

Cabinet

13 July 2015

Present: N Redfearn (Elected Mayor) (in the Chair)
Councillors EN Darke, R Glendon, I Grayson, JLL Harrison,
CB Pickard, JJ Stirling and A Waggott-Fairley.

In Attendance: L Allan (Deputy Young Mayor)
M Almond (Voluntary and Community Sector)
A Caldwell (Age UK North Tyneside)
M Cushlow (North Tyneside Clinical Commissioning Group)
R Layton (North Tyneside JTUC)
D Rose (Business Sector)

CAB13/07/15 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor CA Burdis, Councillor LA Spillard and A Armstrong (Young Mayor)

CAB14/07/15 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Mr M Almond declared a personal interest in the item on the Strategy For Working With The Community and Voluntary Sector report (Minute CAB20/07/15) as Chief Executive Officer of a Registered Charity.

Ms A Caldwell declared a personal interest in the item on the Strategy For Working With The Community and Voluntary Sector report (Minute CAB20/07/15) as Chief Executive Officer of a Registered Charity.

CAB15/07/15 Minutes

Resolved that the Minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2015 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

CAB16/07/15 Report of the Young Mayor

In the absence of the Young Mayor, the Deputy Young Mayor reported on the following activities in which the Young Mayor and/or Young Cabinet Members had been involved:

- The Young Mayor's music festival, The Event had once again been a great success, with over 250 young people taking part. The Events Team and the Participation & Advocacy Team were thanked for their support. The winning band was Motion of Youth and they had performed at the Mouth of the Tyne Festival on Sunday 12 July 2015.
- Attendance at the Mouth of the Tyne Festival on Saturday 11 July 2015.
- Attendance at a recent Community and Voluntary Services event. It was hoped that involvement in similar events would happen in the future.
- Attendance at the Chair's Commendation Awards evening.
- The Young Mayor's Award had been presented to Alexandra Gradwell for the huge amount of volunteering work that she had undertaken.

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- Attendance at a presentation of the annual report from Phoenix Detached Youth Project.
- Meeting with the Helping Hands group to develop their work on the Anti Bullying project. Funding had been awarded from the Police and Crime Commissioner to fund the anti-bullying project and the Young Mayor would provide updates to future meetings as the project developed.
- Attendance at the North Tyneside Transport Forum meeting held at North Shields Customer Services Centre.
- Attendance at the Northumberland Park Board meeting. The Young Mayor was looking forward to being on the Park Users Group.

The Young Mayor commended Rebecca Moore, the Member of Youth Parliament who had been successfully elected to represent the whole of the North of England on the NHS Youth Forum. Rebecca had also given evidence at the Youth Select Committee on Mental Health.

The Deputy Young Mayor was thanked for his report. The Young Mayor, Deputy Young Mayor and Youth Councillors were commended for the work they were doing and their involvement in various forums/working groups/committees, giving a voice to the young people of North Tyneside. Specific reference was made to 'The Event', which again had proved very successful, with lots of positive feedback being received.

Rebecca Moore was also commended for her work as the North Tyneside Youth Parliament member.

CAB17/07/15 Report of the Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee – Kier North Tyneside Joint Venture – Future Priorities (All Wards)

Cabinet received a report detailing the recommendations of the Overview, Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee in relation to the work undertaken by its sub-group in relation to Kier North Tyneside. Councillor S Graham, Chair of the Committee and its Sub-Group, was in attendance to present the report.

The Kier North Tyneside Sub-Group had first met in February 2015 with the objective to provide an evidenced opinion on areas related to business planning improvement and performance priorities.

As part of the review the Sub-Group had received information from all interested parties. The Cabinet Member responsible for Housing and Transport and Kier Management had been invited to attend meetings to enable the Sub-Group to obtain their views and aspirations for the Partnership.

The Sub-Group had also decided that the most appropriate method to receive the views from other interested parties was to hold a Tenants focus group and receive views through electronic surveys from Council Staff, Kier Staff, Schools, Council Members and the Business Forum. All responses and views had then been collated to establish key themes and priorities for future consideration.

The Sub-Group had also received extensive background information in relation to performance and business plans through the life cycle of the Kier North Tyneside joint Venture partnership.

