

Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CABINET

Tuesday 5th July 2022

Present: Councillor Shabir Pandor (Chair)
Councillor Paul Davies
Councillor Eric Firth
Councillor Viv Kendrick
Councillor Musarrat Khan
Councillor Naheed Mather
Councillor Carole Pattison
Councillor Cathy Scott
Councillor Will Simpson
Councillor Graham Turner

Observers: Councillor Bill Armer
Councillor Charles Greaves
Councillor David Hall
Councillor John Lawson
Councillor Elizabeth Smaje
Councillor Mohan Sokhal
Councillor John Taylor

12 Membership of Cabinet

All Cabinet Members were present.

13 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 June 2022 be approved as a correct record.

14 Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

15 Admission of the Public

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

16 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

17 Questions by Members of the Public

No questions were asked.

18 Questions by Elected Members (Oral Questions)

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

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Question from Councillor J Lawson

“Given the length of time that the Amazon planning application has been in, by its next milestone it will be December which will make it nearly two years, and given the resources dedicated to that application, how long do you think it is reasonable for an application to be in our planning system and how many bites of the apple do you think it should have?”

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council.

Question from Councillor Marchington

“If the Council has sufficient money to fix all of our roads and pavements, what would our plan be?”

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council.

Question from Councillor Greaves

“In Cabinet January 2018 a decision was taken to introduce a new policy for proposals for changes to home to school transport for children attending mainstream schools. Generally speaking we didn’t have a problem with the majority of the decision that was made, but the issue we did have was the change to the universal free bus pass for Meltham children travelling to Honley High School and Holmfirth High School. Those arrangements had been in place long before I went to Honley High School. Meltham is the biggest settlement south of Huddersfield but it doesn’t have a high school, the catchment school is Honley but lots of children attend Holmfirth as well. When this policy was introduced we did say that the savings that were going to come about from it weren’t really going to be delivered, that the policy is almost unworkable and that it really unfair to Meltham children and their parents. We’ve raised the issue a number of times and now four and a half years later the Council has not been able to implement this policy but we’ve got parents who want to know what is happening with the buses. That limbo impacts upon people’s life choices, which schools they send their children to and how they plan and prepare for it. My request is that, the policy was not possible to implement and in so far as it relates to the school buses for Honley High School and Holmfirth High School, please reverse the policy to what it was before, applying the policy to the catchment school and not the nearest geographical school.”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Children’s Services (Councillor Kendrick).

Question from Councillor Armer

“Are you satisfied that sufficient and conveniently sited blue badge parking is provided in Huddersfield Town Centre?”

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

Question from Councillor J Taylor

“In regards to the Huddersfield blueprint, there are plans to demolish shopping areas of the piazza. What discussions have we had, and what money has been put into the plans, to support the businesses in the piazza to locate elsewhere within the town centre?”

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

Question from Councillor D Hall

“You’ll be aware that the Secretary of State for Transport signed the Order last week giving the go ahead to commence the TransPennine upgrades through the borough and this has capacity to drive regeneration and employment throughout the district, can I ask what steps the Cabinet will take to maximise the opportunities that the TransPennine upgrade should afford?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Town Centres (Councillor E Firth).

Question from Councillor J Taylor

“I understand that we are developing a transport strategy for the district. At some point could the Portfolio Holder share the details or brief me. I’ve spoken about the lack of strategic link south, I want to make sure if a strategy is being developed we are looking at it strategically. Would he share with me the thoughts that have been progresses with Officers on that strategy?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Town Centres (Councillor E Firth).

19 Proposal by Queensgate Market Traders Association in respect of the Queensgate Market relocation

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

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which set out a proposal from Queensgate Market Traders in regards to relocation from Queensgate Market due to the need to vacate Queensgate Market by February 2023 to enable works to commence. The report advised that, since the decision of Cabinet in January 2022, Queensgate Market Traders Association had submitted a proposal to surrender their lease agreements, with no obligation upon the Council to provide relocation, in return for compensation. The report sought authority for the proposal to be implemented and advised that, if approved, the traders would be categorised as either (i) traders that will accept compensation and surrender their lease and (ii) traders that would refuse compensation and would seek to be relocated under the terms of their existing lease. Cabinet were advised that there were presently 32 traders and 37 lease agreements in place.

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The report advised that, subject to the approval of the proposal Officers would (i) meet with the Queensgate Market Traders Association to negotiate specific details around the lease surrender and compensation payments (ii) serve the appropriate break notices in line with the timescales set by the Cultural Heart Project (iii) liaise with individual traders in respect of their specific plans and provide initial support/advice for those that want to move to vacant shop premises within the town centre and (iv) determine a reasonable relocation option for any trader who does not want to agree with the Association's proposal to accept compensation.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That approval be given to the proposal of Queensgate Market Traders Association.
- 2) That, pursuant to (i) above, authority be delegated to the Strategic Director (Environment and Climate Change) in consultation with the Service Director (Legal, Governance and Commissioning) and the Strategic Director (Growth and Regeneration) to negotiate, agree terms, enter into and execute any agreements or instruments necessary to implement the proposal.
- 3) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director (Environment and Climate Change) in consultation with the Service Director (Finance) to re-profile the previously approved capital and revenue budgets as required.

20 Registered Providers Clusters Programme - Update and Land Disposals

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

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which provided an update on the Registered Providers Clusters Programme – Update and Land Disposals, and sought approval for a proposed approach to dispose of sites to the Council's partner. The report advised that the Council's preferred partner was Thirteen Group, who had been appointed following a competitive land sale exercise. The report identified five sites in the areas of Dewsbury, Hartshead, Huddersfield and Batley, which were set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

Paragraph 2.3 of the report set out options for consideration and recommended that the sites be disposed of at less than best consideration as it would enable the creation of approximately 200 new homes, focussed upon delivering affordable housing across a variety of tenures, assist in meeting housing targets and creating approximately 700 direct jobs.

