

Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CABINET

Tuesday 8th March 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 Cathy Scott
Councillor Will Simpson

Observers: Councillor Adam Gregg
Councillor John Taylor

171 Membership of Cabinet

All Cabinet Members were present.

172 Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

173 Admission of the Public

No interests were declared.

174 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

175 Questions by Members of the Public

No questions were asked.

176 Questions by Elected Members (Oral Questions)

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

Question from Councillor Gregg

“Would the Leader agree with me that political parties should not be using taxpayers money for their own benefit?”

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council.

Question from Councillor J Taylor

“Can we review the policy regarding provision of support to Councillors to make sure that things aren’t being done in an underhand way, and perhaps if they have been we ought to be asking for the money to be refunded that has been incurred at taxpayers expense?”

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council.

Question from Councillor J Taylor

“With regards to the proposals for accepting plastic tubs, trays and pots into recycling, I am happy to support publicising this. It is clear that the comms strategy isn’t fit for purpose as there is no information available to enable members to be able to communicate this via social media. Could the Cabinet Members comment on this?”

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

Question from Councillor J Taylor

“With regard to the energy bill rebate, it would be helpful if elected members could have information in a format that can be shared on social media etc to help people that are going to have to apply for it. We need to share the information as widely and quickly as we can.

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services (Councillor P Davies).

177 Annual RIPA Update

Cabinet received the annual update on the use of Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) 2000 pursuant to the previous update in January 2021. The report advised that there had been no incidents within this period which required RIPA to be used and there had therefore been nil authorisations granted.

It was noted that the Council’s annual return to the Investigatory Powers Commissioner’s Office had been completed.

RESOLVED – That the Annual RIPA Report be noted.

178 Proposed changes to West Yorkshire Joint Services (WYJS) Agreement

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which set out proposals for changes to the West Yorkshire Joint Services legal agreement. The report advised that the West Yorkshire Joint Services Committee had recommended the adoption of a streamlined governance model to deliver its statutory functions whilst minimising bureaucracy and increasing accountability.

The report advised that in January 2021 the Committee had considered a report which set out the findings of a governance review that had been undertaken

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following changes to the operation and closure of some non-statutory functions of the organisation. Pursuant to this it had been agreed that the Joint Services Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding be refreshed and the amended versions were attached at Appendices A and B of the report. The report indicated that the principal amendment was to reduce the number of members from each Council on the Committee from 4, including the Leader, to 2.

Cabinet noted that it was essential that governance arrangements for West Yorkshire Joint Services were up to date and appropriate in order to enable effective partnership working across the five West Yorkshire Councils.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That approval be given to the changes as set out within the considered report and the amended Joint Services Agreement.
- 2) That the Service Director (Legal, Governance and Commissioning) be authorised to enter into the revised Joint Services Agreement.

179

Specialist Accommodation Strategy 2022-2030

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

Cabinet received the draft Specialist Accommodation Strategy 2022-2030 for consideration. The report set out the importance of quality housing and the impact that it has upon individuals and their wellbeing, and explained how demographic, technological and consumer trends which are already impacting the market are likely to continue over the period of the strategy. The strategy outlined how the shape of specialist accommodation would change over the next eight years and what key actions would be required to support these changes. Cabinet were advised that the strategy would form part of the Council's Housing Strategy 2018-2023.

It was noted that the strategy had been revised to take into account consultation responses and that the approval of the strategy would enable services and partners to build upon the foundations outlined and being delivered as part of the Kirklees Housing Strategy.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the findings of the non-statutory consultation on the proposed draft Specialist Accommodation Strategy 2022/2030 be noted.
- 2) That approval be given to the Specialist Accommodation Strategy 2022/2030.

180

Cross Council Corporate Safeguarding Policy

Cabinet gave consideration to the refreshed Cross Council Corporate Safeguarding Policy. The report advised that the policy aimed to demonstrate the Council's commitment to corporate safeguarding and enable all employees of the Council to understand their role and responsibilities in relation to safeguarding concerns. It set out the expectation of staff, councillors and volunteers to (i) identify areas where there are concerns and take action to address them in partnership with other agencies (ii) prevent unsuitable people from working with children, young people and adults at risk (iii) ensure the whole workforce understands safeguarding and

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their accountabilities and responsibilities and (iv) promote safe practice and challenge poor and unsafe practice.

Cabinet noted that the policy, which was appended to the considered report, set out a preventative approach to ensure that safeguards are proactively put in place to prevent abuse and neglect occurring.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the refreshed Corporate Safeguarding Policy be approved and adopted.
- 2) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director with responsibility for Corporate Safeguarding Oversight Group, in conjunction with the relevant Cabinet Member, and with the Corporate Safeguarding Oversight Group, to review the policy and guidance annually and to make any technical amendments as appropriate, allowing engagement to take place with stakeholders.
- 3) That if any new legislative requirements require a fundamental change, the policy be resubmitted to a future meeting of Cabinet.
- 4) That the Corporate Safeguarding Policy be included on the Policy Framework, and that Council consider this and the draft policy in the 2022/2023 municipal year.

181

Leeds City Region (LCR) Business Rates Pooled arrangements for 2022/23

Cabinet received a report which sought to ratify the Council's membership and arrangements for the operation and governance of the Leeds City Region Business Rates Pool 2022/2023.

