

Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CABINET

Tuesday 23rd January 2018

Present: Councillor Shabir Pandor (Chair)
Councillor Naheed Mather
Councillor Musarrat Khan
Councillor Viv Kendrick
Councillor Masood Ahmed
Councillor Graham Turner
Councillor Cathy Scott

Apologies: Councillor David Sheard
Councillor Peter McBride
Councillor Erin Hill (Currently on Maternity Leave)

397 Membership of the Committee

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Hill, McBride and Sheard.

398 Minutes of previous meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 December 2017 be approved as a correct record.

399 Interests

Councillors Pandor and Scott declared an ‘other’ interest in Agenda Item 8 on the grounds that they have family members residing in KNH properties (Minute No. 404 refers).

400 Admission of the Public

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

401 Deputations/Petitions

Cabinet received representations from David Storrie (regarding Agenda Item 10, Minute No. 406 refers), and Suzanne Gannon (regarding Agenda Item 12, Minute No. 408 refers) at the consideration of those Agenda Items.

402 Public Question Time

No questions were asked.

403 Member Question Time

No questions were asked.

404 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) rent and service charge setting report and key housing challenges

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which sought approval for a 1% reduction in dwelling rents in 2018/2019, and for garage rents an annual uplift of 3.9% in

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2018/2019, and similar for the service and other charges, with the exception of Extra Care services, with a proposed annual uplift of 2.87%. The full schedule of proposed weekly dwelling rent, service and other charge increases to Council tenants for 2018/2019 was attached at Appendix 1 to the considered report.

The report provided a background of the key challenges facing housing provision, including the 1% rent reduction. It explained that the new average weekly dwelling rent for 2018/2019 was £69.10 which incorporated the compulsory 1% reduction. It was proposed that the annual increase to average weekly garage rent, service and other charges for 2018/2019 continue to be uplifted in line with the same Retail Price Index figure which for 2018/2019 is 3.9%, and for Extra Care Services, 2.87%.

The report proposed that, in order to comply with the requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 to have a balanced housing revenue account, and the requirements of the Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016 to reduce rents by at least 1% from 2 April 2018, approval be given to the proposed changes, with effect from 2 April 2018 for the 2018/2019 period.

RESOLVED -

- (1) That the proposed dwelling rent, garage rent, service and other charges as set out at Appendix 1 of the considered report, be approved.
- (2) That the national and local financial challenges as outlined in the report be noted in preparation for the Housing Revenue Account budget discussions in February 2018.

405 New Affordable Housing - Golcar, Huddersfield

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

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which set out a proposal to build eight new properties for general needs social housing rent on Council owned land at Sycamore Avenue and Leymoor Avenue, Golcar.

The report proposed that Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing would lead on the development of the properties, which would comprise of two bedroom four person homes, meeting a high demand for such property types properties in the Golcar area. It advised that the overall budget for the scheme was £1,021,638 and that based upon a financial assessment using the Net Present Value approach, it was indicated that over a 30 year period the return on the investment was positive.

Cabinet noted that the development of the site would deliver new social homes for rent, therefore contributing to the Council's strategic priorities of delivering housing growth and meeting the needs of low income and vulnerable households.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That approval be given to progress the Golcar Housing scheme.

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- (2) That approval be given to the proposed procurement approach, namely the use of the Efficiency North Framework and the appointment of GS Kelsey.
- (3) That authority be delegated to the Service Director (Legal, Governance and Commissioning) to finalise and enter in to all appropriate contracts, deeds and documents in relation to the appointment of the design and build contractor in consultation with the Service Director (Economy, Regeneration and Culture).

406 Proposed Bradley Urban Extension

(Under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 36 (1) Cabinet received representations from Councillors Bolt, Calvert and Homewood. Under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 37 Cabinet received a representation from David Storrie, on behalf of Bradley Park Golf Club).

