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KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CABINET

Tuesday 12th October 2021

Present: Councillor Shabir Pandor (Chair)
Councillor Paul Davies
Councillor Eric Firth
Councillor Viv Kendrick
Councillor Musarrat Khan
Councillor Peter McBride
Councillor Carole Pattison
Councillor Cathy Scott
Councillor Will Simpson

In attendance: Councillor Martyn Bolt
Councillor James Homewood
Councillor Amanda Pinnock
Councillor John Taylor
Councillor Harpreet Uppal

Apologies: Councillor Naheed Mather

82 Membership of Cabinet

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Mather.

83 Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

84 Admission of the Public

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

85 Deputations/Petitions

Cabinet received a Petition from Angela Howard, representing the residents of Oak Road, which asked Kirklees Council for further clarification around the re-routing of traffic along Oak Road as part of the A62 to Cooper Bridge Corridor Improvement Scheme.

86 Questions by Members of the Public

No questions were received.

87 Questions by Elected Members (Oral Questions)

Cabinet received the following questions in accordance with Executive Procedure Rule 2.3;

Question from Councillor Bolt

“Can the Leader clarify for myself and the Council, how when and why he and his Deputy asked instinctive partners whose stated business role is to influence, communicate and affect reputation, to hold back on any announcements for the controversial Cleckheaton development until after the elections?”

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

Question from Councillor Bolt

“As we are in National Lorry Week, does the Leader agree with me that a pro-active authority should recognise the need for our community and commerce to have efficient transport facilities?”

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

Question from Councillor J Taylor

“This Council’s administration decided to close the Democracy Commission working party. There was work in progress and I was promised a report that would show who was picking up that work and where that work was going to be progressed. I suggested that we hold another meeting of the working group, and yet we still haven’t had a meeting arranged or had any contact about dates. When are we going to see some progress on the Democracy Commission?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Housing and Democracy (Councillor Scott)

Question from Councillor Bolt

“Can you tell me if you are satisfied that the Council is doing everything in its power to ensure homes are available for families if needed?”

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

Question from Councillor J Taylor

“When place standard was initially introduced, we talked to people who didn’t ordinarily want to talk to the Council. We now seem to have slipped back to doing much more online. We need to hear the voice of people who don’t ordinarily take the time to engage with the Council. How are we going to make the step-change, going back to the principles we started with, so that we don’t let down our communities because we are only hearing those voices that we always hear?”

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

Question from Councillor J Taylor

“I went to the Lindley ward for the launch of the Snow Dog’s initiative by Kirkwood Hospice and I was surprised that there wasn’t more involvement from Kirklees. Can

we talk to our cultural team about what they can do to get behind Kirkwood Hospice and turbocharge this initiative?”

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

Question from Councillor Bolt

“The Secretary of State for Transport is due to announce that he is seeking to make a bid for £50m to improve lorry parks across the country, therefore making the profession more attractive. Will you join me in putting together a bid within Kirklees for this newly announced £50m to see if we can not only improve Dewsbury, but let’s have somewhere else in Kirklees for our hard-working lorry drivers?”

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

88

A62 to Cooper Bridge Corridor Improvement Scheme

(Under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 36(1) Cabinet received representations from Councillors Bolt, Homewood, A U Pinnock, J Taylor and Uppal).

Cabinet considered a report which sought approval in principle to the A62 to Cooper Bridge Corridor Improvement scheme, to accept and spend funding from the West Yorkshire plus Transport fund and to agree in principle land acquisition as part of a land assembly.

The report advised that long journey times and poor air quality was experienced in the Cooper Bridge area and on the A644 and A62 nearby. The A62 and A644 had been identified as key routes which, through improvements, could support the creation of jobs in the area, relieve congestion, reduce journey times for general traffic and improve pedestrian and cycling accessibility.

Cabinet was informed that an outline business case had been prepared for submission to the Combined Authority to seek grant funding of £10m to develop the scheme to full business case submission. Cabinet was advised that the proposed scheme would require third party land to enable the construction of a new roundabout and targeted highway widening.

Appended to the considered report were (i) a general arrangement drawing showing the latest scheme design and (ii) the Consultation Outcome Report.