The report indicated that a decision had been taken previously to apply to be part of the 2022-2023 Leeds City Region Business Rates Pool, which acknowledged the continuing impact of covid upon the economy and the consequential increased volatility on forecast retained levies by the prospective Leeds City Region Pool in 2022-2023. Cabinet were advised that further financial modelling would be undertaken by Leeds City Council, who would administer the regional pool, prior to any final decision being taken. It was noted that the Government's provisional 2022-2023 financial settlement had been made in December, and that no prospective member of the pool had indicated an intention to withdraw, and that the final settlement had been passed on 9 February 2022, including confirmation of the business rates pool for 2022-2023.

The report advised that specific proposals for the allocation of any retained levies would be considered through the Leeds City Region Business Rates Joint Committee, the terms of reference for which were set out at Appendix A to the report. Appendix B to the report set out the draft Memorandum of Understanding (Governance) agreement for operational arrangements.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That approval be given to the Council's membership of the Leeds City Region Business rates pool for 2022/2023.
- 2) That the revoking of the existing North and West Yorkshire Pool on 31 March 2022 be noted.

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- 3) That approval be given to the formation of a new joint committee to oversee the operation of the Leeds City Region Pool for 2022/2023.
- 4) That the draft terms of reference and memorandum of understanding (governance) agreements for the Leeds City Region Pool Joint Committee, as set out at Appendices A and B of the report, be noted.
- 5) That authority be delegated to the Service Director (Legal, Governance and Commissioning), in conjunction with the Service Director (Finance), to sign any documents relating to the Leeds City Region business rates Pool Joint Committee.

182 Strategic Investment in Town Halls - 2021/22 - 2025/26

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

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which set out a strategic case for additional capital investment for equipment, furnishings and decorative items in town halls that would enhance both the commercial appeal of the building and customer experience and maximise sustainable income generation opportunities. The report advised that a capital plan allocation of £2.235m had been agreed by Council in February 2020 for the strategic development of town halls and that £400k had been drawn down in the past 12 months to take advantage of lockdown closure and complete works that had been scheduled at a later stage at Batley and Dewsbury Town Halls. The report set out a programme for the remaining £1.835m and advised that the original capital plan annual allocations would be revised to reflect updated investment themes.

Cabinet were asked to give approval to the baseline programme for the capital allocation, together with themes of investment as set out at Appendix A to the report and to delegate authority for the programmes to be managed, providing flexibility to identify, design and deliver priority projects across multiple sites. It was noted that the proposed themes for investment included (i) accessibility (ii) reconfiguration of commercial space (iii) refurbishment and redecoration (iv) furniture and fittings and (v) technical equipment, which aimed to achieve a balance of corporate and commercial activity across the portfolio of buildings, while recognising the potential of each site within its locality.

RESOLVED -

- 1) That approval be given to the Town Hall Strategic Investment themes of work for 2021/2022 to 2025/2026, as set out at Appendix A of the considered report, and the associated capital allocation, up to £1,835,000 max for the rolling 5 year period, in order to deliver commercial, community and building conditions.
- 2) That Officers be authorised to identify, design, tender and implement the delivery projects aligned with the work themes as identified in Appendix A of the considered report, within the agreed budget.

183 Corporate Financial Monitoring Report Quarter 3 for 2021-22

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

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Cabinet received a report which set out financial monitoring information for General Fund Revenue, Housing Revenue Account and Capital Plan, as at Quarter 3 (Month 9) 2021-2022. The report advised that the Council's revised general fund controllable (net) revenue budget for 2021-2022 was £325m, including planned (net) revenue savings in-year of £1.8m. It was noted that there was a forecast overspend of £0.9m against the £325.0m revised budget at Quarter 3, equating to 0.3%, and that there had been a net reduction of £0.3m in the forecast overspend position since Quarter 2.

The report provided an overview of 2021-2022 forecast revenue outturn position at Quarter 3, along with information regarding covid impacts, forecast covid pressures, updates for service directorates, general fund reserves, the collection fund, housing revenue account, capital and a number of specific capital proposals in line with 2021-2022 budget proposals which related to (i) Red Laithes Court and Havelock Street, Ravensthorpe (ii) Adult Care Homes Infection Prevention Control and (iii) Property Investment Fund – 103 New Street).

RESOLVED –

- 1) That with regards to the General Fund, the (i) forecast revenue outturn position at Quarter 3 (ii) forecast year end position on corporate reserves and balances at Quarter 3 and (iii) the regular monitoring and review of corporate services in 2021/2022 reported to Cabinet be noted.
- 2) That the Collection Fund position as at Quarter 3 be noted.
- 3) That the Quarter 3 Housing Revenue Account position and forecast year-end reserves position be noted.
- 4) That with regards to Capital (i) the Quarter 3, the forecast capital monitoring position for 2021/2022 be noted (ii) approval be given to re-profiling of the capital plan across future years (appendix 6 refers) (iii) approval be given to the capital scheme amendments as noted in paragraphs 1.12.7 to 1.12.13 of the report (iv) that approval be given to offering HD1 Living Ltd an additional loan from the Property Investment Fund up to £2.5m to support the redevelopment of 103 New Street, Huddersfield, subject to due diligence being carried out (v) the Strategic Director (Growth and Regeneration), in consultation with the Cabinet Member (Corporate Services), having sought advice from the Service Director (Legal, Governance and Commissioning) and the Service Director (Finance) be authorised to carry out appropriate due diligence on the proposal to offer an additional loan from the Property Investment Fund and (vi) the Service Director (Legal, Governance and Commissioning) in consultation with the Service Director (Finance) be authorised to enter into any documentation required to agree the additional Property Investment Fund loan and to protect the Council's position as lender.

184

Disposal of Open Space at Carrside Crescent, Batley
Agenda Item withdrawn.