



To be submitted to the Council meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2017

## **CABINET**

**21<sup>st</sup> December, 2016**

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

Officers in Attendance:

Joanne Hewson	Deputy Chief Executive (Communities)
Ange Blake	Director of Economy and Growth
Stephen Pintus	Director of Public Health
Tony Maione	Chief Legal Officer (Monitoring Officer)
Sharon Wroot	Director of Finance, Resources and Operations
Laura Cowie	Scrutiny and Committee Advisor

Also in attendance:

Councillors Bramley, Cairns, De Freitas, Jackson, Stockton, Shreeve, Stinson and Sutton.

Emma McCall Grimsby Ice Hockey Club

There were 18 members of the public and 4 members of the press in attendance.

CB.99 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology was received from Councillor Chase for this meeting.

CB.100 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Watson declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item CB.105, Immingham Library, as an Immingham Town Councillor.

CB.101 **MINUTES**

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

CB.102 **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.

Emma McCall representing the Grimsby Ice Hockey Club was invited to address Cabinet. Ms McCall explained how she was advised earlier in the year to work with Lincs Inspire to find funds to keep the ice rink open that required no subsidy from the Council. She advised Cabinet that the usage figures that were provided within the report now submitted were incorrect according to her data, and believed that a further 8000 visitors per year should be included. Ms McCall spoke highly of the work carried out by the Grimsby Ice Hockey Club in providing free training and coaching, and explained the value of participation that the ice rink brought to the community.

The Leader thanked Ms McCall for her attendance and representation, and for all her hard work leading to this point.

The Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing explained the background to the proposed closure and Cabinet felt that, given the lack of a viable alternative, there was little option but to agree to the closure.

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.

CB.103 **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.

Councillor Jackson explained that the Council Tax Support Scheme as mentioned at paragraph 1.2 of the report, was no longer a statutory function and he believed we were the only local authority that still provided it. He requested Cabinet to consider ceasing the remaining additional 50% when setting the budget as it could save the Council up

to £600,000 year on year. He confirmed that pensioners would still be in receipt of the statutory support and would therefore not be left vulnerable.

In response, Councillor Patrick, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Inclusion, confirmed that further changes and consultation would be taking place for next year's budget, and he felt that removing the scheme at this time wouldn't necessarily make those savings as this could cause an increase in debt collection and court costs.

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.

CB.104

**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.

CB.105

**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.

CB.106

**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 £650,000 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.

CB.107

**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 was set in February 2017.

Cabinet agreed that any proposals put forward must deliver the budgeted efficiencies of £120,000.

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.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 2.52 p.m.