

Minutes of a meeting of the **CABINET** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Priors Road, Spalding, on Tuesday, 14 January 2020 at 10.00 am.

PRESENT

C N Worth (Deputy Leader)

G J Taylor (Deputy Leader)

T A Carter
A Casson

P E Coupland
R Gambba-Jones

C J Lawton

Cabinet Support Members: Councillor H Drury, Councillor R Grocock and Councillor J D McLean.

The Chief Executive, the Executive Director Commercialisation (S151), the Executive Director Strategy and Governance (Monitoring Officer), the Executive Director Place, the Executive Manager for People and Innovation, the Place Manager, the Strategic Finance and Compliance Manager, the Housing Landlord Manager, the Head of Revenues and Benefits, the Recovery and Support Team Leader, the Deputy Head of Finance and the Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies for absence were received from or on behalf of Councillors G A Porter and A R Woolf, together with South Holland Citizens Advice Bureau.

In Attendance: Councillor B Alcock (Chairman, Performance Monitoring Panel), Councillor A M Newton (Independent Group Leader) and Parish Councils.

67. MINUTES

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 3 December 2019 were signed by the Deputy Leader (Council) as a correct record.

68. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no Declarations of Interest.

69. QUESTIONS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC UNDER THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION (STANDING ORDERS).

No questions were raised under the Council's Constitution (Standing Orders).

70. TO CONSIDER ANY MATTERS WHICH HAVE BEEN SUBJECT TO CALL-IN.

There were no matters subject to call in.

Action By

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71. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING PANELS

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

72. DEBT WRITE OFF

Members stated that they wished to discuss the report relating to the write off of uncollectable debt in detail, and it was therefore agreed that full consideration of the report be undertaken following exclusion of the press and public.

73. DRAFT BUDGET, MEDIUM TERM PLAN AND CAPITAL STRATEGY

Consideration was given to the report of the Portfolio Holder for Finance and the Executive Director Commercialisation (S151) which requested that the Cabinet consider the Draft General Fund and Housing Revenue Account 2020/21 revenue and capital estimates and the Draft Financial Medium Term Strategy, for consultation.

The following issues were addressed:

- Members asked whether legacy payments for new homes would be honoured, and it was confirmed that this was anticipated to be the case.
- The Authority would continue to promote the various types of relief available to businesses.
- A cross cutting review of fees and charges across all areas was currently underway, and members would have the opportunity to scrutinise these.
- The precept set by the Internal Drainage Boards formed a significant and increasing percentage of the total amount of Council Tax. Tax payers needed to be aware of the amounts levied by the IDBs and it was agreed that this needed to be considered further.

SH, SK,
CMarshall

DECISION:

- a) That the following documents be issued for consultation, in preparation for the budget setting in February 2020:
 - Revenue Estimates for the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account 2020/21, as set out in Appendices A, B and C of the report;

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- Reserves position 2020/21 to 2023/24 as set out in Appendix D of the report;
- Capital Programme 2020/21 to 2023/24 as set out in Appendix E of the report;
- Capital Strategy as set out in Appendix F of the report.

(Other options considered:

- *That amendments be made by Cabinet before release to Council*

Reasons for decision:

- *To comply with the budgetary and policy framework).*

74. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE LEADER DECIDES ARE URGENT.

There were no urgent items.

75. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

DECISION:

Under section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public were excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1, 2 & 3 of part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

76. DEBT WRITE OFF

Consideration was given to the report of the Portfolio Holder for Finance and the Executive Director Commercialisation (S151) which sought approval for the write off of uncollectable Sundry Debt.

Members discussed specific sundry debts for write off, as detailed within exempt Appendix A and the background to these was provided. Officers confirmed that since the Place Review, a more robust system was in place with regard to tenancy agreements, compliance with those agreements and for the checking of the condition of rented properties.

DECISION:

- a) That the amounts identified within the report be approved for write off; and
- b) That the amounts written off under delegated powers be noted.

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(Other options considered:

- *To do nothing;*

Reasons for decision:

- *All recovery methods available had been considered and where appropriate pursued before making the decision to write off. Officer time could be maximised on greatest returns, at the same time as ensuring robust procedures for debt management were in place across all revenue streams).*

(The meeting ended at 10.32 am)

(End of minutes)

These minutes are published on **Friday 17 January 2020**. In accordance with the Council's Constitution the DECISIONS detailed above will, unless otherwise stated, come into force and may then be implemented on **Monday 27 January 2020** (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 **Wednesday 22 January 2020**.