

Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CABINET

Tuesday 13th April 2021

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

In attendance: Councillor Aafaq Butt
Councillor Steve Hall
Councillor Fazila Loonat
Councillor Gwen Lowe
Councillor Yusra Hussain
Councillor Habiban Zaman

390 Membership of Cabinet

All Cabinet Members were present.

391 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED - That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on 16 February 2021 be approved as a correct record.

392 Admission of the Public

It was noted that the information contained at Agenda Item 12 was exempt from publication.

393 Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

394 Deputations/Petitions

Cabinet received a deputation from Victoria Harrington which requested that the Council commence the compulsory purchase of the section of land in private ownership, between the Walkley Lane and Brunswick Street railway bridges, Heckmondwike, to support public use of the land.

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

395 Questions by Elected Members (Oral Questions)

Question from Councillor Steve Hall

“As a ward Councillor in Heckmondwike, we have got the Spen Ringway and the Spen Greenway. We are a small ward, but we have a very high density of people, so in times like we are having now, to get out an exercise is extremely important. These two areas are vital for the people of Heckmondwike and Spen Valley to get out and walk on. I’d just like to ask Cabinet how important do they feel that having areas like this are, and how much would they like to preserve these areas and enhance them.”

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

Question from Councillor Gwen Lowe

“Kirklees Council announced earlier the start of a brand new on-line festival that aims to give young people across the brough a voice in their climate emergency response with the wonderful young people’s climate festival. This was taking place in March over a couple of days. This sounded really exciting when I read about it, and with children and young people being able to enter a series of virtual rooms where they could engage in discussions and activities and talk with contributors from a range of environmental organisations. It sounded a fantastic event. Please could you provide me with an update?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Culture and Greener Kirklees (Councillor Paul Davies).

Question from Councillor Yusra Hussain

“My question is around support for businesses. I know that we have supported a lot of businesses during this Covid lockdown but I would be keen to know how the Council is providing support to businesses to help them out of lockdown?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Culture and Greener Kirklees (Councillor Paul Davies).

Question from Councillor Fazila Loonat

“Although we are thankful for the recent highways funding that came in for the unadopted roads and highways, sadly my ward and I’m guessing other wards as well, its not gone far enough. We understand that the reason behind it is that we’ve not had enough money from the Government, but it’s left our ward crippling. We have a rather long road, Warwick Road, which has been recognised as a road that’s needing a full resurface. Because of the size of this particular road the cost of resurfacing is over £600,000, recognising that it needs footways and curbing to be done. We don’t have the money to do this. It’s not been fair on the residents, the local road users or the residents that live on that particular street to have to endure the road itself. I am asking for some kind of assistance to see if you can commit to

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helping us find a solution because we have been doing patch work for the last year or so, so a commitment or some help to get a solution for this road would be really appreciated.”

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council (Councillor Pandor).

Question from Councillor Zaman

“The residents are feeling quite neglected with Warwick Road not getting resurfaced in the coming years. We are mindful that it is a main route between Bradford Road and Town Street, Taylor Street, and many HGVs are travelling along this area on a daily basis. More recently a number of small businesses have sprung up and we are getting complaints from businesses about heavy vehicles travelling on that road, that’s a school on that road too, it is being heavily overused and so I would appreciate it if anything could be done so that the resurfacing isn’t more than a three year wait.”

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council (Councillor Pandor)

Question from Councillor Butt

“Looking at access to outdoors and sustainable travel, especially as it has been highlighted during covid lockdown as to how valuable health and wellbeing is of our local population.”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Health and social Care (Councillor Khan).

396 Community Asset Transfer of Manor Gardens, off Manor Way, Staincliffe, Batley

(Under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 36(1) Cabinet received representations from Councillors Lowe, Y Hussain and Zaman).

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which sought approval for the Community Asset Transfer of Manor Gardens, Staincliffe, Batley, to the Hamm Damm Foundation. The report advised that the Foundation was a Charitable Incorporated Organisation that had leased the site from the Council since 2016, and had now put forward proposals for the asset transfer of the site, on a 125 year lease.

Cabinet were advised that the Hamm Damm Foundation had submitted a business plan which set out the proposals for the site, including the immediate and medium term priorities which included an expansion of activities and support to the community. The report indicated that the Foundation had worked closely with the community and partner organisations to meet the needs of the community and provide activities to support local schools, youth organisations and faith groups, and had secured funding in excess of £106k to date.

The report advised that, subject to approval, Officers would complete negotiations, agree terms and execute the transfer.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That authority be delegated to the Director of Development to negotiate and agree terms for the grant of a 125 year lease of land at Manor Gardens, off Manor Way, Staincliffe, Batley, to Hamm Damm Foundation Charitable Incorporated Organisation.
- 2) That authority be delegated to the Service Director (Legal, Governance and Commissioning) to enter into and execute all necessary documentation in connection with the grant of a 125 year lease of the land at Manor Gardens, off Manor Way, Staincliffe, Batley, to Hamm Damm Foundation CIO.

