneer House as part of the Better Spaces Programme, including a grant agreement for a grant award of up to a maximum of £150,000.

298 Corporate Financial Monitoring Report Quarter 2, 2020-2021

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

Cabinet received a report which set out financial monitoring information for General Fund Revenue, the Housing Revenue Account and Capital Plan, as at Quarter 2 (Month 6), 2020/2021.

The report advised that the Council's revised General Fund controllable (net) revenue budget for 2020/21 was £306.0m and that the budget included (net) revenue savings in-year of £2.8m. It indicated that the revised budget included a number of planned transfers from reserves during the year, with the most significant

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being from £1.3m from the revenue grants reserve, £0.8m from the Public Health Reserve, £0.8m from the Strategic Investment Support reserve and £0.4m from the Rollover reserve.

Cabinet noted that there was a forecast overspend of £5.5m against the £306.0m revised budget at Quarter 1, equivalent to 1.8%, which represented forecast £3.7m unfunded pressures relating to Covid 19 and forecast £1.8m net pressures elsewhere. The report indicated that there had been a net £2.2m reduction on the forecast overspend position since Quarter 1 which was made up of both decreased net unfunded Covid 19 pressures, due in part to a higher estimated income compensation payment, and a net decrease in pressures elsewhere from a range of incremental changes across service activity.

The report set out information on headline variances as well as detail relating to Central Budgets, General Fund Reserves, the Collection Fund, the North and West Yorkshire Business Rates Pool, Housing Revenue Account and Capital, 2020/2021 Budget Proposals.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That, in regards to the General Fund (i) the 2020/2021 forecast revenue overspend of £5.5m as at Quarter 2 be noted (ii) it be noted that the 2020/2021 forecast £7.6m High Needs overspend which, as per current DfE guidance, will roll forward into 2021/22 on the Council balance sheet as a negative reserve (iii) it be noted that, in conjunction with the assumed continued support of central Government to adequately compensate the Council for Covid 19 pressures, the Executive Team shall continue to identify opportunities for spending plans to be collectively brought back in line within the Council's overall budget by year end and (iv) the forecast year-end position on corporate reserves and balances be noted.
- 2) That the forecast position on the Collection Fund as at Quarter 2 be noted.
- 3) That the Quarter 2 forecast Housing Revenue Account position, and the forecast year-end reserves position, be noted.
- 4) That, in regards to the Capital Budget (i) the Quarter 2 forecast capital monitoring position for 2020/2021 be noted (ii) approval be given to the re-profiling across years of the capital plan , as detailed within the report and at Appendix 6 (iii) approval be given to the £255k capital proposal to increase burial capacity by way of a further extension at Batley Cemetery, as detailed within the report and at Appendix 7 (iv) approval be given to a £502k gym/spin studio development scheme at Batley Sports and Tennis Centre, as detailed within the report and at Appendix 8 (v) approval be given to capital works at Batley Baths and Recreation Centre at £50k, as detailed within the report (vi) approval be given to further capital remedial works of £300k at Huddersfield Leisure Centre, as detailed within the report (vii) approval be given to £463k to cover part of the Pioneer House overspend, with the remainder to be covered by future slippage to be identified within the plan, in agreement with the Chief Finance Officer (viii) approval be given to the release of funding from the Huddersfield Town Centres Action Plan for Huddersfield Town Hall and the release of Sustainability of Major Town Halls – Service Development Capital Programme line funding for Cleckheaton

Town Hall for external lighting systems, as detailed within the report and (ix) approval be given to the replacement of the Council's current fleet vans with fully electric equivalent vehicles, as part of the Climate Emergency Green Travel Measures, as detailed within the report and at Appendix 9.

299 Request to support children eligible for Free School Meals with vouchers during school holiday periods

Cabinet received a report which provided information as to a decision which had previously been taken by the Chief Executive under Emergency Powers as to support for children eligible for free school meals during October half term, and also gave consideration to arrangements for future school holiday periods.

The report advised that, following the decision of Parliament not to fund free meal provision over October half term 2020, Officers had remodelled the costs to the Council of making a commitment to local children and their families and made available funding as a £15 voucher for the half term, providing an entitlement to approximately 15,000 children, and that this decision was taken under delegated powers.