Cabinet received a report which provided an update on the proposed Bradley Urban extension site, the further development of the masterplan, the provision of sports and leisure facilities, and the proposed delivery approach. The report explained that a masterplan of principles, alongside a strategic process to develop sports provision in North Huddersfield, had been agreed during September 2016, and that approval was now sought of a revised masterplan and overall approach to delivery.

Paragraph 2.4 of the considered report set out progress since September 2016, including details of the revised masterplan with a sports and leisure hub which included a revised indicative layout and the inclusion of a nine hole golf course. The report advised that the revisions were consistent with the principles previously agreed by providing a wide range of complementary community facilities to serve the expanded community, which would be created by the Bradley urban extension.

Cabinet noted that the development of the site would be phased throughout the Local Plan period and that it was intended that development would commence during 2021/2022, with a key principle that there would be no break in golfing provision. The report indicated that the proposals would deliver sustainable housing growth, supported by appropriate community facilities.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the masterplan for the Bradley Urban Extension, including sport and leisure facilities, as detailed in paragraph 2.4.1 of the considered report, be endorsed and that officers be authorised to continue to progress the design of the sports and leisure area.
- (2) That approval be given for the Council, acting as landowner, to pursue the allocation of the Bradley Park site for housing through the local plan hearing process, and authorise officers to commission the necessary work to progress it.
- (3) That it be noted that Officers will prepare a procurement strategy to secure a development partner for the site, and that this will be subject to a further Cabinet report that will seek authority for the implementation of the procurement strategy.

407 Proposals for changes to support and transport for disabled children, adults and older people.

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which provided details on the consultation exercise with service users and the public regarding potential changes to a number of services affecting children and adults with disabilities, and their carers, and sought approval to make changes to a number of services.

The report explained that, following the approval of Cabinet on August 2017, a consultation exercise had now been carried out in regards to (i) the access fund (ii) home to school transport for those with special educational needs and/or disabled children (iii) social care transport for disabled children, working age adults and older people and (iv) short breaks for disabled children. It was noted that all proposals set out within the report had been subject to an equality impact assessment.

Paragraph two of the considered report provided a narrative on each aspect of the consultation, along with a summary of the outcomes of the consultation, and the proposals for the future of the provision.

RESOLVED -

- (1) That, in relation to the Access Fund, approval be given to Option 5 (invest in specialist outreach support as part of the early help offer), as detailed within the considered report, and that work commence to determine the investment strategy for capacity building in the Access Fund.
- (2) That, in relation to home to school transport for children with special educational needs and/or disability, (i) the current home to school transport policy be updated and separated into two policies and submitted to a future meeting of Cabinet (ii) the post 16 home to school transport policy be reviewed and submitted to a future meeting of Cabinet later this year and (iii) work commence to explore the creation of a separate travel assessment unit as detailed within the considered report.
- (3) That, in relation to social care transport for disabled children, working age adults and older people, approval be given to the implementation of a combination of options 3 and 4, as detailed within paragraph 2.3.1 of the considered report, and that it be ensured that all reasonable means have been explored before offering council funded transport to new service users with eligible social care needs, with the adoption of a phased approach to implementation for existing service users.
- (4) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director (Adults) to implement (3) above, and that consideration be given to working towards a full cost recovery model.
- (5) That, in relation to short breaks for disabled children, approval be given to the proposals as detailed in the considered report, therefore continuing overnight short break provision and developing further after-school services and the provision for breaks within the community.

408 Proposals for changes to home to school transport policy for children attending mainstream school.

(Under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 36 (1) Cabinet received representations from Councillors Bolt and J Taylor. Under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 37 Cabinet received a representation from Suzanne Gannon, local resident).

Cabinet received a report which provided an update on the results of the consultation with service users and public with regards to potential changes to a number of services affecting children attending mainstream schools and sought approval of changes to home to school transport provision for eligible children attending mainstream schools.

