



CABINET
DECISION NOTICE

Publication Date: 17th January 2020

At a meeting of the Cabinet held on 15th January 2020 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 Jackson (in the Chair)
Councillors Cracknell, Fenty, Lindley, Procter, Shepherd, Shreeve and S. Swinburn.

DN.77 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence from this meeting.

DN.78 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest with regard to any items on the agenda for this meeting.

DN.79 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting on 16th December, 2019 were agreed as a correct record.

DN.80

FINANCE AND COMMISSIONING PLAN 2020/21 – 2022/23 POST LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL SETTLEMENT

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources outlining how the Council plans to deliver its agreed financial strategy over the coming three year period.

RESOLVED –

- 1. That the Finance and Commissioning Plan for the period 2020/21 – 2022/23 (as detailed within Appendix 1 of the report now submitted) be noted.**
- 2. That the proposed 1.98% increase in Council Tax in 2020/21 be supported.**
- 3. That the proposed 2% Adult Social Care precept in 2020/21 be supported.**
- 4. That the proposed allocation of additional capacity to deal with demand pressures and key priority areas be supported.**
- 5. That the report now submitted be referred to Scrutiny and for public consultation in January 2020.**

REASON FOR DECISION – The Council must determine how it is to operate within the forecast financial resources over the medium term. To comply with its legal obligations, the Council must set a balanced budget for 2020/21 and provide a realistic financial forecast for the medium term financial planning period.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED –

Option appraisals have been undertaken in setting both the revenue and capital budgets. A range of options will be considered when considering service delivery within defined financial resources to support the delivery of a balanced budget in 2020/21.

DN.81

DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT CONSULTATION

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport seeking approval to carry out an eight week public

consultation on the content of the draft Statement of Community Involvement in accordance with Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, as amended.

RESOLVED –

- 1. That the Director of Economy and Growth be authorised, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport, to commence a public consultation on the Draft Statement of Community Involvement.**
- 2. That the Director of Economy and Growth be instructed to report back to Cabinet once the consultation exercise is complete with a proposed Statement of Community Involvement for adoption, having regard to the results of such consultation.**

REASON FOR DECISION – Changes in legislation, particularly the publication of the Town and County Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2017 mean that councils are now required to review their statements of community involvement within five years of their adoption. The current statement of community involvement was adopted in 2013 and it was therefore prudent to carry out a review. Whilst there is no longer a legal requirement to undertake consultation on a draft Statement of Community Involvement prior to its adoption, the current Statement was prepared on this basis and it is considered good practice to do so. It is important to understand how the communities of North East Lincolnshire would wish to be involved in the preparation of future planning policy documents, including any review of the Local Plan, and to include this information in a revised Statement of Community Involvement.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED –

The Council could determine not to review and update the Statement of Community Involvement. However, the Council is required by legislation to review its Statement of Community Involvement within five years of its adoption. The current Statement of Community Involvement was adopted in 2013 and therefore should be reviewed now.

The Council could determine not to carry out a period of consultation on the Draft Statement of Community Involvement. However, as the main purpose of the Statement of Community Involvement is to set out how the Council may seek to involve its community's in future public engagement and consultation on the preparation and review of the Local Plan and other planning policy documents, it is considered appropriate to invite them to comment on those proposals by carrying out a six week consultation.

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources providing details of treasury management arrangements, activity and performance during 2019/20.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL –

That the report now submitted, and its contents, be approved.

REASON FOR DECISION – The Council’s treasury management activity is underpinned by CIPFA’s Code of Practice on Treasury Management (“the Code”), which requires local authorities to produce annually Prudential Indicators and a Treasury Management Strategy Statement on the likely financing and investment activity. The Code also recommends that members are informed of treasury management activities at least twice a year.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED – The appendix attached to the report now submitted details how the composition of counterparties utilised for investments changed over the course of the year as the risk environment evolved as a consequence of Brexit negotiations and trade tensions.

DN.83

A NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COMMUNITY LOTTERY

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources proposing the introduction of a Local Lottery for North East Lincolnshire.

RESOLVED –

- 1. That the establishment of a Community Lottery in line with the plans set out in the report now submitted, be approved.**
- 2. That a one month consultation period with scrutiny and the Voluntary and Community Sector in relation to the focus and potential of the lottery, be agreed.**
- 3. That the award (under waiver) of a contract to Gatherwell Limited for a period of 5 years to run the lottery, be approved.**
- 4. That the criteria for registering organisations as beneficiaries be approved.**
- 5. That authority be delegated to the Director of Resources and Governance following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources, to agree the policies and procedures necessary and/or desirable to fulfil the conditions for obtaining a licence from the Gambling Commission.**
- 6. That the Director for Communities and the Commissioning and Strategic Support Unit Service Manager be nominated to hold**

the Gambling Commission licence on behalf of the local authority.

