

Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CABINET

Tuesday 22nd February 2022

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

Observers: Councillor David Hall
Councillor Andrew Cooper
Councillor John Taylor

Apologies: Councillor Cathy Scott

162 Membership of Cabinet

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Scott.

163 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 January 2022 be approved as a correct record.

164 Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

165 Admission of the Public

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

166 Deputations/Petitions

Cabinet received deputations from;

(i) Mike Prior and David Wyles, on behalf of Huddersfield Civic Society with regard to biodiversity net gain, specifically in relation to an identified gap between the Council's biodiversity strategy and its deployment within the planning application process.

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

(ii) Clare Walters with regard to the protection of wildlife at Laneside Quarry.

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A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Mather)

167 Questions by Members of the Public

No questions were asked.

168 Questions by Elected Members (Oral Questions)

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

Question from Councillor Cooper

“With regards to the deputation from Clare Walters, could Kirklees try and get the applicants to honour the commitment to have regular liaison meetings and real dialogue, and can we do more on enforcement to support ecologists to champion wildlife on the site?”

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

Question from Councillor D Hall

“With regard to the flooding this past weekend, would the Cabinet Member join me in thanking all of the staff that were working to assist with the flooding, and would she agree with me that, as the Cabinet are responsible for setting the resources available to tackle the flooding, and we were told in the Spen Valley that no sand bags would be available until properties were beginning to flood, that this is not a good policy? Could she clarify what the policy is and if that is not the policy could she urgently review the policy to ensure that we are getting the right answers on the ground?”

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

Question from Councillor J Taylor

“Does a business case exist for the acquisition of the George Hotel?”

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council.

Question from Councillor Cooper

“Do you agree with me that one of the ways of approaching the floods issue would be to provide vulnerable households with flood sacks so that those that are in imminent danger can protect their homes. If you believe that this is a good idea then pursue it, if you don't we'll buy them from ward budgets. So, is that something that the Council itself could provide or Newsome Members provide it directly?”

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council.

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Question from Councillor D Hall

“With regard to sand bags, I am concerned that the policy isn’t working. When you do the review please ensure that there are enough people to take residents calls and enough people to deliver the resources.”

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

Question from Councillor J Taylor

“We all know that Planning staff are under pressure at the moment and that delays are arising as a result. These delays have an impact on peoples lives. I’ve been dealing with cases that have been outstanding for over a year. What is the administration doing to monitor (i) how many cases that are out of the standard time (ii) the longest time applications have been waiting and (iii) what are we doing, beyond trying to recruit more staff, to try and facilitate this?”

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

Question from Councillor Cooper

“Recently Climate Emergency UK provided a 0% score to Kirklees for its response to the Climate Emergency. Was a plan available before September 2021, is one available now, or is one planned and when will it be in place?”

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

169

Determination of school admission arrangements for 2023/24

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which sought to determine admission arrangements for all Kirklees Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools for the 2023-2024 year. It was noted that arrangements needed to be determined by 28 February 2022 in order to comply with the requirements of the School Admissions Code. The report advised that there were no proposed changes to co-ordinated admission schemes for 2023-2024 and confirmed the outcome of the statutory consultation process that had taken place between 22 November 2021 and 2 January 2022. Appendices to the report set out (i) how the published admission numbers are derived (ii) the admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools for 2023-2024 and (iii) the published admission numbers for community and voluntary controlled schools for 2023-2024.

The report provided an overview of the outcomes of an appeal to the Schools Adjudicator which had resulted in changes to the organisation of both St. John’s CE(VC) Infant School and Westmoor Primary School. It was noted that, with regard to school organisation, there were no current outstanding statutory processes. The report set out a request for authority to approve applications to the Schools Adjudicator to be delegated in order to support situations when the authority has to be very responsive to requests.

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Cabinet were advised that, subject to approval, the arrangements would be published on the Council's website, and would inform the composite guide for parents to support applications for 2023-2024.

RESOLVED -

- 1) That approval be given to (i) the Kirklees co-ordinated admission schemes for 2023/2024, including in-year admissions, as set out at Appendix 2 (ii) admission arrangements for Kirklees community and voluntary controlled schools as detailed in Appendix 1c and (iii) the Published Admission Number for each school as set out in Appendix D, including the change to St John's CE(VC) Infant School.
- 2) That authority be delegated to the Service Director (Learning and Early Support), following consultation with the Cabinet Member (Learning, Aspiration and Communities), to approve applications to the Schools Adjudicator for variations in school admission arrangements or pursue such appeals against a determination of admission arrangements by an own admission authority, as the Service Director reasonably considers to be necessary.

170 **Catering Service Baseline Capital Plan - Proposed allocation of funding for the 21/22, 22/23 - 2 - year baseline programmes**

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which out details of a two year investment programme of £200k per annum to support the contract renewal business situation. The report sought approval for spending for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 of £200k per annum for the programme as outlined within the considered report.

Cabinet noted that the school catering sector was now a highly competitive market and that the service needed to continue to invest in infrastructure to maintain a competitive edge to sustain existing business, bid for new business, increase uptake and continue to deliver surplus to the Council. The report advised that the benefits of continuing to invest would enable existing business to be maintained and to improve standards across all schools which the service holds contracts with. It was noted that the investment would include maintained schools and academies in order to ensure consistency of service across the district.

Cabinet were advised that, subject to approval of the proposed programmes, the Catering Service would work alongside external suppliers to ensure that projects were developed, designed, procured and implemented.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That approval be given to the proposed programmes of works and school catering equipment upgrades and replacement up to £400k maximum, as outlined in the considered report, for the two year baseline capital programme.
- 2) That authority be delegated, in accordance with Council Financial Procedure Rule 3.12, to the Service Director (Culture and Visitor Economy) to manage

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the implementation of the identified works within the respective agreed total programme budget.

- 3) That, pursuant to (2) above, the delegated powers include authority to (i) add new urgent projects to the programme without prior Cabinet approval providing that the total cost of the programme remains within the approved capital allocation set by the Council and (ii) slip or delete projects during the course of the financial year to enable the effective management of the programme concerned.