



CABINET DECISION NOTICE

Publication Date: 18th January 2024

At a meeting of Cabinet held on the 17th January 2024 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, Dawkins, Harness, Shepherd, Shreeve and S Swinburn.

DN.62 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received for this meeting.

DN.63 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interests made from Members with regard to items on the agenda for this meeting.

DN.64 MINUTES

RESOLVED - RESOLVED - The minutes of the Cabinet meeting on the 20th December 2023 were agreed as a correct record subject to Councillor S Swinburn's attendance being added to the minutes.

DN.65 APPROVAL AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION WRAPAROUND CHILDCARE PROGRAMME FUNDING

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Children and Education seeking approval and acceptance of the ring-fenced Department for Education (DfE) Wraparound Childcare Programme

(WCP) funding in order for North East Lincolnshire Council to co-ordinate the delivery of the Wraparound Childcare Programme across the borough.

RESOLVED –

- 1. That the Executive Director Place and Resources (as s151 Officer) be authorised to accept the ring-fenced Wraparound Childcare Programme funding of up to £1,055,568.55, paid in instalments of: £12,559.27 in 2023/24; £708,952.09 in 2024/25, with a final, provisional payment of £334,057.19 in 2025/26;**
- 2. That authority be delegated to the Director of Children’s Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children and Education to implement and co-ordinate the delivery of the Wraparound Childcare Programme in North East Lincolnshire, making modifications as and when necessary.**

REASONS FOR DECISION – The Local Authority has a statutory duty to secure sufficient childcare, so far as is reasonably practicable, for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0-14 (or up to 18 for disabled children). Acceptance of the Wraparound Childcare Programme funding will enable the Local Authority to co-ordinate the local response to the reforms to childcare that were announced in the Government’s Spring 2023 budget.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED - No other options have been considered due to the statutory duty for childcare sufficiency.

DN.66 EMPTY PROPERTIES – COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER (CPO’S)

Cabinet considered a report from the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Economy, Net Zero, Skills and Housing seeking authority for the Council to pursue CPO formal action to tackle three problematic empty properties.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the use of Compulsory Purchase Orders on 289 Yarborough Road Grimsby, 184 Rutland Street Grimsby and 453b Weelsby Street, Grimsby be approved.**
- 2) That the Executive Director Place and Resources be authorised to use funding allocated within the existing Empty Homes Capital Budget to fund legal, professional and acquisition costs.**
- 3) That the Executive Director Place and Resources in consultation with the Leader and Portfolio Holder for Economy, Net Zero, Skills and Housing be authorised to commence and implement**

all formalities in connection with the exercise of compulsory purchase powers and all actions reasonably ancillary thereto and thereafter deal with subsequent disposal or refurbishment or other use as shall be at the Executive Director's discretion and being subject to internal governance processes with a view to bringing the properties back into use.

- 4) That the Assistant Director Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer) be authorised to execute and complete all requisite legal documentation.**

REASON FOR DECISION – The properties identified in this report have a long history of problems. The owners have either failed to engage with the Council or have been unwilling to take action to bring the properties back into use. In each case it is felt that the only remaining action is to force a change of ownership and the use of CPO which affords the Council the greatest control in determining the future outcomes for the property.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED -

1. Purchase by Agreement – Initial discussions and investigations with the owner to voluntarily acquire 453b Weelsby Street, Grimsby have highlighted likely issues with outstanding charges so the purchase by agreement is likely to be unsuccessful. Attempts to trace the owners 184 Rutland Street and 289 Yarborough have been unsuccessful. CPOs are being sought as a last resort.

2. Improvement Notices – Serving improvement notices through the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and Town and Country Planning Act 1990 will only improve the visual impact of the properties. As the owners have failed to engage with notices previously, we do not consider this to be a recommended cause of action. Opting for continuing with the current action would lead to further deterioration of the properties, blight the neighbourhood, and continue to attract anti-social behaviour/criminal activity.

3. Do Nothing – To do nothing would mean that the properties continue to remain empty risking continued anti-social behaviour, criminal activity and further deterioration of the properties causing damage to neighbouring properties.

DN.67 CLEETHORPES LEVELLING UP FUND (LUF) SEA ROAD STRATEGIC LEASE

Cabinet considered a report from the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Economy, Net Zero, Skills and Housing providing an update on the marketing efforts undertaken to date for the scheme and seeking approval to secure future occupancy of the building.

RESOLVED –

- 1. That the recommendations within Appendix One (CLOSED) to progress with securing a lease agreement for this scheme of the report now submitted be approved.**
- 2. That the Director of Economy, Environment, and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Leader of the Council be delegated authority to settle terms, enter into lease arrangements and secure future lease agreements for this scheme.**
- 3. That the Director of Economy, Environment, and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Leader of the Council be authorised to undertake all ancillary activity reasonably arising in support and implementation of the above recommendations.**
- 4. That the Assistant Director Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer) be authorised to execute and complete all requisite legal documentation in relation to the matters outlined above.**

REASON FOR DECISION – To enable the Council to secure a pre-let agreement for the scheme, provide greater confidence and decision-making approval to enable future lettings and ensure the successful delivery of the development as envisioned within the Levelling Up Fund bid.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED - The Council could choose not to approve any pre-let agreements until the scheme is completed. However, this would mean the loss of securing a pre-let agreement prior to completion of the Sea Road development and an enhanced chance of the abovementioned risks being realised.

DN.68 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED – That the press and public be requested to leave on the grounds that discussion of the following business was likely to disclose exempt information within paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

DN.69 CLEETHORPES LEVELLING UP FUND (LUF) SEA ROAD STRATEGIC LEASE

Cabinet considered a report from the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Economy, Net Zero, Skills and Housing referred to at DN.67 above.

RESOLVED – That the appendix to the report, pursuant to the decision at DN.67 above, be noted.

