

Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CABINET

Tuesday 14th January 2020

Present: Councillor Shabir Pandor (Chair)
Councillor Viv Kendrick
Councillor Musarrat Khan
Councillor Naheed Mather
Councillor Peter McBride
Councillor Carole Pattison
Councillor Cathy Scott
Councillor Graham Turner
Councillor Rob Walker

95 Membership of Cabinet

All Members of the Cabinet were present.

96 Minutes of previous meeting

RESOLVED - That the Minutes of the Meetings held on 12 November 2019 and 3 December 2019 be approved as a correct record.

97 Interests

No interests were declared.

98 Admission of the Public

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

99 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

100 Public Question Time

No questions were asked.

101 Member Question Time

No questions were asked.

102 Capital Scheme - Cherry Trees Respite

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which sought approval to proceed with a capital scheme at Cherry Trees respite, an 8 bed learning disabilities respite unit in Shepley, which is owned and managed by the Council. Cabinet noted that the initial outline business case had been approved during February 2019 and that the full business case was now submitted, as attached at Appendix 1 to the considered report. The business case set out details of the proposal, which was to undertake internal works and changes to the existing building in order to ensure that it was fit

for purpose in meeting the needs of service users, and also enhancing the use of the grounds and external facilities.

The report advised that the detailed design had identified an estimated outturn cost of £735k, excluding £115k for fire safety works and Cabinet was now requested to agree and release the sum of £735k so that tenders and works could be progressed. Cabinet noted that the capital investment was budgeted for within the overall Day Services Support for Vulnerable Adults Programme and that the £115k of investment for fire safety works would be met from the Corporate Landlord capital plan. The report set out a proposed timeframe, which indicated that the works were estimated for completion in August 2020.

RESOLVED - That approval be given to the release of £735k to enable works at Cherry Trees Respite to be progressed.

103 Reorganisation in Dewsbury West School Place Planning Area - Permission to Consult

Cabinet received a report which requested approval to undertake a non-statutory consultation on the potential reorganisation of school places at St John's CE (VC) Infant School and Westmoor Primary School. The report advised that there was a school led opportunity to reorganise school places in the Dewsbury West area, resulting in St John's CE (VC) Infant School becoming a 30 place all through primary school, with complimentary charges to pupil numbers at Westmoor Primary School, thereby reducing the transition points for pupils and ensuring sustainable delivery models for both schools.

Cabinet were asked to support the undertaking of a non-statutory consultation in order to seek the views of key stakeholders on the proposals. The report provided an indicative timeline, illustrating that the consultation process would conclude on 21 February 2020, with potential implementation commencing in September 2021.

RESOLVED - That approval be given to the undertaking of a 4 week non-statutory consultation process regarding the reorganisation of Dewsbury west school place planning area.

104 Kirklees School Funding Arrangements for Financial Year 2020/2021

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which sought approval of Kirklees' School Funding Arrangements for the financial year 2020-2021. The report set out details of the arrangements that had been consulted upon for the funding of local schools and academies and Cabinet were asked to give approval to (i) the specific funding factors to be used and the relative weightings and values of the funding factors (ii) central budget provision within the Dedicated Schools Grant Schools Block of Funding, the Central School Services Block and the Early Years Block and (iii) de-delegation arrangements for mainstream maintained schools.

The report provided details in regards to (i) funding information (ii) the movement towards national funding formula in the soft National Funding Formula years of 2018-2019 to 2020-2021 (iii) exceptions applications to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (iv) central budget provision within the Dedicated Schools Grant funding blocks (v) de-delegation arrangements for mainstream maintained schools

(vi) High Needs Block funding 2020-2021 (vii) Early Years Block Funding 2020-2021 (viii) Dedicated School Grant Funding Settlement 2020-2021 and (ix) recommendations from the 2020-2021 Dedicated Schools Grant schools funding formula from the Kirklees Schools Forum.

The report advised that the Schools Forum would continue to help shape schools funding arrangements at their meeting on 10 January 2020, prior to the deadline for submission of the school funding allocations for 2020-2021 to the Education and Skills Funding Agency on 21 January 2020. Cabinet noted that it was expected that the local authority would inform maintained schools of their 2020-2021 budget shares by 28 February 2020 and that the Education and Skills Funding Agency would advise academies of their 2020-2021 budget allocations by 31 March 2020.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That details of the consultative process, undertaken in collaboration with Head Teachers to determine the ongoing local approach to the distribution of Dedicated Schools Grant Schools Block funding for 2020-2021, be noted.
- 2) That the exceptions applications made to the ESFA, and subsequently approved, be noted.
- 3) That the changes to the schools funding formula funding arrangements for 2020-2021, leading up to the full introduction of the National Funding Formula for Schools from April 2021, be noted.
- 4) That the ongoing local consultation with schools and other providers to ensure an appropriate local response to national funding formula developments be noted.
- 5) That approval be given to the submission of the schools funding formula for 2020-2021 (based upon a guaranteed funding rise of at least 1.84% per pupil in comparison to each school's 2019-2020 per pupil baseline) to the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

