



To be submitted to the Council at its meeting on 20th March 2025

CABINET

11th December 2024 at 5.00pm

Present: Councillor Jackson (in the Chair)
Councillors Cracknell, Dawkins, Harness, Hudson, Shepherd, Shreeve and S Swinburn.

Officers in attendance:

- Carolina Borgstrom (Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure)
- Katie Brown (Director of Adult Social Care)
- Zoe Campbell (Senior Scrutiny and Committee Advisor)
- Simon Jones (Assistant Director Law and Governance)
- Ann-Marie Matson (Director of Children's Services)
- Rob Walsh (Chief Executive)
- Sharon Wroot (Executive Director Place and Resources)

Also present:

- Nick Browning (Head of Culture, Heritage, Leisure and Tourism)
- Councillor Aisthorpe
- Councillor Shutt
- Damien Jaines-White (Assistant Director Regeneration)
- Maggie Johnson (Head of Economy and Funding)
- Joanne Paterson (Scrutiny and Committee Advisor)

There was one member of the press and one member of the public present.

CB.48 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence received for this meeting.

CB.49 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Dawkins declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in item CB.59 and left the meeting during the agenda item.

CB.50 MINUTES

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on the 14th November 2024 were agreed as a correct record.

CB.51 COUNCIL PLAN 2024 - 2028

Cabinet considered a report from the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Economy, Regeneration, Devolution and Skills seeking agreement of the content of the Council Plan for 2025-2028 and referring to Full Council for approval and adoption.

RESOLVED –

1. That the content of the Council Plan now submitted be agreed.
2. That the Council Plan be referred to Full Council for approval and adoption.

CB.52 COUNCIL TAX BASE FOR 2024 - 2025

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets that sought approval of the Council Tax Base for 2024/25.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL –

1. That the proposed changes to the Council Tax Support Scheme for 2025/2026, which maintains the maximum discount of 65% for all working age residents, be supported.
2. That the implementation of the Foster Carer discount be supported.
3. That, subject to resolution 1 above, that the Council Tax Base for the Council and other precepting bodies in 2025/2026 be set at 47,205.5 Band D equivalents (as detailed in Appendix A of the report now submitted) be approved.

CB.53 TREASURY OUTTURN REPORT 2024 - 2025

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets noting the treasury management activity during 2024-25.

RESOLVED –

1. That the treasury management activity during 2024-25 be noted.
2. That the report be referred to Council for noting in accordance with statutory guidance.

CB.54 FRESHNEY PLACE LEISURE SCHEME

Cabinet considered a report from the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Economy, Regeneration, Devolution and Skills that sought approval of the Freshney Place Leisure scheme.

RESOLVED –

1. That the principle of the construction and implementation of the Freshney Place Leisure Scheme, as set out in the report now submitted, be approved.
2. That, subject to resolution 6, authority be delegated to the Executive Director Place and Resources, in consultation with the Leader of the Council to engage with and instruct the contractor to mobilise and implement delivery of the Freshney Place Leisure Scheme and for the Executive Director Place and Resources, in consultation with the Leader of the Council to take all actions reasonably arising, recognising the complexity and wider impacts of the project.
3. That the Executive Director Place and Resources, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be authorised to make arrangements for vacant possession of the Market Hall and to take all reasonable steps in relocating and dealing with any occupational rights of impacted market traders.
4. That the Executive Director Place and Resources be delegated authority to commence a procurement exercise, at the appropriate time and subject to ongoing external professional advice, for a third-party market operator to administer and manage the anticipated market facility and thereafter to award such contract and carry out any ancillary activity reasonably arising.

5. That, subject to resolution 6, the Executive Director Place and Resources, acting as Section 151 Officer, be authorised to:
 - a. increase the Council's capital programme budget from £30.9m to £49.96m.
 - b. increase the external borrowing requirement of the Council by £11.26m.
 - c. undertake further borrowing as may reasonably be required, subject to such borrowing being affordable from within the Freshney Place budget envelope.
 - d. subject to any external grant conditions, to deal with the reallocation of Towns Fund monies of £3.7m to the Freshney Place Leisure Scheme.
6. That, having acknowledged that the increased cost of delivery and budgetary support for that lay with Full Council, such request for support be referred to the next Full Council meeting with the following recommendation:
 - a. that in receiving the Cabinet Report of 11th December 2024, Full Council acknowledges the analysis of the increased budgetary ask and approves a variance to the 2024/2025 budget policy to facilitate and meet such ask.

