

Minutes of a meeting of the **CABINET** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Priory Road, Spalding, on Tuesday, 23 July 2019 at 10.00 am.

PRESENT

G A Porter (Leader)  
G J Taylor (Deputy Leader)

T A Carter

A Casson  
P E Coupland

C J Lawton

Cabinet Support Members: H Drury and R Grocock.

The Chief Executive, the Executive Director Commercialisation (S151), the Executive Director Place, the Executive Manager Governance (Deputy Monitoring Officer), the Place Manager, the Executive Manager Growth, the Strategic Finance and Compliance Manager, the Environmental Services Manager, the Corporate Innovation, Change and Performance Manager, the Strategic Housing Manager and the Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies for absence were received from or on behalf of Councillors C N Worth, R Gambba-Jones, A M Newton and A R Woolf, together with Welland Seniors Forum.

In Attendance: Councillor B Alcock (Chairman, Performance Monitoring Panel).

Community Representatives: South Holland Citizens Advice Bureau.

|  | <u>Action By</u> |
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| <p><b>12. MINUTES</b></p> <p>The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 18 June 2019 were signed by the Leader as a correct record.</p>  |                  |
| <p><b>13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.</b></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>   |                  |
| <p><b>14. QUESTIONS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC UNDER THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION (STANDING ORDERS).</b></p> <p>No questions were raised under the Council's Constitution (Standing Orders).</p> |                  |
| <p><b>15. TO CONSIDER ANY MATTERS WHICH HAVE BEEN SUBJECT TO CALL-IN.</b></p> <p>There were no matters subject to call-in.</p>   |                  |

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**16. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING PANELS**

There were no matters arising from the Policy Development and Performance Monitoring Panels.

**17. RECYCLING REVIEW**

Consideration was given to the report of the Portfolio Holder for Place and the Executive Director Place, which requested consideration of a review of the recycling materials collection in a trial area of South Holland.

Members were advised that the trial would now only be undertaken on one route, rather than two as detailed within the report, and as a result would only affect around 1800 residents.

The following points were raised by the Leader:

- SHDC would only undertake the trial if Lincolnshire County Council funded it;
- Any evaluation should include a comparison of costs (capital and ongoing) for collection of sacks as opposed to wheelie bins;
- A customer satisfaction survey should be undertaken of the street scene after collection, and that updates be provided on a quarterly basis;
- Communication of the recycling trial, and briefing of Portfolio Holders was required.

CP

**DECISION:**

- a) That agreement be given to commence a one year trial of a two stream collection of recycling in the areas listed.
- b) That agreement be given to issue section 46 notice of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to those in the trial area to define what can be placed in the waste receptacles.

*(Other options considered:*

- *To do nothing, to not be part of the trial, and to not test SHDC's methodology for collections prior to possible full County roll out.*

*Reasons for decision:*

- *To enable SHDC to work closely with its partners in the*

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*Lincolnshire Waste Partnership to consider and establish an evidenced way forward for the recycling material in Lincolnshire*

- *That by being part of the trial throughout its inception and delivery, and understanding the learnings of the trial, SHDC could help to shape it and ensure that the most appropriate methods are proposed going forward for the district's residents, based on the evidence gathered throughout the trial and through best practice*
- *That, as the trial was a partnership of the Waste Collection (districts) and Waste Disposal (county) Authorities, it would provide an opportunity to ensure that all were working together to establish the most practical, environmentally sustainable and economical way of delivering a two stream service that suited the needs of residents.)*

(The Environmental Services Manager left the meeting following consideration of the above item).

**18. LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2020/21 - CONSULTATION**

Consideration was given to the report of the Portfolio Holder for Finance which requested consideration of options for the local Council Tax Support scheme for 2020/21.

Some concern was raised regarding the tolerance rule for Universal Credit customer change in earnings, suggested at £15 per week. It was felt that this low level would mean that some individuals could find themselves moving in and out of the benefit system, as a result of changes in earnings, and that this could result in frequent changes to their eligibility for Council Tax Support and therefore amounts of Council Tax to be paid. Also, it was likely that administration of these changes would cost more than any increase in Council Tax gained by the Authority. Officers responded that once the results of the consultation were known, further information would be provided on tolerance and modelling. It was important to model in the fairest way, in as straightforward a way as possible for Council Tax payers, and of the least cost to the Authority.

**DECISION:**

That Cabinet approves consultation on the following options: -

- a) Uprating and harmonisation of the scheme as appropriate to the DWP welfare reforms in Housing Benefit and the prescribed scheme for pensioners for 2020/21 and future

SH,  
Christine  
Marshall

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years;

- b) Introduce a link to the award of Universal Credit, removing the need for customers to make a separate application for Council Tax Support; and
- c) Introduce a tolerance rule for Universal Credit customer change in earnings, suggested £15 per week with the final amount determined through consultation and analysis.