Resolved -

- 1) That approval be given in principle to the scheme.
- 2) That approval be given to accept and enter into any agreement with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority for the funding to work up the A62 to Cooper Bridge Scheme to full business case.

- 3) That approval be given to incur expenditure in the working up of the scheme if the Council's application to the West Yorkshire Combined Authority for funding is successful.
- 4) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director Growth & Regeneration to negotiate and agree the terms of any agreements that may be necessary to work up the A62 to Cooper Bridge Scheme including the funding agreement with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority.
- 5) That authority be delegated to the Service Director – Legal, Governance & Commissioning to enter into the grant agreement with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority for the funding of the A62 to Cooper Bridge and any other relevant agreements and documents to which the Council is party.
- 6) That authority be given for the acquisition of land in principle as part of a land assembly.
- 7) That it be noted the design team's commitment to work with and place shape the scheme with residents and businesses.
- 8) That it be noted the land negotiations would commence subject to funding approval of the outline business case.
- 9) That it be noted that the project would return to Cabinet to secure authority to make compulsory purchase orders in relation to the scheme, where necessary.

89 Dewsbury Town Deal - Next Steps

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

Cabinet considered a report which outlined the next stage of the Dewsbury Town Invest Plan Project Delivery, which included details of the 9 identified projects that had been agreed in principle.

The report advised that the individual projects were at different stages of development but that the government had set a challenging timetable for delivering the business cases, being 12 months for the 9 projects. As the accountable body, the Council through the assurance process, would be responsible for determining what an acceptable business case would be.

Cabinet was advised that the projects would be overseen by the Dewsbury Town Deal Board and would be managed within the Council by the Dewsbury Blueprint Board, with project approvals being considered by Cabinet as appropriate.

RESOLVED -

- 1) That the details of the identified Town Investment Plan projects be agreed.
- 2) That the assurance process for agreeing / authorising business cases for individual projects be agreed.
- 3) That authority be given to the Strategic Director Growth and Regeneration, in consultation with the portfolio holders for Regeneration and Town Centres, to agree business cases and once agreed submit the required information to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to access the funding required for individual projects.

- 4) That authority be given to the Strategic Director Growth & Regeneration and the Council Section 151 Officer to utilise identified project funds, both council match funds and grant received from MHCLG as part of the Town Deal, to assist in the development of business cases or help facilitate early project delivery.
- 5) That authority be given to the Strategic Director Growth & Regeneration to approve grants of up to £100,000 per recipient to progress Town Investment Plan project delivery.
- 6) That authority be given to the Service Director Legal Governance and Commissioning to finalise and enter into all appropriate contracts, deeds and documents in relation to the receipt of grants from MHCLG.
- 7) That it be noted the engagement of consultants to assist with the development of business cases and the project governance arrangements are noted and agreed for the development and delivery of projects alongside the assurance process.

90 Our Council Plan 2021/23

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

Cabinet considered the 2021/23 'Council Plan' which set out the Council's ongoing commitment to People, Partners, Place, and its Shared Outcomes.

The report advised that the plan set out the Council's approach to recovery following the Covid-19 pandemic, seeing actions being delivered across the short, medium, and long term.

Cabinet was advised that the plan was an overarching one which formed part of the Council's Policy Framework. The Council Plan set out how the Council would deliver against its shared outcomes and identified how it would shape its work in the coming years.

RESOLVED -

- 1) That approval be given for the 'Achieving our Outcomes' report and recommend it to Council for approval at its meeting on 13 October 2021.
- 2) That approval be given for the priority actions for incorporation into the Council Plan as the Cabinet's priorities.
- 3) That approval be given for the Council Plan and recommend it to Council for approval at its meeting on 13 October 2021.
- 4) That in consultation with the Leader of the Council, authority be given to the Chief Executive to make any required amendments.

91 Financial Assistance for the Kirklees Care Association and Financial support to the local adult care sector

Cabinet considered a report which proposed two key interventions to support the local care market in the provision of care by (i) financial assistance to develop a strategic development partner in the form of a local care association known as Kirklees Care Association and (ii) providing short term funds to help enable providers make the transition to the new longer term market position.

