

Cabinet

A meeting of Cabinet was held on Thursday, 25th February, 2021.

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, Margaret Waggott, John Devine, Sarah Waley (MD), Beccy Brown, Julie Butcher (HR&L), Garry Cummings ,(F,D&BS), Martin Gray (CHS), Reuben Kench (CL&E), Jamie McCann (CS), Ann Workman (AH).

Also in attendance: Cllrs Clark, Gamble, Stephenson; Gavin Barker (Mazars).

Apologies: N/A

CAB 62/20 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Cook declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in respect of the item entitled Minutes of Various Bodies as he was a Board member on the Tees Valley Combined Authority.

Councillors Cook, McCoy, Nelson and Smith each declared personal, non-prejudicial interests in respect of the item entitled Procedure for Admission of Pupils to Primary and Secondary Schools in September 2022, being appointed LA School Governing Body members.

CAB 63/20 **Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st January 2021-For Signature/Approval**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st January 2021 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

CAB 64/20 **Annual Audit Letter**

Cabinet was invited to consider the Council's Annual Audit Letter for 2019/20.

A formal stage in the annual audit process was the production of the Annual Audit Letter, which had now been received and had been presented to the Audit & Governance Committee on 25th January 2021.

Gavin Barker from Mazars, the Council's external auditor, was present at the meeting and summarised the auditor's findings from the 2019/2020 audit.

In line with previous practice, a copy of the Annual Audit Letter will be sent to all Members of the Council. Mazars LLP are also required to submit the Annual Audit Letter to Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited and it will appear on their website in due course.

Mazars LLP had issued an unqualified audit opinion on the Council's and Groups financial statements for 2019/2020 and commented that in their opinion they;

- give a true and fair view of the Council and Group's financial position as at 31 March 2020 and of the Council and Group expenditure and income for the year then ended; and

- have been prepared properly in accordance with the CIPFA / LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/2020.

Mazars were also required to consider whether the Council had made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of its resources and Cabinet noted that “In all significant respects the Council put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2020”.

CAB 65/20 **Brexit - Support for Businesses Beyond Transition**

As the UK was no longer a member of the European Union (EU) following the signing of the Withdrawal Agreement and the transition period ending on 1 January 2021, new rules for business with Europe were now in place and the Council remained committed to supporting businesses to understand which rules affect them and the potential impact over the medium to longer term.

Cabinet noted measures taken both pre and post EU transition to support businesses, as well as considering the initial impact of COVID-19 upon these arrangements and the future impact of EU Funding and Transnational programmes, Foreign Direct investment, Exports/Imports, Tariffs and other related matters.

Cabinet noted that the specific impacts of Brexit would be felt at different times not least because of the current COVID-19 pandemic. There would therefore be a continuing need for the Council to monitor these and provide advice, guidance or support where and when it was required. For example, in the last few weeks issues concerning touring artists and performers no longer being guaranteed visa-free travel and the possible need for additional work permits to play in some countries had been highlighted.

The Council would continue to work with the TVCA to establish sector strategies for key industries with a particular focus on maintaining and developing the supply chain, to encourage investment in those areas that would most benefit industries in which the UK had existing strengths; and to implement policies that support an attractive investment climate, in particular investing in adequate new transport infrastructure, investing in sufficient generating capacity to provide affordable power and renewable energy.

Regular updates would be provided to businesses and residents on the support that was available to them.

CAB 66/20 **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:-

Tees Valley Combined Authority - 27th November 2020

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

**CAB
67/20** **Private Hire & Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy Review**

Cabinet noted the content of the proposed Private Hire & Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy which was to be submitted to Council for approval.

The policy had been consulted upon with over 800 members of the taxi trade and other interested parties and the report contained any views received, along with those received from the Licensing Committee.

RECOMMENDED that:-

- 1. Cabinet note the content of the report.**
- 2. The proposed Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy be recommended to full Council for approval with an implementation date of 1st April 2021.**

**CAB
68/20** **Sex Establishment Licensing Policy Review**

Cabinet noted the content of the proposed Sex Establishment Licensing Policy which was to be submitted to Council for approval.

The views and comments received from the Licensing Committee and other interested parties following consultation on the policy were noted within the report.

RECOMMENDED that:-

- 1. Cabinet note the content of the report.**
- 2. The proposed Sex Establishment Licensing Policy be recommended to full Council for approval with an implementation date of 1st April 2021.**

**CAB
69/20** **Procedure for Admission of Pupils to Primary and Secondary Schools in September 2022**

Cabinet approval was sought for the Local Authority's proposed admission arrangements for primary and secondary schools from September 2022.

In order to comply with legislation for admissions in 2022, 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 2022.

RESOLVED that:-

1. Cabinet approve the proposed Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme for Primary, Secondary, Voluntary Aided (VA) schools, Academies and Free School (outlined in points 5-7 and Appendix 1 to the report).
2. Cabinet approve the proposed admission numbers for Primary and Secondary schools for September 2022 (outlined at point 8 and Appendix 2 to the report).
3. Cabinet approve the proposed Admission Policy for September 2022 (outlined at point 11 and Appendix 3 to the report).