

Cabinet

A meeting of Cabinet was held on Thursday, 15th July, 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, Nigel Hart, Ian Miles, Judith Trainer, Gary Woods (MD), Beccy Brown, Jonathan Nertney (HR&L), Tony Montague (F,D&BS), Martin Gray (CHS).

Also in attendance: Cllrs Clark, Cunningham, Stephenson and Surtees.

Apologies: Cllr Gamble.

CAB 12/21 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Cooke declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in respect of the item entitled 'Scrutiny Review of Hospital Discharge (Phase 2)' as a result of his employment with TEEWV referred to within the report. Councillor Beall similarly declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in respect of the same item as he was a nominated person representative on Hartlepool & North Tees Foundation Trust, similarly referred to within the report.

Councillors Cooke and Nelson each declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in respect of the item entitled 'Tackling Food Poverty' as a result of their membership of bodies referred to within the strategy as partner organisations.

Councillor Cook declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in respect of the item entitled 'School Term and Holiday Dates' as a result of him being a school governor.

Councillor Cook also declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in respect of the item entitled 'Appointment of Local Authority Governing Body Positions' as a result of him being a school governor.

Councillor Cook declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in respect of the item entitled 'Amendment to the LA's Oversubscription Policy' as a result of him being a school governor.

CAB 13/21 **Minutes of the Meeting held on 24th June 2021-For Approval/Signature**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 24th June 2021 were confirmed as a correct record.

CAB 14/21 **People Select Committee - Scrutiny Review of Carbon Monoxide Awareness**

Consideration was given to the final report that presented the outcome of the People Select Committee review of Carbon Monoxide Awareness.

RESOLVED that:-

1. Correspondence is sent to local MPs and the Secretary of State for Housing,

Communities and Local Government urging that legislation is extended to make it a requirement that carbon monoxide alarms are fitted in all properties, and public buildings, such as Community Halls, for gas appliances as well as solid fuel burning appliances. In addition to this, legislation should be extended to make the installation of carbon monoxide alarms in all forms of holiday home, including caravans, with gas and solid fuel burning appliances a legal requirement;

2. Working with Cleveland Fire Service, information on Carbon Monoxide poisoning be publicised through existing platforms, including Stockton News and through work with schools, to raise awareness as part of carbon monoxide awareness week, including the promotion of mobile 'mini-detectors';

3. All Housing Associations are encouraged to follow best practice and to consider using body worn 'mini-detectors' where appropriate when entering other people's homes/dwellings. In addition, the promotion of body worn 'mini-detectors' to Stockton-on Tees Borough Council employees who regularly enter other people's homes/dwellings, such as registered carers.

CAB 15/21 Children and Young People Select Committee - Scrutiny Review of Care Leavers EET

Consideration was given to the final report that presented the outcome of the Children & Young People Select Committee review of Care Leavers EET.

RESOLVED that the Council:-

Enabling Young People to be work ready:-

- 1.Improves transitions from pre to post 18 services and explore distinct approaches to provide coping mechanisms for our young people who are care leavers moving from education to employment or further training;
2. Redefines its approach and commitment to getting a young person in care or leaving care into education, employment or training by retraining and refocusing the workforce;

Creating Opportunities:-

3. Explores appropriate local and national incentives available for employee and employer when employment is gained;
4. Strengthens its commitment to seeking out and increasing access to interview opportunities to young people who are care leavers;
5. Ensures education, employment or training is at the forefront of Children's Services and partners' work with all children and young people, and in particular a strong focus on young people leaving care;

6. Has a corporate commitment to creating a sustainable model to increase access to work experience and apprenticeship opportunities within SBC for young people leaving care.

Brokerage Opportunities:-

7. Has a Borough-Wide commitment to creating a sustainable model to increase access to work experience and job opportunities with local employers and partner agencies for young people leaving care through the creation of a dedicated brokerage resource which will focus on pro-actively finding, placing and maintaining young people in education, employment and training.

CAB 16/21 Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee - Scrutiny Review of Hospital Discharge (Phase 2)

Consideration was given to the final report that presented the outcome of the Adult Social Care & Health Select Committee review of Hospital Discharge (Phase 2).

RESOLVED that:-

- 1) Where not already supplied (e.g. specialist teams), consideration be given to providing the name of a designated hospital staff member/s (i.e. those involved in the care of an individual whilst in hospital) for a former patient to contact rather than / in addition to a general ward number;
- 2) Existing arrangements around the identification of carers when they themselves are admitted to hospital for treatment, as well as options for post-discharge support until they can resume their caring role, be reviewed by all relevant partners to ensure a joined-up approach;
- 3) Local NHS Trusts develop relationships with Eastern Ravens in order to strengthen the identification, inclusion and support of young carers in the discharge process;
- 4) Local NHS Trusts make clear to patients and their families / carers whether (and by when) they will receive a follow-up after being discharged, and, for those not requiring immediate health and / or care input, provide appropriate information on who to contact if any significant issues are identified on return home and / or for future post-discharge support (i.e. GP, Community Hub, VCSE links, etc.);
- 5) Local NHS Trusts / Healthwatch Stockton-on-Tees provide the Committee with any available discharge-specific feedback from patients / families / carers in relation to those discharged back to their own homes;
- 6) Local NHS Trusts ensure that the identification of any transport requirements enabling subsequent discharge is a key part of all initial and subsequent patient assessments, and, where necessary, is supported when an individual can be

transferred out of hospital;

7) A future update on the NTHFT Home But Not Alone pilot (due to re-start in June 2021) and the Five Lamps Home from Hospital initiative be provided to the Committee, including feedback from those individuals the initiative has supported.

