

Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

## KIRKLEES COUNCIL

### CABINET

**Friday 8th December 2017**

Present: Councillor David Sheard (Chair)  
Councillor Peter McBride  
Councillor Musarrat Khan  
Councillor Erin Hill  
Councillor Viv Kendrick  
Councillor Masood Ahmed  
Councillor Graham Turner  
Councillor Cathy Scott

Apologies: Councillor Shabir Pandor  
Councillor Naheed Mather

**366 Membership of the Committee**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Mather and Pandor.

**367 Interests**

No interests were declared.

**368 Admission of the Public**

It was noted that Agenda Items 11 and 12 would be considered in private session.  
(Minute No's 376 and 377 refer)

**369 Deputations/Petitions**

No deputations or petitions were received.

**370 Public Question Time**

No questions were asked.

**371 Member Question Time**

No questions were asked.

**372 Council Taxbase and CTR Scheme for 2018**

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which provided an overview of the responses to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme consultation exercise and set out options to be considered in 2018/2019 and subsequent years. The report advised that a comprehensive eight week consultation had been undertaken with the public, and major preceptors, and that the comments received were set out in Appendix 3 to the considered report. Details of matters to be included within the scheme, as set out in the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (Schedule 1A), were set out at Appendix 4.

## Cabinet - 8 December 2017

The report set out the detail of six options, and Appendix 1 described the high level impact of each option. It was noted that Cabinet had considered all of the options and were mindful of both the financial challenges to the Council and the impact of proposals upon vulnerable people in the context of other significant changes to welfare provision.

It was agreed that that Options 4 and 6 would be the recommended options to submit to the meeting of Council on 13 December 2017. That is, (i) to approve a reduction in the capital limit from £16,000 to £8,000 and (ii) to approve general changes for all options to reduce administration costs.

Subject to approval at Council, it was noted that the residents affected by changes would be contacted and offered help with payment options, and also that the Council taxbase would be based on the assumptions and adopted option/s.

**RESOLVED** - That the report be submitted to the meeting of Council on 13 December 2017 with a recommendation that (i) Options 4 and 6 as detailed within the considered report be approved and (ii) authority be delegated to the Service Director (Finance, IT and Transactional Services) to approve the taxbase as a result of changes to the scheme, and that the impact be incorporated into the budget report to be submitted to Council on 14 February 2018.

### 373 Update on Children Services

Cabinet received a report which set out an update on activities in Children's Services including (i) the proposed Strategic Partnership with Leeds (ii) the implications of the changes in Children's Services regarding the main IT provider for Children's Social Care and (iii) a general update on discussions with the Department for Education and Ofsted.

Cabinet noted the content of the report which provided an update on progress in relation to discussions with Leeds City Council and the Department for Education regarding partnership working and its implications, an outline of the general terms of the partnership including the governance arrangements, the Improvement Plan and the draft Direction from the Secretary of State. Furthermore, it requested delegation to finalise the details of the Strategic Partnership and authorisation to enter into the arrangements, once concluded.

Paragraph 2.2 of the report provided an overview of the reconfiguration of the Liquidlogic casework management system, which was required following the changes in approach to social work practice.

(Cabinet gave consideration to the exempt information at Agenda Item 11 (Minute No. 376 refers) prior the determination of this item.)

#### **RESOLVED –**

(1) That the current position relating to the arrangements with Leeds City Council to establish a Strategic Partnership be noted.

(2) That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the statutory Portfolio Holder for Children's Services, to

## **Cabinet - 8 December 2017**

finalise the terms of the Strategic Partnership Agreement with Leeds City Council (including the Improvement Plan) and any other documents associated with this, including any funding arrangements.

(3) That the Service Director (Legal, Governance and Commissioning) be authorised to enter into the Strategic Partnership Arrangement and any other documents associated with this, including any funding arrangements with the DfE.

(4) That the Service Director (Legal, Governance and Commissioning) be given authority to enter into the appropriate Strategic Partnership Agreement with Leeds City Council once it has been finalised, as well as any other relevant associated documents.

(5) That the contents of the letter from the Minister, and the draft Direction, as attached at Appendix 2 of the considered report, be noted.

(6) That the proposed changes relating to Liquidlogic, as detailed at Paragraph 2.2 of the considered report, be noted.

(7) That approval be given to extending the implementation timescale of the IT project, from December 2017 to October 2018 at a cost of c£450k to be funded by applying capital receipts.

(8) That the information regarding the visit by the Minister of State for Children and Families, and Ofsted, as detailed within the considered report, be noted.

### **374 Provision of School IT Services**

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which set out details of proposals for the provision of broadband and telecommunications to schools. The report advised that the company providing broadband and telecommunications services to approximately two thirds of schools in Kirklees had gone into administration in October 2017. The company had bought a large proportion of the capacity of City Fibre IT network which had been installed across Kirklees approximately three years ago, and it was considered that it was in the Council's interests to re-enter the market for school broadband services. The proposed offer was for a three year arrangement as the Council would need to purchase devices that would last or be licensed for three years. The report advised that the capital payment cost would need to be met by the Council initially, and would be recovered with each school over the three year contract.

Cabinet noted that the Chief Executive had been required to act under emergency powers on 23 November 2017 to place an order to purchase the relevant hardware and software to enable schools to continue to use broadband and communication services.

(Cabinet gave consideration to the exempt information at Agenda Item 12 (Minute No. 377 refers) prior the determination of this item.)

## Cabinet - 8 December 2017

### **RESOLVED -**

(1) That approval be given to the Council offering a three year package as detailed within the considered report.

(2) That the action of the Chief Executive to place an order to purchase relevant hardware, carried out under emergency powers, on 23 November 2017, be noted and endorsed.

### **375 Exclusion of the Public**

**RESOLVED** - That acting under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, as specifically stated in the undermentioned Minute.

### **376 Update on Children Services**

(Exempt information within Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006. It is considered that disclosure of the information could prejudice negotiations regarding the disposal of the land and the Council obtaining best consideration. The public interest in maintaining the exemption, which would protect the interests of the Council and the company concerned, outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information and providing greater openness in the Council's decision making.)

Cabinet gave consideration to the exempt information prior to the determination of Agenda Item 8 (Minute No. 373 refers).

**RESOLVED** -The information was considered prior to the determination of Agenda Item 8.

### **377 Provision of School IT Services**

(Exempt information within Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, namely that the report contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining the exemption, which would protect the interests of the Council and the company concerned, outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information and providing greater openness in the Council's decision making.)

Cabinet gave consideration to the exempt information prior to the determination of Agenda Item 9 (Minute No. 374 refers).

**RESOLVED** - The information was considered prior to the determination of Agenda Item 9.