

Cabinet

A meeting of Cabinet was held on Thursday, 27th February, 2020.

Present: Cllr Robert Cook (Chair), Cllr Jim Beall, Cllr Nigel Cooke, Cllr Lisa Evans, Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy, Cllr Steve Nelson, Cllr Michael Smith

Officers: Julie Danks (MD), Beccy Brown, Ged Morton (HR&L), Garry Cummings (F&BS), Martin Gray (CHS), Reuben Kench (CL&E), Richard McGuckin (ED&D), Jamie McCann (CS), Ann Workman (AH).

Also in attendance: Councillors Cunningham, Gamble, Sherris and N.Stephenson O.B.E.

Apologies: N/A

CAB Evacuation Procedure

102/19

The evacuation procedure was noted.

CAB Declarations of Interest

103/19

Councillor Beall declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in respect of item 6 entitled 'Annual Increase in Older People's and Mental Health Residential Care Home Fees' as his mother was in a Care Home.

Councillor Smith declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in respect of item 7 entitled 'Procedure for Admission of Pupils to Primary & Secondary Schools in September 2021' as his daughter worked at a school.

Councillor Cook also declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in respect of this item as two of his family members worked in schools.

Councillor Bob Cook declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 'Minutes of Various Bodies' as he was a member of TVCA Cabinet.

RESOLVED that the Declarations of Interest be noted.

CAB Minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd January 2020

104/19

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd January 2020.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd January 2020 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

CAB Scrutiny Review of Care Homes for Older People

105/19

Consideration was given to the final report that presented the outcomes of the Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee review examining Care Homes for Older People.

RESOLVED that:-

1. Recognising the importance of the strong leadership and management and the positive impact of the Well Led Programme, further activity should focus on continuing to improve leadership and management of all care homes in Stockton on Tees and specifically that all care homes be supported to participate in the Well Led Programme and actively participate in the Care Home Leadership and Peer Support Network.
2. The importance of personalised care be promoted through all contacts the Council and partners have with Care Homes; in particular the development and deployment of a varied activities programme tailored to individual needs and co-ordinated by a designated member of staff.
3. The benefits of technology for supporting personalised care are championed and promoted to all care homes in Stockton on Tees; in particular, the deployment of electronic solutions for records and medicine management should be supported by the Council.
4. Contract monitoring and quality assurance systems ensure that appropriate staffing levels are maintained in care homes.
5. The Council works with all stakeholders to promote and improve the local standing of careers in adult social care.
6. All care homes be required to work towards Dementia Friendly accreditation as part of the new contract arrangements.
7. The Council works with the Care Quality Commission to facilitate effective dialogue between the two organisations in order to share updates of projects and initiatives being developed by the Council and partners and shape the future of the care home market.
8. Healthwatch be asked to report back the Adult, Social Care and Health Select Committee on the implementation of their recommendations to care homes following further enter and view visits to homes.
9. The summary of Care Quality Commission inspection results, reported each quarter to the Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee should include greater context including trend information of quality ratings and information about providers.

CAB 106/19 2020/21 Annual Increase in Older People's and Mental Health's Residential Care Home Fees

Cabinet approval was sought for the annual increase in fees for older people's and mental health residential care homes within the borough.

The independent market for care and support was of fundamental importance to the local health and social care system and the Care Act 2014 required the Council to help develop a market that delivered a wide range of sustainable high

quality care and support services that would be available to residents in the Borough of Stockton on Tees.

A duty was imposed to promote the efficient and effective operation of a market in services for meeting care and support needs and the matters of a local authority must have regard to in particular meeting that duty including “the importance of ensuring the sustainability of the market (in circumstances where it is operating effectively as well as in circumstances where is not).

The Act also provided that the local authority must act under the general guidance of the Secretary of State in the exercise of functions given to it. When buying and arranging these services the Council must consider carefully how they might affect an individual’s well-being. There was also an obvious reputational risk for the Council and its partners such as the CCG in failing to sustain an appropriate choice of provision at the required quality. The Care Act also required the Council to pay a “fair price” for care and at the least to pay at a level consistent with the guidance and insuring the sustainability of the market. The Council wished to ensure that providers were able to meet their statutory responsibilities including payment of the national living wage while at the same time commissioning services that were cost-effective and offer value for money.

In March 2017, the Council took a decision to increase the fees payable to the independent care home sector. This decision followed a significant engagement with the sector concerning the actual cost of delivering good quality care in Stockton on Tees. That decision which was based on significant evidence from providers, had provided the Council with a robust understanding of the Stockton-on-Tees market and the actual cost of care incurred in order to operate as an efficient care home provider in the Borough. It remained as an appropriate basis on which the Council had gone on to apply and uplift in subsequent years and therefore was again proposed for the financial year from the 1st of April 2020.