In terms of future school holidays, the Cabinet were asked to consider a similar commitment in order to support eligible children, though it was noted that the Government had recently announced a targeted support package to the families in greatest need up until the end of March 2021, and so were asked to delegate authority to Officers to be prepared to support related activity through the upcoming holidays if required in regards to the forthcoming Christmas, half term and Easter holiday periods.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the decision taken by Officers under Emergency Powers regarding supporting children eligible for free school meals during October half term be noted.
- 2) That the Director of Children's Services be asked to submit a report to the meeting of Cabinet on 15 December 2020 setting out proposals for the Christmas holiday period and other targeted support into 2021, following on from the Government's new winter package announcement for extra support this winter to vulnerable households.

300 Place Partnerships - Kirklees Mental Health Champions Training Programme and Support Network

Cabinet received a report which requested the allocation of £93,270 funding from the Place Partnership Mental Health Themed Budget in order to deliver the Kirklees Mental Health Network and Training Programme. The report advised that the proposal had been influenced by information collected through local data and intelligence and aimed to develop a place based approach to supporting the third sector to assist citizens facing low level mental health challenges.

Cabinet noted that the project of providing mental health first aid training would be delivered by locally based organisations and the Council's wellness team and that

the lead organisations would support and develop the training programme over a 12 month period.

RESOLVED - That approval be given to funding of £93,270 from the Place Partnership Mental Health Budget, for the Kirklees Mental Health Network and Training Programme.

301 Huddersfield Central, Huddersfield North, Batley, Birstall and Birkenshaw and Spen Place Partnership - Tackling mental health and improving physical activity from the front door

Cabinet received a report which requested the allocation of £38,255 funding from the Place Partnership Mental Health Themed Budget for an 18 month pilot scheme for improving physical activity. The report advised that the proposal had been influenced by information collected through local data and intelligence and aimed to signpost citizens to what is available, and also to help to develop opportunities.

Cabinet noted that the proposal focussed upon short term early intervention and support for the next 12 to 18 months and would build upon activities that already existed, including cycling, jogging, guided walks and chair-based activities. The report advised that the objective of the scheme would be to develop a place based approach to supporting the third sector to assist citizens facing low level mental health challenges through physical activity and that locally based lead organisations would develop and map activity opportunities and identify volunteers to attend training in walking, cycling, jogging, movement and games.

RESOLVED - That approval be given to funding of £38,255 from the Place Partnership Mental Health Budget for the tackling of mental health and improving physical activity.

302 Huddersfield Central Place Partnership - Tackling the Taboo - Supporting Women Going Through the Menopause

Cabinet received a report which requested the allocation of £42,947 funding from the Place Partnership Mental Health Themed Budget to support a two year pilot for women experiencing the menopause. The report advised that the proposal was based upon a collaboration between the Women's Centre and local community partners to develop a two year pilot targeted at raising awareness of the menopause and creating opportunities for local women to shape the design, delivery and evaluation of a local response to support for women and their families, enabling opportunities for learning across Kirklees and beyond.

The report set out the anticipated outcomes of the pilot scheme, which included reducing anxiety and improving mental health and well-being of women and their families, would be community led and co-ordinated by a project worker.

RESOLVED - That approval be given to £42,947 revenue funding from the Huddersfield Central Place Partnership Mental Health theme allocation for the menopause pilot scheme.

303 Batley, Birstall and Birkenshaw Place Partnership - Mental Health Initiatives

Cabinet received a report which requested the allocation of £82,261 funding from the Place Partnership Mental Health Themed Budget to deliver mental health initiatives in the Batley, Birstall and Birkenshaw area. The report advised that the proposal would enable local providers to deliver a range of Mental Health support programmes, including carer support, access to employability, and work regarding community perceptions and stigma.

The report advised that the proposal had been influenced by information collected through local data and intelligence and aimed to provide support locally for citizens who may be effected by one or more identified themes. Cabinet noted the detail of each 3 projects; (i) Carers Support (ii) Mental Health Support through Employability and (iii) Anti-Stigma.

RESOLVED - That approval be given to £82,261 of funding from the Place Partnership Mental Health Theme Budget to deliver the following projects; (i) Carers Support - £12, 376 (ii) Mental Health Support through Employability - £36, 685 and (iii) Anti Stigma - £33,200.

304 Batley, Birstall and Birkenshaw Place Partnership - Supporting the Mental Health and Wellbeing of Children and Young People as they return to school settings

Cabinet received a report which requested the allocation of £40,000 funding from the Place Partnership Mental Health Themed Budget to deliver support for children and young people in school and community settings in the Batley, Birstall and Birkenshaw area. The report advised that collaboration was taking place with local schools and community youth providers to focus upon activities to support children and young mental health and wellbeing in the wake of the pandemic.