Paragraph 2 of the considered report (i) set out information on the consultation process, which had been undertaken from 4 September until 22 October 2017, and to which 543 responses were received which had reflected that the current arrangements were highly valued by users and (ii) outlined three potential proposals relating to home to school transport for compulsory school aged children, aged 5 to 16 years.

Cabinet gave consideration to the option proposals within the report and noted the recommendation that proposal three, which would allow for statutory provision only, should be supported as it would have the greatest financial impact for the authority in view of the financial challenges currently facing the Council.

RESOLVED -

- (1) That approval be given to the adoption of Option 3, as detailed in the considered report, in relation to mainstream provision, ie, applying the nearest geographical school, rather than catchment school, when considering applications for boarding cards/bus/train passes, and thereby returning to a statutory only policy.
- (2) That the proposal at (1) above (i) be applied as a minimum to all new applicants for a train/bus pass/boarding card and for applications relating to school transition points or a change of address from September 2019 and (ii) shall only apply to all new boarding card/bus/train pass holders from September 2019.
- (3) That the Service Director (Commercial, Regulatory and Operational Services) be authorised to investigate the possibility of moving from a system of bus/train pass/boarding card provision upfront to a system based on retrospective reimbursement of the cost of a bus/train pass/boarding card bought by parents/carers for their child/children for journeys to and from school, and that, should this prove feasible and deliver savings that outweigh the cost of delivery, be authorised to implement the system from September 2019 onwards.
- (4) That the Service Director (Commercial, Regulatory and Operational Services) be authorised to investigate the feasibility of setting up a cycling scheme that

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would provide a bicycle, helmet and cycling safety training in lieu of a boarding card/bus/train pass in circumstances where an individual/family decides that this would be the most appropriate provision for their circumstances and be delegated authority to implement the detail of the scheme.

(5) That the existing Home to School Transport Policy be split into two separate policies whereby one will cover mainstream provision and one will cover SEN provision.

(6) That a new mainstream transport policy be prepared for consideration in early 2018.

409 Update on the Priority School Building Programme Rebuild of Mount Pleasant Primary

Cabinet received a report which provided an update on the current position with regards to the new build school for Mount Pleasant Primary School, and outlined the need for further works. The report advised that the project was now reaching its final stages, with the new build school having been in place since October 2017, and the demolition of remaining defunct accommodation and completion of external works being expected by July 2018. Cabinet were asked to approve the allocation of an additional £125k from the Council's Basic Need Capital Grant to provide enhancements to the external areas that were not covered by the funding of the Priority Schools Building Programme.

Paragraph 2 of the considered report set out detail regarding the site clearance and proposed external works, which included landscaping works. The report proposed that the funding of an additional £125k would ensure that the external facilities available to the school matched the excellent new internal facilities offered by the new school building.

RESOLVED -

(1) That it be noted that a Prior Notification of Demolition application for the demolition of the Clock Tower at Mount Pleasant Primary School has been submitted.

(2) That approval be given to (i) the allocation of an additional £125k Basic Need Capital Grant funding to the new Mount Pleasant Primary School scheme and (ii) the authorisation of a revised Section 151 letter to be issued if required by the ESFA.

410 Planning Application Fees

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which provided details on proposals by Government to make changes to planning applications fees and to note that the changes would be applied nationally once the relevant legislation becomes effective.

The report advised that it was recognised that an increase in planning fees was seen as an important step in addressing a national problem of under-resourcing in

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local planning authorities, and that the fees, which are set nationally, had not increased since 2011/2012 when a national increase of 15% had been applied.

The report explained the statutory process for the fee change, advising that a motion to make the increase had been approved in the House of Lords during December 2017, and that the next stage would be for the regulations to be laid before Parliament.

Cabinet noted that, providing application numbers are maintained, or increase following the introduction of the Local Plan, a 20% increase on existing fees would increase income by approximately 250k per annum.

RESOLVED - That approval be given to the implementation of the fee increase, as detailed within the considered report, as soon as is possible following the introduction of the relevant legislation.