The report advised that in line with the Vision for Social Care, the 'Home First' approach had resulted in the expansion of the local domiciliary care market which provided a greater opportunity to support people to remain in their own homes. It was noted that the predicted future demand for care homes would be for people with more complex support needs, who would stay for a shorter period of time.

Cabinet was advised that the development of a strategic partner in the Kirklees Care Association would allow the Council to build a stronger relationship with a key external partner to support co-produced sector change. It was noted that the hardship and innovation grant support scheme would allow the Council to provide support to providers locally who were seeking to diversify or needed the required investment to improve the range of care available locally.

RESOLVED -

- 1) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director Adults and Health to administer grant funding up to £119k for the development of a strategic partner in the Kirklees Care Association for the years 2021/22 and 2022/23 and into 2023/24 in accordance with Financial Procedure Rule 22.12 the cost to be borne equally between the Council and NHS Kirklees CCG.
- 2) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director Adults and Health to design and oversee a hardship and innovation grant support scheme for the local adult social care sector up to £500k from the existing Council budget for 2021/22.
- 3) That Cabinet notes the broader pressures in the care home system.

92

Proposal for delivering more affordable homes through Right to Buy (RTB) buyback

Cabinet considered a report which outlined the issues with the Right to Buy buyback programme and sought approval to introduce a capped negative Net Present Value under certain circumstances when purchasing properties from the open market.

The report advised that approximately 200 council homes were lost through the Right to Buy each year, impacting on the Council's ability to rehouse those most in need of affordable housing. The Council had found it challenging to grow its housing stock through the purchase of Right to Buy buyback properties due to house price increases, meaning the Council could not exercise the right of first refusal as it could not offer market value for many properties.

Cabinet was advised that approval to purchase properties with a negative Net Present Value would help meet increased demand for affordable housing within Kirklees, including specialist housing for particular groups such as Afghan refugees, people with physical disabilities and existing tenants who needed to relocate.

RESOLVED -

That approval be given to property purchases with a negative Net Present Value as set out in Table 1 of the report and include in the 30-year business plan.

93 Update of the medium term financial plan 2022-23 and following years

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

Cabinet considered a report which set out the financial planning framework for subsequent development of budget proposals for consideration at Budget Council for the financial year 2022/23, and future years.

The report advised that Cabinet had commenced work to develop the budget for 2022/23 and beyond and would be looking to develop proposals that continued to build on the ambition for inclusive investment that supported Council priorities.

Cabinet was advised of the following amendment to the text of the report; paragraph 1.5.3 delete text '...Huddersfield Market High Street Funding Bid at £18m...' and at paragraph 1.8.6 insert text '...and consider options for the previously unsuccessful Huddersfield Market High Street Fund Bid at £18m...'.

RESOLVED -

In noting that officers would consider options for the previously unsuccessful Huddersfield Market High Street fund bid at £18m;

- 1) That the funding and spend assumptions informing the updated budget forecasts be noted.
- 2) That the current and forecast earmarked reserves and general balances as set out at Appendix B be noted.
- 3) That it be noted that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive and Service Director for Finance, in consultation with the Leader and Cabinet Portfolio Holder, on the preferred option for Business Rates Pool arrangements for 2022/23.
- 4) That the updated multi-year capital budget plans as set out at Appendix D be noted
- 5) That approval be given to the financial planning framework as set out in Section 1.4 of the report.
- 6) That the corporate budget timetable and approach set out at Appendix F be noted.
- 7) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director Corporate Strategy, Commissioning and Public Health to agree the approach to budget consultation and relevant timescales in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services.

94 Kirklees Council Access Strategy 2021 - 2026

Cabinet received the Council's Access Strategy 2021 - 2026, which had been redesigned given the requirements of citizens and communities had changed following the pandemic and as services recovered.

The report advised that central to the Access Strategy was how it could support several shared outcomes (i) addressing inequalities, building inclusion (ii) working across the life course and in the places that people live and (iii) local capacity building – building on the strengths and local resources.

RESOLVED -

That the Access Strategy 2021-26, as set out at Appendix 1, be approved and be implemented from October 2021.