CB.55 LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES REVIEW

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage and the Visitor Economy that sought approval to progress with the Phase 2 public consultation process.

RESOLVED –

1. That the comprehensive engagement and consultation with our communities during our phase 1 of public consultation, involving residents, partners and services, be noted.
2. That the following be supported and agreed:
 - a. the findings of the needs assessment as set out in Appendix 1 of the report now submitted.
 - b. the draft proposals for future service development to ensure that a continued combined community offer and core public library service would support the delivery of the Council's statutory responsibilities.

3. That the Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage, and the Visitor Economy, be authorised to commence phase 2 of public consultation and engagement, having due regard to the findings set out in Table 5 of the report now submitted and having engaged with the Economy, Culture and Tourism Scrutiny Panel on the wording of the consultation questions.
4. That the Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage, and the Visitor Economy be instructed to report further to Cabinet following phase 2 of public consultation and engagement to:
 - a. present a summary of the results,
 - b. present recommended refinements to the needs assessment,
 - c. update Cabinet with proposed recommendations in connection with the emerging library strategy,
 - d. present a suite of recommendations around future proposals shaped by consultation and engagement together with suggested implementation plans.

CB.56 NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL HOMES TRANSFORMATION

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Children and Education to increase in-area children's residential homes to deliver sufficient homes within the borough for children in care.

RESOLVED –

1. That the principle of the Children's Home Transformation Project be approved.
2. That the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children and Education, be authorised to progress with the commissioning and commence any procurement exercises to establish new Children's Homes within the borough of North East Lincolnshire, as illustrated by the report now submitted and thereafter make such award(s) and deal with implementation and mobilisation of such activity.
3. That the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children and Education, be delegated authority to carry out all reasonable activity ancillary to the above which, for the avoidance of doubt, shall include but shall not be limited to, all requisite planning applications.

4. That the Executive Director Place and Resources be delegated authority to acquire such property as reasonably identified by the Director for Children's Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for both Children and Education and Finance, Resources and Assets, with discretion to the Executive Director Place and Resources to negotiate and settle terms and complete such acquisitions as the Executive Director sees fit even where to do so would constitute a key decision.
5. That the Assistant Director Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer) be authorised to execute documentation arising.

CB.57 PROCUREMENT OF POSTAL SERVICES

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets that sought approval to procure a replacement Postal Services Contract.

RESOLVED –

1. That the commencement of a procurement exercise for Postal Services be approved.
2. That the Executive Director Place and Resources, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets be authorised to commence the above procurement exercise.
3. That the Executive Director Place and Resources, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets, be delegated authority to award the contract for Postal Services and thereafter to deal with all ancillary matters reasonably arising.
4. That the Assistant Director Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer) be authorised to complete and execute all legal documentation arising.

CB.58 REFERRAL FROM SCRUTINY

Cabinet received a referral from the Communities Scrutiny Panel regarding the Household Support Fund.

RESOLVED – That the recommendations and actions from the Communities Scrutiny Panel be noted.

CB.59 SELECTIVE LICENSING

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Infrastructure and Transport that sought approval to go out to public

consultation on a proposed selective licensing of privately rented accommodation in parts of the East Marsh Ward.

RESOLVED –

1. That the Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Infrastructure and Transport, be authorised to commence a consultation exercise on the proposals to introduce a selective licensing scheme in parts of the East Marsh ward.
2. That the Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Infrastructure and Transport, be authorised to explore opportunities to implement Areas of Action within parts of Heneage and Sidney Sussex wards.
3. That the Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Infrastructure and Transport, be authorised to receive consultation findings and report back to Cabinet no later than July 2025, with recommendations for final decision making in relation to both the proposed scheme and areas of action.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 6.22 p.m.