

Contact Officer: Yolande Myers

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CABINET

Tuesday 5th April 2022

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

In attendance: Councillor Donna Bellamy
Councillor Adam Gregg
Councillor David Hall
Councillor John Taylor

Apologies: Councillor Paul Davies
Councillor Cathy Scott
Councillor Will Simpson

185 Membership of Cabinet

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors P Davies, C Scott and W Simpson.

186 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 February were approved as a correct record.

187 Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

188 Admission of the Public

It was noted that Agenda Items 14 and 15 were exempt from publication (Minute Nos. 198 and 199 refers).

189 Deputations/Petitions

A deputation was received on behalf of the residents of Smallwood relating to a request to Kirklees Council for additional parking.

190 Questions by Elected Members (Oral Questions)

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

Question from Councillor Bellamy

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“There is a problem with HGV’s going down Outlane on roads which are unsuitable for HGV’s, with several getting stuck, including one recently for over eight hours. Can the weight and length limit signs be looked at again?”

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

Question from Councillor Gregg

“Is there enough parking in Huddersfield Town Centre, and what is being done to mitigate the Council’s U-turn on the temporary car park on the old Queensgate site?”

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

Question from Councillor J Taylor

“I’ve heard it said that there is enough parking in Huddersfield Town Centre, and so I would like to see the evidence for that. I’ve also heard that people are avoiding coming into the Town Centre, so can the evidence be shared more widely?”

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

Question from Councillor Bellamy

“Residents from New Street in Slaithwaite have contacted me regarding their bin collections as they have received letters informing them that they need to present their bins somewhere else. There have been problems as residents have not had their bins collected for four weeks. Previously to this, there have been no difficulties with collections. The residents have contacted Kirklees Council who advised that the Council have no way of telling the refuse collectors how and when they should complete their routes. Can you advise whether the refuse collectors make their own routes and timings for bin collections?”

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

Question from Councillor J Taylor

“I have previously asked questions around the affordability of the Huddersfield Blueprint proposals given the significant increase in costs that we’ve seen recently. I recently found out that some contractors are only providing quotes with a guarantee of three weeks due to rising costs. Will the Council be borrowing more money to finish the project, or is the intention to reduce the scope?”

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

191 Adult Services Capital Investment Programme - Construction for Knowl Park House/ Centre of Excellence scheme

Cabinet considered a report which sought to increase the budget allocated for the new Dementia Day Care centre and the Kirklees Living Well Centre (KLWC – previously referred to as the Centre of Excellence) enabling the appointment of the successful tenderer to deliver the project.

In September 2021 Cabinet approved a proposal to increase the budget to £6.3m and for the scheme to progress to tender. Market conditions in the construction world remained volatile and difficult which resulted in the successful tender bid being higher than anticipated. This has meant that the total budget required to deliver this scheme had increased from £6.3m to £8.21m. This was inclusive of all internal and external professional fees and capitalised salaries, furniture, and equipment.

RESOLVED – That approval be given to increase from £6.3m to £8.21m the total budget required for the project, to be funded from within the Adults Service existing capital programme, to enable the award of the construction contract to the successful tenderer thereby facilitating the delivery of the new facilities.

192 2022/23 Council Capital Plan - Proposed allocation of 2022/23 capital funding from the Directorate for Children's Achieve & Aspire Capital Maintenance baseline section of the Capital Plan

Cabinet considered a report which identified potential projects, to be funded from the 2022/23 Achieve & Aspire Capital Maintenance section of the Capital Plan to address urgent condition related needs in maintained schools. The report also sought delegated authority for the Service Director – Learning and Early Support to manage the implementation of the identified works within the respective agreed total programme budget.

The report advised that the Capital Maintenance programme for Schools primarily aimed to address the backlog of condition works in the Council's schools' estate. The proposed programme of works primarily consisted of (i) replacement of life expired flat and pitched roofs (ii) whole or partial school electrical re-wires (iii) replacement of obsolete boilers and heating distribution systems (iv) urgent health and safety works including fire safety improvements and structural repairs.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That approval be given for the business case detailed at Appendix A of the report which outlined the (i) rationale for the schools' condition works programme, (ii) the availability of funding, (iii) the selection process, and (iv) the main categories of work, thereby enabling the projects concerned to be designed, procured and implemented.
- 2) That approval be given for the detailed list of proposed works in schools for 2022/23, as detailed in Appendix B.
- 3) That authority be delegated in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules to the Service Director – Learning and Early Support to

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

- 4) That, pursuant to (3) 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 Council & transfer resources to or from any unallocated resources within a programme area without restriction (ii) slip or delete projects in response to operational need and reallocate budget between projects during the course of the financial year 2022/23 providing that the total cost of the programme remains within the approved capital allocation to enable the effective management of the programme, and (iii) transfer resources between any project or programme area up to a maximum of £2,000,000 in any financial year.

193 COVID-19 Additional Relief Fund

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which sought to establish a COVID-19 Additional Relief Fund business rates relief scheme in Kirklees, for the 2021/22 financial year. The scheme would provide retrospective rates relief for businesses in sectors that had been impacted by the pandemic but were ineligible for the Expanded Retail Discount, Nursery Discount or other national rate relief schemes that has been established by the Government.