The report advised that the staged programme of development aimed for the development to be completed on site by 2025, and that each site would be implemented individually with the granting of planning permission.

It was noted that all five sites had been allocated for housing development in the Local Plan, and that approval had been granted by Cabinet in August 2018 for the sites to be included within a programme of development.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That approval be given to dispose of the sites as set out at Appendix 1 of the considered report at less than best consideration to Thirteen Group in accordance with the General Disposal Consent (England) 2003.
- 2) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director (Growth and Regeneration) to (i) negotiate and agree the terms of disposal with Thirteen Group (ii) determine the appropriate level of discount for each site following a comprehensive assessment of Thirteen Group's development appraisals reflecting the housing mix which receives planning consent (which may be either only affordable housing, or a combination of both affordable and market housing) on each site.
- 3) That authority be delegated to the Service Director (Legal, Governance and Commissioning) to enter into and execute any agreement and other ancillary documents necessary to dispose of the land in the RPCP to Thirteen Group for use as either affordable housing, or affordable and market housing dependent upon the final housing mix for each site.

21 Proposals for Additional Household Support in 2022/23

(Under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 36(1), Cabinet received representations from Councillor D Hall and J Taylor).

Cabinet received a report which set out proposals to provide support for households in 2022-2023, in accordance with funding and guidance issued by central government. It was noted that the Council had been allocated a share of £500m, from an overall £3.702m allocation, which was to be spent by the end of September 2022.

The report set out details of proposals for the targeted support, that would supplement support already provided, and the impact of these measures to date.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That, in regards to Pensioners, at least one third funding be used to support pensioners, with one third of the available funding used to target pensioners in receipt of a Council Tax Reduction for the whole allocation of £1.23m, equating to approx. 11,350 households.
- 2) That families entitled to free school meals be awarded with a one-off cost of living payment of £70 per child, resulting in a total spend on Households with Children of £1.8m.
- 3) That the remaining balance of £650,000 be utilised by (i) working with relevant partners, stakeholders and third sector organisations and (ii) applications for support via Local Welfare Provision which shall be assessed on a case by case basis to support families and individuals in need.
- 4) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director (Corporate Strategy, Commissioning and Public Health) and Service Director (Children's Services), in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Service director (Finance) to determine the mechanism for utilising the remaining £650,000.

22 Holmfirth Town Centre Access Plan

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which sought endorsement to submit the Holmfirth Town Centre Access Plan Scheme full business case to West Yorkshire Combined Authority. The report advised that the proposed plan aimed to support economic growth through investment in the public realm and improvements at key junctions focussed on reducing traffic congestion, and widening sustainable travel opportunities. Subject to the approval of the full business case, the report sought approval to accept further grant funding to allow the delivery of the scheme, which was anticipated to commence in early 2023.

The report set out details of the scheme objectives and details of four initial options that were developed for the outline business case, and were set out at Appendix 1-4 of the report. Paragraph 2.2.12 of the report set out the interventions included in the preferred option (Option 4). It was noted that Option 4 demonstrated high value for money and would deliver significant journey time benefits. Appendix 5 to the report set out the final scheme proposal.

Cabinet noted that, in terms of timelines, the construction contract was expected to be awarded in December 2022, with a view to construction commencing in January 2023 and the scheme being completed in January 2024.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That Option 4, as set out in Appendices 4 and 5, be endorsed.
- 2) That the final business case be submitted to West Yorkshire Combined Authority and that, subject to approval, be progressed to the delivery of the scheme.
- 3) That £5,173,821 grant funding from West Yorkshire Combined Authority be accepted.
- 4) That approval be given to the Council Capital Plan contribution, funded from Council borrowing of £2,300,000.
- 5) That approval be given to a spending tolerance of circa 15% (£1,129,130) of forecast cost (£7,473,821) to be funded through the Council's capital plan.
- 6) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director (Growth and Regeneration) to make decisions to enable the delivery of the scheme.
- 7) That authority be delegated to the Service Director (Legal, Governance and Commissioning) to enter into any instrument required to be executed to facilitate the delivery of the scheme.

23 Inclusive Communities Framework

(Under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 36(1), Cabinet received representations from Councillor J Taylor and Councillor Smaje).

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which set out the contents of the proposed Inclusive Communities Framework, as recommended by the Communities Board, and asked that a recommendation be presented to the meeting of Council on 13 July 2022 to adopt the framework within Article 4 of the Council's Policy Framework.

The report advised that the framework, which was appended to the considered report, provided a strategic approach to building cohesive communities and aimed

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to act as a guide to all partners who communicate with communities to address challenges and unequal accessibility. Cabinet were advised that the proposed framework would replace the Cohesion Strategy, which was included within Article 4 of the Constitution.

The report informed Cabinet that the framework was guided by the principles of (i) belief that communities hold solutions, with skills and knowledge that is valuable in achieving shared goals (ii) building belonging and trust amongst diverse communities with shared interests and challenges and (iii) caring about what matters to local communities to give a collective purpose. The report also advised that the framework would be instrumental in the development and implementation of the Council Plan (2021/23), Inclusion and Diversion Strategy (2021/23) and Communities Partnership Plan (2023/27).

RESOLVED -

- 1) That the contents of the Inclusive Communities Framework, as recommended by the Communities Board, be noted.
- 2) That the report be referred to the meeting of Council on 13 July 2022 with a recommendation that the Inclusive Communities Framework be adopted and included within Article 4 of the Council's Policy Framework.