*(Other options considered:*

- *To approve some, but not all of the options detailed in section 3 of the report; or*
- *To do nothing, and retain the same scheme, unchanged for 2020/21 – the current scheme would continue into 2020/21 however, the benefits of the changes outlined in Section 3 of the report would not be achieved.*

*Reasons for decision:*

- *To continue to align the Council Tax Support (CTS) scheme and uprating for working age customers with Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) provisions for Housing Benefit and the CTS scheme for pensioners – this has been consistent each year since the introduction of local CTS schemes. By determining this for 2020/21 and future years, the need for this decision to be taken each year would be removed however, it would not prevent a different decision in future years if desired;*
- *The recommendation to link CTS with the award for Universal Credit (UC) would make it simpler and more timely for customers to access CTS, preventing delay and potential loss in support; and*
- *The recommendation to introduce a tolerance for earnings changes would reduce the number of notifications customers receive to amend their Council Tax payments, and provide stability for customer repayments, whilst at the same time reducing customer contact.)*

**19. Q4 2018-19 PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW REPORT**

Consideration was given to the report of the Portfolio Holder for Governance and Customer which provided an update on how the Council was performing, for the period 1 January 2019 to 31 March 2019.

The Leader commented that officers of the Authority should be congratulated on the good performance figures, in particular with regard to much improved performance in the areas of staff turnover and sickness levels.

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Housing re-let performance continued to improve however, it was noted that further improvement was still required.

**DECISION:**

That the content of the report be noted.

*(Other options considered:*

- *To do nothing.*

*Reasons for decision:*

- *To ensure that the Council's performance is properly scrutinised.)*

(The Corporate Innovation, Change and Performance Manager left the meeting following discussion of the above item).

**20. WELLAND HOMES BUSINESS PLAN UPDATE  
INCORPORATING BENTLEY COURT**

Consideration was given to the report of the Portfolio Holder for Housing and the Executive Director Commercialisation (S151), which presented to the Council, as sole shareholder for Welland Homes Ltd, an updated Welland Homes Business Plan and a proposal from the company to purchase five houses for the purposes of market rental investment at Bentley Court, Spalding, and to put in place the necessary arrangements to enable the company to move into contract on the proposed acquisition, subject to the necessary shareholder approvals.

Members noted that the report contained information within the appendices that were not for publication by virtue of Paragraph 3 (Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)).

Members agreed that only the principles of the report would be discussed and there was therefore no need for the meeting to go into private session.

**DECISION:**

- a) To approve the business case for the acquisition by Welland Homes Ltd of five houses at Bentley Court, Spalding, for the purposes of a market rental investment.
- b) That subject to the refreshed business plan and the budget being approved, that delegated authority be granted to the Executive Director - Commercialisation (the S151 Officer), to

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approve the terms of any loan agreements required and the value of any periodic cash flow payments to be made to the company, as required to support the company in the acquisition of the proposed investment properties.

**RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:**

- c) That the updated Welland Homes Business Plan be approved, and included as an amendment in the SHDC quarterly finance report to members for quarter 1 2019/20. The original Capital Program was, included as Appendix E to the Budget, Medium Term Plan and Capital Strategy Report to Council on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2019, as Item 11 on the agenda.
  
- d) To reaffirm the delegated authority, granted by Council on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2015, to the Executive Director – Commercialisation (the S151 Officer), to approve the final mix of use of reserves and borrowing in line with the business plan and Council Treasury Management Strategy.

*(Other options considered:*

- *To do nothing. Without the approval of the shareholder, Welland Homes would be unable to proceed with the proposed investment. This in turn would limit the delivery of housing from Welland Homes under the existing business plan and leave the company unable to deliver forecast returns.*

*Reasons for decision:*

- *The acquisition of five homes would support the delivery of the wider Welland Homes Business Plan, which would in turn support the delivery of savings targets set out in the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan.)*

**21. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE LEADER DECIDES ARE URGENT.**

There were no urgent items.

**22. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**DECISION:**

That, under section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of

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exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 3 of part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

**23. RESTRICTED MINUTE**

Consideration was given to the restricted minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 18 June 2019.

**DECISION:**

That the minutes be signed as a correct record.

(The meeting ended at 10:32 am.)

(End of minutes)

These minutes are published on 26 July 2019. In accordance with the Council's Constitution the DECISIONS detailed above will, unless otherwise stated, come into force and may then be implemented on 5 August 2019 (i.e. after the expiry of 5 working days from the date of publication of these minutes), unless during that period a notice which is signed by either a Ward Representative (in relation to a matter in their ward) or two members of the Performance Monitoring Panel or any three members, and complies with the requirements of the Council's Constitution is served on the Executive Manager Governance requesting that the decision be called-in and the Executive Manager Governance approves the request for call-in. Where a decision is called-in it will firstly be considered by the Performance Monitoring Panel on a date to be fixed.

Any FINAL DECISIONS and any URGENT DECISIONS take effect immediately.

Any RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL detailed above will be submitted for consideration to the meeting of the full Council on 31 July 2019.