Cabinet were advised that schools and community providers would be invited to submit proposals based upon local knowledge and experience and that the short term interventions would be made sustainable wherever feasible were success was demonstrated.

RESOLVED - That approval be given to funding of £40,000 from the Place Partnership Mental Health Theme Budget to support the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in schools and community settings.

305 Dewsbury Place Partnership - 'Better Connected Dewsbury' Proposals for Allocation of Mental Health Focus Funding

Cabinet received a report which requested the allocation of £142,857 funding from the Place Partnership Mental Health Themed Budget for the commissioning of three preventative and interlinked approaches to help address mental health priorities across Dewsbury. The report advised that the programme would be delivered through three interlinked projects; (i) Mind, Health, Nature – Dewsbury wide 12 month pilot (ii) Enhancements of greenspaces in each of the three Dewsbury wards and (ii) 'Tech to Connect' digital inclusion approach to help tackle isolation and loneliness, and the report provided a breakdown of how the projects would benefit residents within the Dewsbury area.

RESOLVED - That approval be given to funding of £142,857 from the Place Partnership Mental Health theme budget to fund the commissioning of three preventive and interlinked approaches to address mental health priorities across Dewsbury.

306 Huddersfield Rural Place Partnership - Proposal to boost School Capacity to Support Children and Young People's Mental Health and Well-being

Cabinet received a report which requested the allocation of £187,778 funding from the Place Partnership Mental Health Themed Budget to boost mental health support and capacity in schools within the Huddersfield Rural Place Partnership area, which would support children and young people to maintain positive mental health and emotional well-being.

The report advised that the proposal sought funding for a project that would provide for two mental health professionals working across 37 schools, which collectively supported the wellbeing of 10,237 children, for a period of 18-30 months. Cabinet noted the key aims of the project, which included supporting the emotional wellbeing preparation of young people for progression to post 16 education and assisting school management and mental health teams to develop whole school strategies to emotional and mental wellbeing.

Cabinet were asked to consider funding options to appoint a host organisation for the two posts and an evaluation timescale. Cabinet were of the view that Option 3, as set out at Para, 2 of the report, allowing for a 30 month timescale, should be supported.

RESOLVED - That approval be given to funding of £187,778 from the Place Partnership Mental Health Theme Allocation to fund two posts aimed at boosting mental health capacity and support in schools in the Huddersfield Rural Place Partnership area, with the balance to be funded through ward budgets and/or other funds.

307 Development of land at Southgate, Huddersfield

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

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which requested that consideration be given to an offer received from the University of Huddersfield to purchase the strategic development site at Southgate, Huddersfield. The report advised that the site, which was over two hectares and was allocated as a mixed use site in the Local Plan, was subject to a proposal submitted by the University was for the development of the site as a National Health Innovation Campus, including teaching and learning facilities. Cabinet were advised that the proposal would bring staff, students and visitors into Huddersfield Town Centre.

Exempt appendices to the report provided detail with regards to the draft Heads of Terms, and the offer letter which had been accompanied by a vision and concept for the development of the site.

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(Cabinet gave consideration to the exempt information at Agenda Item 22 (Minute No. 309 refers) prior to the determination of this item.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That approval be given to the disposal of the Southgate site (Appendix 1 refers) to the University of Huddersfield at the price as detailed in Appendix 3 (exempt).
- 2) That approval be given to a departure from the adopted Disposals and Acquisitions Policy and that approval be given to the treatment of negotiations with the University as that of a Special Purchaser within the meaning of the adopted Policy.
- 3) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director (Growth and Regeneration) and Service Director (Legal, Governance and Commissioning) to finalise the Heads of Terms and to proceed with the disposal broadly in accordance with the draft Heads of Terms as set out in Appendix 3 (exempt).
- 4) That authority be delegated to the Service Director (Legal, Governance and Commissioning) to enter into and execute any agreements or instruments relating to the disposal of the Southgate site.

308 Exclusion of the Public

RESOLVED – That under Section 100(A) 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 Schedule 12A of the Act.

309 Development of land at Southgate, Huddersfield

(Exempt information relating to Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, namely that the report contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person. It was considered that the disclosure of the information would be contrary to confidential terms and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information and providing greater openness in the Council's decision making).

Cabinet gave consideration to the exempt information prior to the determination of Agenda Item 20 (Minute Mo. 307 refers).