RESOLVED that:-

1. Cabinet set the rate paid to independent sector Care Homes For Older People for the financial year 2020-2021 as set out in Table A of the report.
2. Cabinet set the rate paid to independent sector for People With Mental Health Needs for the financial year 2020-2021 as set out in Table B of the report.

CAB 107/19 Procedure for Admission of Pupils to Primary and Secondary Schools in September 2021

Cabinet considered proposed admission arrangements for primary and secondary schools in September 2021.

In order to comply with legislation for admissions in 2021, the report included the full Co-ordinated Admission Arrangements, the Admission numbers for Primary and Secondary Schools for that year and the proposed Admission Policy for entry in September 2021.

RESOLVED that:-

- 1.The proposed Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme for Primary, Secondary, Voluntary Aided (VA) schools, Academies and Free School (points 5-7 and Appendix 1 to the report), be approved.
2. The proposed admission numbers for Primary and Secondary schools for September 2021 (detailed at point 8 and Appendix 2 in the report), be approved.
3. The proposed Admission Policy for September 2021 (point 11 and Appendix 3 to the report), be approved.

CAB 108/19 Local Authority Governor Nominations

In accordance with the procedure for the appointment of school / academy governors, approved as Minute CAB 27/13 of the Cabinet (13 June 2013), Cabinet was invited to consider the following nominations to school / academy Governing Bodies.

St. Patrick's RC Primary School – Fairfield - Councillor Carol Clark

RESOLVED that the above appointment be made to the vacant Governorships subject to successful List 99 check and Personal Disclosure.

CAB 109/19 2020/21 Annual Procurement Plan - Higher Value Contracts

Cabinet was invited to approve the award of a number of planned higher value contracts scheduled for 2020/21, where the value exceeded the limit on officer delegated authority and which were either funded within the approved MTFP or were subject to a bid for external funding.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The contracts listed in Annex 1 of the report, be approved;
2. Authority be delegated to the relevant Director or Assistant Director to make the specific contract award decisions and any subsequent contract variation and extension decisions in accordance with the delegations listed in Annex 1 of the report.
3. The contracts relating to capital schemes included in the Capital Programme 2020/21 as listed in Annex 2 of the report, be approved.
4. Authority be delegated to the Director of Economic Growth and Development Services and/ or the Director of Finance and Business Services and/ or the Director of Community Services to make specific contract award decisions and any subsequent contract variation and extension decisions to contracts relating to the Capital Programme 2020/2021.

**CAB
110/19** **Minutes of Various Bodies**

In accordance with the Council's Constitution or previous practice the minutes of the meeting of the bodies indicated below were submitted to members for consideration:-

Safer Stockton Partnership – 26th November 2019
Tees Valley Combined Authority Cabinet – 20 December 2019

RESOLVED that the minutes detailed in the appendices of the report be received.

**CAB
111/19** **Council Plan 2020-23**

Consideration was given to the draft Council Plan setting out the Council's vision for the Borough looking forward to 2023, including the key priorities for the Council in the coming year to bring the vision to life.

The Plan included aspirations that the Council would be:-

- A place where people are healthy, safe and protected from harm;
- A place that is clean, vibrant and attractive;
- A place with a thriving economy where everyone has opportunities to succeed.

RECOMMENDED that Cabinet endorse the draft Council Plan for approval by Full Council.

**CAB
112/19** **Yarm Parking Update**

Consideration was given to the details of proposed terms for the Council to lease land adjacent Yarm High Street for use as a new long-stay car park.

The land, which was located off West Street in Yarm, would be on such terms as the Director of Economic Growth and Development deemed appropriate for the introduction of a long stay car park.

The site, off West Street, is occupied by the Arncliffe Buildings, a section of which would make way for a 60-space long-stay pay and display car park.

The Council had implemented numerous parking schemes over the years to help continually balance the parking needs of the residents, businesses and visitors. More recently Yarm businesses had petitioned the Council to improve the parking situation in the town due to the perceived effect the lack of parking was having on the footfall within the town. The Council had therefore committed to prioritise bringing forward further long stay car parking in Yarm, continually investigating opportunities for the provision of such parking, and this proposal was the outcome of these investigations.

RESOLVED that the proposed entering into of a lease for Arncliffe Buildings, located off West Street in Yarm, on such terms as the Director of Economic Growth and Development deems appropriate for the introduction of a long stay car park, as detailed in the report, be approved.