The report advised that the Council's assessment of need for the scheme was based on its extensive experience of administering COVID business grant schemes since the start of the pandemic, including the discretionary Additional Restrictions Grant scheme.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That approval be given for the establishment of the COVID-19 Additional Relief Fund, including the proposed eligibility criteria for applicants and the amounts of rate relief to be awarded as detailed in the report.
- 2) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director Growth and Regeneration and the Service Director Finance to implement and monitor the COVID-19 Additional Relief Fund scheme.
- 3) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director Growth and Regeneration and the Service Director Finance, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Corporate, to vary the eligibility criteria for the COVID-19 Additional Relief Fund and to make further changes to the scheme as required.

194 Government proposals for additional Household Support in 2022/23

Cabinet considered a report which set out proposals to provide support for households in 2022/23 in accordance with funding and associated guidance issued by the Government.

The report sought delegated authority for the Strategic Director for Corporate Strategy, Commissioning and Public health and Service Director for Children's Services, in consultation with the Corporate portfolio holder, Learning, Aspiration & Communities portfolio holder and Service Director Finance, to direct the resource to

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appropriate interventions through 2022/23 through the Council's existing Local Welfare Provision scheme which supported the Council's most vulnerable families and individuals across the borough.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That it be noted that the Rebate Fund consists of two cohorts and that the work required to make payment to those paying by Direct Debit would commence immediately after 01 April 2022, taking into account the requirements of the scheme.
- 2) That it be noted that those eligible under the Rebate Fund required to make an application should be given the choice to receive payment or credit to their Council Tax account as appropriate.
- 3) That where no application has been made by 16th August 2022, the Council Tax account of the liable party should be credited with £150 as a backstop position, allowable within Government guidance.
- 4) That the Council would seek to maximise the number of applications from those entitled by establishing a publicity and take up campaign that would target them specifically by whatever means were appropriate including working across services and with partner organisations.
- 5) That the Council adopts the Discretionary Fund eligibility criteria as detailed in the report and that implementing and monitoring the Discretionary Fund based on the criteria, be delegated to the Strategic Director for Corporate Strategy, Commissioning & Public Health and the Service Director Finance.
- 6) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director for Corporate Strategy, Commissioning & Public Health and Service Director Finance, in consultation with the Corporate portfolio-holder, to vary the eligibility criteria for the Discretionary Fund and to make further changes to the scheme as required to achieve the objectives of the Fund within available means.
- 7) That it be noted that the Government extended the Household Support Funding support to Councils for 2022/23, and the Council's anticipated share was £3.702m.
- 8) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director for Corporate Strategy, Commissioning and Public Health and Service Director for Children's Services, in consultation with the Corporate portfolio holder, Learning, Aspiration and Communities portfolio holder, and Service Director-Finance; to direct the Council's newly announced 2022/23 Household Support Fund allocation to appropriate interventions within the range of anticipated eligibility criteria as detailed in the report, through the Local Welfare Provision scheme.

195 Contract Award; Fire Safety improvements to low rise residential blocks district wide

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which outlined the outcome of a tender evaluation to undertake fire safety improvements to 865 low rise blocks across the district, to recommend acceptance of a tender and to appoint the preferred bidder.

Cabinet noted that Kirklees Council was wholly accountable as the landlord and Registered Provider for the safety of council housing residents and therefore should be fully sighted on all risks associated to building safety with the potential to cause injury, harm or inconvenience; it was therein duty bound to ensure existing and

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proposed arrangements were adequate and proportionate with respect to tenant safety.

Cabinet was advised that the tender process and subsequent evaluation of tenders submitted had received thorough due diligence, was compliant with the procurement regulations currently in force and in accordance with the council's Contract Procedure and Financial Procedure Rules.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That approval be given to the appointment of Fortem Solutions Limited for fire safety improvements to low rise residential blocks within Kirklees District.
- 2) That authority be delegated to the Service Director Homes and Neighbourhoods to sign off the final contract sum within a tolerance of 5% of the approved tender sum.

196 Update on the Low Carbon Housing Pilot Project

Cabinet considered a report which outlined the context and background to a Low Carbon Housing Project in relation to fuel poverty, energy price rises, and reducing the carbon footprint in housing.

The report advised that the Low Carbon Housing Project was a direct response to the cost-of-living crisis, the climate emergency, and broader regulatory changes. The pilot project, as well as delivering more quality affordable, warm homes and places, would secure learning and best practice – from design and planning right through to occupation and management.

Cabinet was advised that lessons gleaned from the project would enable the council to identify the skills needed in the workforce to ensure sustainable development became mainstream and scalable and would underpin social value outcomes in particular apprenticeships and training opportunities.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That approval be given to the appointment of ECD Architects Ltd to provide architectural, planning and development services in designing, costing, and obtaining an implementable Full Planning Permission for low carbon and Passivhaus residential development at the former RM Grylls school site, and which shall be capable of implementation, as described in the tender exercise as detailed in the report and Private Appendix.
- 2) That authority be delegated to the Service Director - Legal, Governance and Commissioning in consultation with the Strategic Director Growth and Regeneration, to enter into and execute a contract with ECD Architects Ltd to provide design, cost, and planning services to the council in developing the proposals and securing an implementable planning permission.

197 Exclusion of the Public

RESOLVED – That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of

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business, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act

198 Contract Award; Fire Safety improvements to low rise residential blocks district wide

The exempt information was considered prior to the determination of Agenda Item 11 (Minute No 195 refers).

199 Update on the Low Carbon Housing Pilot Project

The exempt information was considered prior to the determination of Agenda Item 12 (Minute No 196 refers).