397 2021/22 Council Capital Plan - Proposed Allocation of 2021/22 Capital Funding from the Directorate for Children's Achieve & Aspire Baseline Section of the Capital Plan

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which set out potential projects identified to address urgent condition related needs in maintained schools, to be funded from the 2021/2022 Achieve and Aspire Capital Maintenance allocation of the Capital Plan, as approved by Council on 10 February 2021. Approval was also sought for the delegation of authority to enable Officers to allocate funding from the Basic Need and SEND baselines to individual scheme level as the programmes develop.

Appendix A to the report set out a business case which outlined the process for identifying the condition needs of individual schools, the prioritisation for the backlog of repairs and the proposals for the design, procurement and implementation of the programme. Appendix B set out a prioritised list of urgent condition works to be undertaken in schools during the 2021/2022 financial year.

Cabinet were advised that the proposed programme of works primarily consisted of replacement of obsolete boilers and heating systems, urgent health and safety works including fire safety improvements, whole or partial rewires and replacement of life expired flat and pitched roofs. Additionally the following activities were also proposed from the capital grant (i) £100k to cover survey and preparation costs for the 2021/2022 programme, along with advance feasibility and design costs for the 2022/2023 programme and (ii) £176k for a risk pot for items such as emergency in year additions to the programme, higher than anticipated tenders and unexpected asbestos that may be discovered once works are under way.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That approval be given to the business case, as attached at Appendix A of the considered report, which outlines the rationale for the schools' condition works programme, the availability of funding, the selection process and the main categories of work, thereby enabling the projects to be designed, procured and implemented.
- 2) That approval be given to the detailed list of proposed works for schools in 2021/2022, as attached at Appendix B.
- 3) That authorisation be given to (i) the allocation of additional High Needs Provisional Grant to Southgate, Honley High and Ravenshall Schools and (ii) the use of delegated authority to align any unallocated funding from the grant to project level.

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- 4) That authorisation be given to the allocation of the annual £500k Basic Need baseline grant funding for 2021/2022 to named projects, yet to be determined for the secondary school place need.
- 5) That approval be given to the delegated powers as set out at paragraphs 2.22-2.24 of the considered report.

398 Proposal for a Place Based Integrated Early Support Offer for Children Young People and Families (Family Hubs)

(Under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 36(1) Cabinet received a representation from Councillors Lowe)

Cabinet received a report which set out findings of the family hub engagement activity that had taken place between 4 January and 26 February 2021 and highlighted key themes and recommendations for the final proposals of an integrated 0-19 (25) model of delivery for Early Support across Kirklees (Family Hubs). The report advised that there had been 166 responses to an online survey and that 250 stakeholders had engaged through virtual online sessions.

Para. 3 of the report provided an overview of the findings and key emerging themes, which had informed the development of the proposed offer and the establishment of local area 'family hub partnership boards' in four areas. It was noted that the boards would consider local knowledge and area priorities and would build upon the successful approach of the Community Hubs which had coordinated services responsive to local needs since 2017. The proposed 'family hub' principles were set out within the report and included being accessible, safe, and outcome focussed.

RESOLVED – That approval be given to the Integrated Early Support Proposals, 'Family Hubs', and that progress to the implementation phase of the model be agreed.

399 Red House Investment Proposal

Cabinet received a report which sought approval for proposals for investment and the reconfiguration and refurbishment of Red House Museum, Gomersal, to enable the property to be used for short term holiday letting and to sustain community access via managed community open days and weekends. The report requested that Cabinet endorse (i) the proposal for the scheme and associated business plan (ii) authorisation to prepare and submit a planning application and (iii) the allocation of capital funds to the delivery of the scheme.

Cabinet were provided with a business plan (at Agenda Item 13), which set out a commercial position designed to cover operating costs in order to facilitate a managed community access. It was noted that extensive discussions had taken place with partners to ensure that the proposal was appropriate for the site, deliverable and affordable.

(Cabinet gave consideration to the exempt information at Agenda Item 13 (Minute No. 401 refers) prior to the determination of this item.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the business plan, as set out at the exempt appendix to the report, be endorsed and that the commercial proposition be designed to cover operating costs in order to facilitate managed community access, rather than profit.
- 2) That approval be given to the allocation of £600k from the One Venue Development Capital Baseline to fund the project, and reprofile the expenditure into the 2021/2022 financial year.
- 3) That the frontline building recharge budget, currently funding Red House whilst it is held in the Land Bank, be made available to the project rather than the project funding costs through additional rent income.

400 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.

401 Red House Investment Proposal (Exempt Appendix)

(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 11 (Minute No. 399 refers).