REASONS FOR DECISION - To provide a small pot of funding for local good causes to develop and deliver projects that deliver improved outcomes for the local community.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED –

Three options were considered:

1. Set up a Community Lottery using an External Lottery Manager (ELM)
– The lottery presents us with a way to support the local VCS at a lower direct cost to the Council by enabling good causes who have lost out on grants from the Council, to access this new funding stream for themselves. The running of a lottery is expected to be cost neutral as all operating costs should be covered by ticket sales.
2. Set up a Community Lottery and manage it directly. This would require additional staffing and setting up and running software systems. There are considerable advantages to running the lottery through an ELM including keeping costs to a minimum through benefitting from their economies of scale and expertise and the fact that they provide insurance to ensure that prize money is paid out.
3. Do nothing.

DN.84

ANTI-SEMITISM - POSITION STATEMENT

Cabinet considered a report from the Leader of the Council proposing the adoption of the agreed definition of anti-Semitism and proposing that this is incorporated in to our wider commitment to equality and diversity and community cohesion.

RESOLVED –

1. **That the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of anti-Semitism as outlined within the report now submitted, be adopted.**
2. **That the Director for Communities be instructed that regard be given to the definition in our approach to equalities and diversity, including in our formal reporting arrangement.**

REASON FOR DECISION – National Government asked all Local Authorities to consider adopting the definition in 2017. Including the definition within our existing approach to equality and diversity enables the Council to enhance its commitment to equality and diversity and strengthens our resolve to ensure that all minority individuals and groups across the borough are valued and protected as far as possible from abuse or harm.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED – None.

DN.85

INTRODUCTION OF THE DOMESTIC PRIVATE RENTED PROPERTY MINIMUM ENERGY EFFICIENCY STANDARDS

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Skills and Housing presenting revised legislation for the Energy Efficiency Regulations 2015 (amended 2019) which are designed to eliminate the least energy-efficient properties by establishing a minimum legal standard for private rented properties.

RESOLVED –

- 1. That the revised Energy Efficiency Regulations be adopted into Council policy.**
- 2. That authority be delegated to the Director of Economy and Growth, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Skills and Housing (and Portfolio Holder for Safer and Stronger Communities where appropriate) to take all appropriate action to so implement.**

REASONS FOR DECISION - Adoption of the minimum energy efficiency standards will deliver legislative compliance and improve the condition of housing stock in the borough. The policy will hold unprincipled private landlords to account and assist tenants to live in warmer and more comfortable homes, reducing unnecessary energy bills and lowering levels of fuel poverty. This should enable tenants' health and wellbeing outcomes to be improved. The policy will also support the Council's green agenda, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and carbon expenditure by making homes more energy efficient.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED - Do nothing: The Council could determine not to enforce the minimum standards. This would reduce the range of intervention measures available to the Council in seeking to improve the management of the private sector housing stock across the Borough. A decision not to enforce the minimum standards could leave the Council open to reputational risk by failing to adopt an approach that has been set out in legislation, endorsed by Government and adopted by a number of other local authorities. The 'do nothing' option would not deter landlords from committing housing offences and will not support the Council's commitment to reduce fuel poverty.

DN.86

NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL POLICY STATEMENT PROVISION OF BUS STOPS AND BUS SHELTER

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport seeking to introduce a new guidance document for the

provision of bus stops and bus shelters on the public highway in North East Lincolnshire.

RESOLVED –

- 1. That the guidance document “Provision of Bus Stops and Bus Shelters in North East Lincolnshire” be approved and adopted.**
- 2. That responsibility for the implementation of the above guidance be delegated to the Director for Economy and Growth, deferring to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport on any issue arising.**
- 3. That the guidance be reviewed on an annual basis, with the outcome reported to Cabinet.**

REASONS FOR DECISION - To ensure clear and transparent guidance is provided by North East Lincolnshire Council in relation to the provision of bus stops and bus shelters.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED - Do nothing. This option was not recommended because the Council would continue to have unclear guidance in relation to bus stops and bus shelters. By setting out clear guidance this will clarify the procedure and process for all key stakeholders.

DN.87

PROCUREMENT OF MAIL SERVICES

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources seeking approval to commence a procurement exercise for Mail Services.

RESOLVED –

- 1. That the Director of Resources and Governance, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources, be authorised to commence a procurement exercise for Mail Services.**
- 2. That the Director of Resources and Governance, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources, be authorised to award such contract and address any ancillary matters arising.**
- 3. That the Chief Legal and Monitoring Officer be authorised to execute all documentation arising.**

REASONS FOR DECISION - The decision will allow the Council to commence a procurement exercise for the replacement Mail Services

contract, and for the Council to award a contract before the 31st March 2020, allowing for continuity of service.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED –

- Do nothing. This option would leave the Council with no contract in place, and non-compliant with the requirements of the Public Contract Regulations 2015.
- Individual services making separate mail arrangements. This option would release centralised control over costs, quality and volume discounts and therefore would not achieve value for money.