105 Interim Affordable Housing Policy 2020

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which sought approval to adopt the Interim Affordable Housing Policy 2020, which had been updated following the adoption of the Local Plan and the introduction of the Housing Strategy 2018-2023. Cabinet were advised that the 2020 interim policy would replace the 2016 interim policy and that the new document sought to provide greater clarification, make direct links to existing housing need evidence and provide updates on a range of issues relating to the implementation of national planning policy. Cabinet were advised that the document would be in place on a short term basis, until it is replaced by a formal Supplementary Planning Document later in 2020.

The report explained that the updated policy would help inform negotiations to secure affordable housing that best meets locally identified needs and that the main updates related to (i) the definition of affordable housing sites (ii) addressing national policy requirements regarding provision of affordable homes for sale (iii) the provision of starter homes and discounted market sales housing relative to housing needs in Kirklees and (iv) the requirements of a viability appraisal.

RESOLVED -

- 1) That approval be given to the Interim Affordable Housing Policy 2020, which provides updated interim policy and guidelines for dealing with affordable housing/financial contributions from new housing developments, as attached at Appendix 1 of the considered report, and that the 2016 Interim Affordable Housing Policy be revoked.
- 2) That authority be delegated to the Service Director (Growth and Housing) to make any further additional modifications which relate exclusively to factual updates and format corrections in the process of publishing the Interim Affordable Housing Policy 2020.

106 Enhanced Lettable Standard Pilot 2020

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which sought support for a targeted Enhanced Lettable Standard and Home Starter Fund pilot that Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing proposed to deliver on behalf of the Council from January 2020 to December 2020. The report detailed the opportunities that would be offered by the pilot in terms of establishing a long term Enhanced Lettable Standard and Home Starter Fund offer that would give new Kirklees tenants the best possible start to their tenancies.

Cabinet were advised that the Council's properties were currently re-let to a lettable standard that was last reviewed in 2018 and that the revised standard included flooring and mechanical extraction to kitchens and bathrooms, as well as more customer responsive flexibility to make change. Cabinet noted that the further enhancement of the lettable standard would provide assurance to the Council that new tenants, in particular those who are the most vulnerable, are provided with a standard of accommodation which provides the best chance of sustaining their tenancy and settling into the community.

RESOLVED - That approval be given to the implementation of the targeted Enhanced Lettable Standard and Home Starter Fund pilot that Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing proposal to deliver on behalf of Kirklees Council, from January 2020 to December 2020.

107 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Rent and Service Charge Setting and Key Housing Challenges

Cabinet received a report which provided the financial context and basis for the annual setting of rents and service charges, and the Housing Revenue Account budget. The report sought approval of a CPI (Consumer Price Index) +1% increase in dwelling rents in 2020/21 and for the proposed garage rents and other service charges an annual uplift of 2.7% in 2020/2021 with the exception of Extra Care Services – Intensive Housing Management, which had a proposed annual uplift of 2%, and Extra Care Services – Night Time Security, which had a proposed annual uplift of CPI+1%.

The report also provided context in terms of the key challenges for the Housing Revenue Account including the CPI+1% rent increase. An appendix to the considered report set out the full schedule of proposed weekly dwelling rent, service and other charge increases to Council tenants for 2020-2021.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That approval be given to the proposed dwelling rent, garage rent, service and other charges by CPI (Consumer Price Index) +1%, as set out within the report, with effect from 6 April 2020, in order to ensure a balanced Housing Revenue Account which is compliant with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
- 2) That approval be given to charges for Extra Care Services – Intensive Housing Management to be uplifted by 2% and Extra Care Services – Night Care Services uplifted by 2.7% (CPI +1%), in line with other charges.

108

Calculation of Council Tax Base 2020/2021

Cabinet gave consideration to a report seeking approval from Council for the various tax bases, which would apply to the Kirklees area for the financial year 2020/21 in connection with the Council Tax. There were no proposed changes to the current Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) for 2020/21.

RESOLVED – That the 2020/21 Council Tax base for the whole of the Kirklees area, and the Council Tax bases for the five Parish and Town Council areas, be referred to the meeting of Council on 15 January 2020 with a recommendation of approval;

Whole of Kirklees £120,827.80

Denby Dale £5,855.94

Holme Valley £10,149.79

Kirkburton £9,047.44

Meltham £2,859.75

Mirfield £6,693.77