

Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CABINET

Thursday 26th 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

Observers: Councillor Martyn Bolt
Councillor Nigel Patrick

310 Membership of Cabinet

All Members of Cabinet were present.

Cabinet Member, Councillor Paul Davies, attended the meeting but did not participate in any vote due to his appointment to Cabinet being subsequent to the publication of the agenda and the notice of Cabinet membership.

311 Interests

No interests were declared.

312 Admission of the Public

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

313 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

314 Questions by Members of the Public

No questions were asked.

315 Questions by Elected Members (Oral Questions)

Question from Councillor Bolt

‘Do Kirklees Cabinet take their responsibilities seriously in terms of the safety of KNH tenants and residents?’

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council.

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Question from Councillor Bolt

“Could you explain why residents of Bankfield Court in Mirfield who for three months have been plagued with criminal and anti social behaviour from a neighbour who is in a private rented property but severely affects those in KNH properties are not getting the support they wish from Kirklees. The situation has been reviewed by staff who told them they would come back in 6 weeks to review the situation. We have regular issues where emergency services are being called out, and elected members and the MP’s office were excluded from a neighbourhood management meeting last week, so, in saying that you take it seriously, why is no robust action being given to support, defend and assist tenants in Bankfield Court?”

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council.

Question from Councillor Bolt

“As Leader of the Council, will you join me in extending every good wish to Councillor Lynn Petrini?”

A response was provided by the leader of the Council.

Question from Councillor Bolt

“When will Kirklees emulate Kingston Upon Hull by having meetings in a socially distanced fashion where members are present in the same room as they have been doing for some while, and seeing the installation of our first next citizen?”

A response was provided by the leader of the Council.

Question from Councillor Bolt

“As Leader you previously said that you run the Council, so when you or your Cabinet Members issue an instruction to Officers should that instruction be acted upon and complied with?”

A response was provided by the leader of the Council.

Question from Councillor Patrick

“There is a small bouquet of flowers attached to a lamppost on Springwood Road by the high school. It is there as a constant reminder of a young person who lost her life on that road. Over a month ago I attended this Cabinet meeting and asked for an update on the progress of the Springwood Road school drop off point road safety scheme. I have not had an update. This scheme is fully funded, you have the money, 14 years in the waiting and still no sign of it being delivered. Do we have to wait for another bouquet to be placed on another lamppost before you deliver this scheme?”

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

Question from Councillor Bolt

“When did the Deputy Leader and Cabinet have their damascene conversion regarding active travel as claimed in the press statement of 16 November which said, ‘it’s no secret that as a Council we are committed to making it safer and easier for people to travel by bike or on foot’ When and did the damascene conversion take place?

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration (Councillor McBride) and the Strategic Director (Growth and Regeneration).

316 West Yorkshire Devolution - Consent to Draft Order

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which sought consent, in principle, to a draft Order to establish a Mayoral Combined Authority and associated changes, as set out in the ‘minded to’ Devolution Deal, and as submitted to the meeting of Council on 25 November 2020.

Cabinet noted that, during September, consideration had been given to the outcome of the public consultation process and that the summary of consultation responses had been submitted to the Secretary of State. The report advised that the submission, along with the detail of the Scheme, had been used to draft the Order which was now presented for consideration.

The report set out information with regards to (i) the benefits of the deal which would enable increased funding, power and influence (ii) the process for enacting the deal (iii) consultation follow-up and (iv) the content of the draft Order, which included matters regarding the election of the Mayor and mayoral functions. The report also explained that the functions of the Police and Crime Commissioner role would be transferred to the Elected Mayor in May 2021 and that the arrangements for the current Police and Crime Panel would be retained and supported by Wakefield Council.

Appendix 1 to the report set out the timetable for implementing the deal and the draft Order was attached at Appendix 2. It was noted that the Order would be laid in Parliament during December 2020.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the report, and the draft Order, as attached at Appendix 2, be noted.
- 2) That consent in principle be given to the draft Order (Appendix 2), to establish a mayoral combined authority and associated changes as set out in the ‘minded to’ Devolution Deal.
- 3) That (i) authority be delegated to the Managing Director of the Combined Authority, in consultation with the Leader and Chief Executive of each Constituent Council, and the Chair of the Combined Authority, to finalise and consent to the final draft of the Order further to any technical issues which may arise, and (ii) accordingly, the Leader and Chief Executive be authorised to act as a consultee on behalf of the Council for these purposes.
- 4) That (i) the updated timetable, as set out at Appendix 1, and the next steps which are subject to consent being given by the Constituent Councils and

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Combined Authority, to the draft Order that the Secretary of state will lay the Order in Parliament in December 2020 be noted and (ii) accordingly, authority be delegated to the Service Director (Legal, Governance and Commissioning) to make necessary amendments to the Council's Constitution.

- 5) That it be noted that Corporate Governance and Audit Committee are currently considering proposed governance and reporting arrangements between the proposed mayoral authority and the Council.
- 6) That it be noted that this decision of Cabinet shall be exempt from Call-In, as agreed by the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee, upon grounds of urgency as set out at para 3.6 of the report.

317 Covid 19 - Additional Restrictions Grant Scheme

(Due to urgency, a Regulation 10 Notice had been issued in respect of this item and the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee had agreed to the waiver of Call-In).

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which sought approval for the Council to establish an Additional Restrictions Grant fund for Kirklees. The report explained that the grant scheme would provide support for certain types of small and micro businesses that had been affected by Covid-19 but were ineligible for other grant schemes which had been established by the Government in response to the period of lockdown that commenced on 5 November 2020.

Cabinet noted that the scheme aimed to address gaps in the other grant programmes and that it would operate on a discretionary basis with local eligibility criteria being determined by the local authority, within a framework of national guidance. The report advised that a total of £8,795,740 had been allocated for businesses within Kirklees and sought approval to establish the scheme, including the eligibility criteria for applicants and the grant amounts to be awarded.

It was noted that the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee had waived the period of Call-In on grounds of urgency for implementation.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That approval be given to the establishment of the Additional Restrictions Grant, including the proposed eligibility criteria for applicants and the grant amounts to be awarded, as detailed at section 2 of the considered report.
- 2) That a further update report be submitted regarding the implementation of the Government's business grant schemes that have been operating during the lockdown period.
- 3) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director (Growth and Regeneration) and the Service Director (Finance) to implement and monitor the Local Authority Discretionary Grant Fund Scheme, and make any further changes to the scheme to ensure equity and achievements of the objectives.
- 4) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director (Economy and Infrastructure) and the Service Director (Finance), in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, to vary the eligibility criteria for the Additional Restrictions Grant Scheme.

