



CABINET
DECISION NOTICE

Publication Date: 22nd December, 2016

At a meeting of the Cabinet held on 21st December, 2016 the following matters were discussed. The decisions of Cabinet are set out below each item along with reasons for the decision and other options considered.

PRESENT: Councillor Oxby (in the Chair)
Councillors Hyldon-King, James, Patrick, Watson and Wheatley

DN.90 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology was received from Councillor Chase for this meeting.

DN.91 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Watson declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item DN.96, Immingham Library, as an Immingham Town Councillor.

DN. 92 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 23rd November, 2016 were approved as a correct record.

DN.93 **GRIMSBY LEISURE CENTRE - ICE RINK**

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing setting out the process which the council has been through in respect of securing an alternative commercial operator for the Ice Rink and the reasons behind the proposal to close Grimsby Leisure Centre Ice Rink.

RESOLVED –

(1) That the Ice Rink at Grimsby Leisure Centre be closed as soon as reasonably practicable.

(2) That the Director of Health and Wellbeing take all necessary steps to ensure that the Ice Rink is closed as soon as reasonably practicable.

REASONS FOR DECISION – The council has been through an extensive process of engagement over a considerable length time, in an attempt to secure a commercially viable ice rink operation in the borough. Investing in, and continuing to operate a “temporary” ice rink for 2 years in order to allow further time for a commercial option to be achieved. (The 2 year period ended in August 2016)

The Ice Rink is operated at a loss and the council is currently absorbing costs in respect of the hire of the ice rink chillers and maintenance and repair which it cannot afford indefinitely.

The council needs to achieve further efficiencies within the Health and Wellbeing portfolio and this decision allows the council to support as cost efficient sport and leisure service.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED –

Option 1. Do Nothing – This requires the Council to agree that the Operation of the Ice Rink is retained as part of the Lincs Inspire contract indefinitely.

This option has been rejected as the cost implications are prohibitively expensive as outlined in the financial implications of this report.

This option exposes the council to further potential investment burdens in respect of the ice rink, flooring, replacing barriers in order to maintain a safe environments for the public

The council is out of contract with the current two year arrangement and would have to be mindful of its procurement obligations on further continuation.

Option 2 – Further Investment – This option would see the council undertake works to improve the facility (including potential extension of the Ice Plant chillers contract). This would require the council to invest significant sums of capital resource (as yet undefined), to alter and improve the building including ice chilling, to allow community stakeholders to collaborate with Lincs Inspire to generate sufficient revenue to recover costs. Again, the Council would need to follow relevant procurement processes.

DN.94

COUNCIL TAX BASE 2017/18

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Inclusion seeking approval of the Council Tax Base for 2017/18.

RESOLVED –

(1) That the Council Tax base for the financial year 2017/18 of 41,890.4 properties (Band D equivalent) be approved.

(2) That the decision made on 25th November 2013, which permanently delegates the authority to approve the NNDR1 return that determines the business rate base to the Section 151 Officer (Director of Finance, Resources and Operations), in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder, be noted.

REASONS FOR DECISION – Setting the Council Tax Base is a statutory requirement that forms the basis of the calculation of the council tax charge for 2017/18.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED – Setting the Council Tax Base is a statutory requirement that forms the basis of the calculation of the council tax charge for 2017/18.

DN.95

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS 2017/18 TO 2019/20

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Inclusion on the potential economic benefits to the Council of the pre-payment of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) employer pension contributions for the three years 2017/18 to 2019/20.

RESOLVED – That the prepayment of pension contributions for the three years 2017/18 to 2019/20 be approved in principle, with the actual amount to be pre-paid delegated to the Director of Finance, Resources and Operations, subject to a clear economic benefit to the Council.

REASONS FOR DECISION – There is a requirement for the Council to make pension contributions into the East Riding Pension Fund. There is an opportunity to change the timing of these contributions over the next 3 years, Both options have been considered by officers and were referred to throughout the report.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED – The only alternative option was to continue with current arrangements of monthly contributions into the Pension Fund over the next 3 years.

DN.96

IMMINGHAM LIBRARY

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Inclusion seeking authority to dispose of Immingham Library.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That Immingham Town Council be granted a lease of the subject property for a term of 25 years at peppercorn rent (£1 per annum if demanded).**
- (2) That the Director of Finance, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Inclusion, be delegated responsibility to ensure that all necessary actions are carried out in order to complete and approve the detailed terms of the disposal.**
- (3) That the Monitoring Officer to the Council be authorised to complete all requisite legal documentation in relation to the matters outlined in resolution (1) above.**

REASONS FOR DECISION – The subject property, being the Former Immingham Library, Pelham Road, Immingham has been vacated and is surplus to the council as part of the service relocation to the Civic Centre. The property has been identified by the Immingham Town Council, through an identified need to continue to be of use to the Community to provide space for various activities which will be of social, economic and environmental benefit.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED –

To do nothing is not considered a viable option as the current license does not indemnify the council against all costs in relation to the building. The council would remain wholly liable for the property together with all future associated expenditure. This is not considered a viable option.

To implement the current decision of cabinet and demolish the building would not give the Town Council the opportunity to provide a much needed facility within available property. The council will also save the demolition costs and direct this capital funding elsewhere. This is not considered a viable option.

The freehold disposal of the property is not considered appropriate at this time given the proposal received from the Town Council is of benefit to the new adjacent Hub. The opportunity to save the capital required to demolish the building and support the proposal with accommodation already in the ownership of the council resulting in the benefit to the community. As the proposal is for lease, should the property become vacant and unused in future, the council retains an element of control in respect to future action to prevent any unauthorised uses, and be in a position to progress demolition or a freehold disposal in future.

DN.97

URGENT BUSINESS – GRANT FUNDING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF APARTMENTS FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Skills and Housing requesting approval to accept a Government grant of £650,00 to enable delivery of apartments to be specially adapted for people with learning disabilities.

This matter was considered urgent to enable the Council to have maximum access to £650,000 worth of funding to be spent before April 2017.

RESOLVED – That the £650,000 grant funding be accepted and allocated to the Economy and Growth Service.

REASONS FOR DECISION – Accepting the grant funding will enable the development of a site and will support a number of Council outcomes and priorities in the draft Housing Strategy.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED – If the Council did not accept the funding this would prevent regeneration and the delivery of new homes.

DN.98

URGENT BUSINESS – CALL-IN OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCES ASSET MANAGEMENT

Cabinet considered a verbal update from the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Inclusion on the call-in received by a joint meeting of the Regeneration, Housing and Environment Scrutiny Panel and the Tourism, Leisure and Culture Scrutiny Panel on the management of Public Conveniences.

This matter was considered urgent to allow further considerations to take place before the budget is set in February 2017.

RESOLVED –

(1) That the public convenience strategy be referred to scrutiny with a view to establishing a cross party working group to reconsider the strategy for both Grimsby and Cleethorpes, to include alternative methods of provision of facilities, maintenance and cleaning.

(2) That the cross party working group be held during January 2017, and its findings referred back to Cabinet.

REASONS FOR DECISION – In response to the call-in.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED – None.