CAB 17/21 Medium Term Financial Plan - Outturn Report March 2021

Cabinet were updated on the draft financial performance and position of the Council as at 31 March 2021. This followed previous reports to Cabinet outlining that the 2020/21 financial position had been significantly affected by the Covid pandemic.

The report outlined significant additional costs and pressures in the financial year and detailed the funding received from Government to support the Council in managing the financial situation.

Despite the Council incurring significant costs, there was an overall improvement in the draft outturn 2020/21 financial position compared to that projected at December of around £5.5m. The report set out the breakdown but the key reasons for this were:

- Additional grant and income being received;
- Some projected pressures were actually lower than anticipated and additional savings were achieved;
- Additional funding was received to support Outbreak Management late in the year and this was utilised to support the costs of staff working on this area, where previously it was anticipated there would be a call on core budget.

The Capital Programme had also been updated to incorporate new schemes and reflect those schemes completed as at the financial year end.

There was a continued national pressure in respect of Dedicated Schools Grant, specifically in relation to Special Education Needs and Disabilities. For Stockton this would result in a cumulative pressure of £6.05m. National guidance was clear that this should be held separately and not funded from the General Fund, and the Council were currently working on a plan to resolve this position over the medium term and would continue to lobby for additional funding.

RESOLVED that Cabinet note the draft outturn position for the year ended 31 March 2021 and the updated Capital Programme.

CAB 18/21 A Fairer Stockton-on-Tees: A Strategic Framework for Reducing Inequalities in the Borough

Cabinet's views were sought on the proposed consultation draft of the Fairer Stockton-on-Tees strategy.

The strategic framework of the consultation draft outlined:

- a) The key causes of inequality, based on analysis of available research, with the key focus on how income, wealth and power;
- b) The basis of a strategic approach, recognising the need to take action across strategy, interventions, practice and for the Council as a major employer, commissioner, provider.

The strategic framework set out a vision and ambition for reducing inequality over the next ten years. To realise this ambition, the framework identified five key interventions as follows:-

- a) Tackling fundamental issues across the borough as a whole;
- b) A focus on reducing the inequalities faced by identified disadvantaged communities;
- c) A focus on deprived neighbourhoods;
- d) A focus on the most marginalized;
- e) An emphasis on the Council as a major employer, commissioner and purchaser.

The framework included a proposed governance and accountability structure, and an engagement plan. A final draft of the strategic framework would be reported to Cabinet in October.

Members welcomed the initial draft and highlighted the excellent partnership working this authority already had in place which would be vital in fulfilling the aim of the strategy which was to reduce inequalities across the Borough, closing the gap in outcomes.

RESOLVED that Cabinet:-

1. Endorse the consultation draft;
2. Agree to a programme of engagement
3. Agree to receive a final draft at its meeting in October 2021.

**CAB
19/21** **Tackling Food Poverty**

Cabinet was provided with an overview of the work being undertaken by the Council to tackle food poverty in the Borough. The report covered the work that was being undertaken directly as a Council and also the Council's support for the work being carried out by organisations across the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Sector and by other partners.

The Council was committed to tackling this problem and to supporting the many other organisations across the Borough who work daily to tackle food poverty through their own projects and initiatives.

**CAB
20/21** **Xentrall Report**

Cabinet noted the progress and performance of Xentrall Shared Services, the Stockton and Darlington partnership, contained within their 2020/21 Annual Report.

The report will demonstrated how Xentrall had delivered savings across the board whilst continuing to improve performance and customer satisfaction.

In a year like no other, Xentrall continued to be a critical element in the support of both Council's response to the global pandemic. As well as outlining these achievements, the report detailed how Xentrall continued to provide the normal operational and development services throughout, to both Councils and our external customers.

**CAB
21/21 Procurement Plan / Higher Value Contracts**

Cabinet approval was sought for the award of a number of planned higher value contracts scheduled for 2021/22, 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.

The Council's Constitution defined a range of decisions that required a specific Cabinet approval, the financial threshold for which was set at a level of £500k or more. Details of the known procurement projects over £500k that were underway and due for contract award were detailed at Annex 1 to the report.

RESOLVED that Cabinet:-

1. Approves the contract listed in Annex 1 to the report;
2. Authorises 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.

**CAB
22/21 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 Adults Safeguarding Board – 25th February 2021
Safer Stockton Partnership- 2nd February 2021
Safer Stockton Partnership – 19th May 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings detailed above be received.

**CAB
23/21 School Term and Holiday Dates 2022/2023 and 2023/2024**

Cabinet was invited to approve the proposed calendars of school term and holiday dates for 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 academic years, following a period of consultation with colleagues from all neighbouring authorities to endeavour to reach consensus on a proposed model for the academic year.

RESOLVED that the school term and holiday dates 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 shown at Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 to the report, be approved.

**CAB
24/21** **Amendment to the LA's Oversubscription Policy (as the Admission Authority) for Maintained Community and Voluntary Community Primary and Secondary Schools for Entry in 2021/22 and 2022/23**

Cabinet was invited to approve a proposed amendment to the already determined admission arrangements for the admission of pupils to maintained community & voluntary controlled primary & secondary schools in Stockton.

The amendment, if approved, would ensure an eligible pupil wishing to enter Reception (Primary) and Year 7 (Secondary) in 2021/22 and 2022/23 could do so lawfully as described in the 2021 School Admissions Code (the Code).

RESOLVED that the proposed amendment to the LA's Admission Policy for 2021/22 and 2022/23 as per Appendix 1 & 2 of the report, be approved.

**CAB
25/21** **Local Authority Governor Positions**

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, as amended at the meeting, to school / academy Governing Bodies:-

- Roseberry Primary School- Wendy McConnell
- Oxbridge Lane Primary School-Joanne Measor

RESOLVED that the proposed appointments are made to the vacant Governorships in line with agreed procedures subject to a Personal Disclosure and DBS clearance.