Subsequently the Sub-Group had identified the following 10 recommendations for submission to Cabinet. that:

1. investigation is progressed to see what if any alternative, sustainable and suitable proposals can be put in place with regards to the use of the Killingworth site to aid both the Council and JVCo.;
2. consideration is given to offering a wide range of minor works/services by extending the current offer to private sector clients;
3. consideration is given to the introduction of efficient payments processes that will avoid delay in receiving payments;
4. establishing a customer charter providing a named contact that customers can call will be beneficial as a clear communication process will be established to deal with customer concerns and requirements;
5. further efforts are made to reduce the time taken for completing the lettings process to a more acceptable level i.e. under 25 days. It is thought that better programme planning and developing a multi skilled workforce will help in achieving this goal;
6. the JVCo investigate a smarter working approach to enable and encourage housing staff to identify potential back to back lets. This may require investigation if some financial incentive will enable agreed works to be carried out once the new tenant has moved in or before the old one departed;
7. it should be investigated to ascertain the reasons why jobs cannot be completed first time and that procedures are put in place to reduce the amount of delays as much as possible;
8. there should be a greater focus to ensure better online services are available to customers to allow them to report faults and create better appointment management etc;
9. greater focus is needed from the Strategic Partnering Board on creating a clear Strategic Vision as to how it will deliver and grow the business; and
10. the most appropriate time to consider a rebranding exercise may be addressed when consideration is being made to how the JVCo will look, post 2019.

The full report which outlined the key findings, conclusions and recommendations of the review was attached at Appendix 1.

The Deputy Mayor thanked the Sub Group for their report.

Cabinet was asked to consider the recommendations and was required to provide a response to the Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee within two months.

Resolved that the report of the Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee be noted and a detailed response to the recommendations be provided at a future Cabinet meeting, no later than September 2015.

(Reason for decision – Cabinet has a statutory duty to respond to the Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee’s recommendations within two months of receiving them.)

CAB18/07/15 2015/16 Financial Management Report to 31 May 2015 (All Wards)

Cabinet considered a report detailing the budget monitoring position as at 31 May 2015, including forecast outturn positions for 2015/16 for the General Fund, the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), school finances and the Investment Plan, including a summary of projects to be delivered in 2015/16.

As at 31 May 2015, the forecast year-end position for the General Fund Revenue Account was a pressure of £3.575m.

The HRA was forecast to have year-end balances at 31 March 2016 of £3.126m, which was £0.456m higher than budget. The higher than forecast balances were mainly as a result of higher opening balances due to the impact of previous years' financial performance (£0.422m). The forecast in-year surplus was an estimated £0.034m.

The report included an update in respect of work in progress with regard to 2015/16 school funding.

The Investment Plan for 2015-19, adjusted for reprogramming and variations approved by Cabinet was £247.488m. A variation of £0.407m for 2015/16 was proposed in the report. The report also set out planned delivery for 2015/16.

Cabinet considered the following decision options: either to agree the recommendations as set out in section 1.2 of the report, or alternatively to disagree with the proposals.

Resolved that (1) the budget monitoring position, as at 31 May 2015, be noted; (2) the receipt of new revenue grants, set out in the report, be approved; (3) the level of spend on the Investment Plan as at 31 May 2015 be noted; and (4) the variation of £0.407m within the 2015/16 Investment Plan, as detailed in the report, be approved.

(Reason for Decision – It is important that Cabinet continues to monitor performance against the budget, especially given the current level of financial pressures faced by the public sector.)

CAB19/07/15 Education Review – Update (Previous Minute CAB122/01/15) (All Wards)

Cabinet considered a report which provided an update on progress of the Education Review and sought approval for the next set of proposed actions.

The report summarised the work that had been done since Cabinet had agreed a set of preferred options at its meeting on 12 January 2015. It covered the following areas of significant progress:

- An update on the delivery of major investment projects to improve the education estate in relation to Longbenton Community High School, Whitehouse Primary School, John Spence Community High School, Marden High School and Backworth Park Primary School
- Outcomes from the work done with the Governing Body and senior leaders at Longbenton Community High School
- The development and delivery of the Ready for School Project and associated service changes as part of the Creating a Brighter Future Programme
- The development and delivery of the Ready for Work and Life Project and associated service changes as part of the Creating a Brighter Future Programme
- A report back on the financial picture for academic year 2015/16 as it compared to the work done as part of the original “rich picture”.

It also covered the following areas of significant progress, where there was still work to do, as follows:

- An update on the work done with the Governing Bodies and Head Teachers of Whitley Bay and Monkseaton
- An update on the work done with the Head Teachers in the Seaton Burn area

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- An update on the work done in partnership to support Norham High School and recommendations on next steps
- An explanation of progress made on the specific areas for work agreed with Cabinet on 8 September 2014 (Minute CAB58/09/14 refers) in relation to reviewing the post-16 offer; planned admission numbers and catchment areas; transport and accessibility; and school improvement.

The Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Learning highlighted that the £20m of funding for John Spence Community High School and Marden High School had been secured as a direct result of decisions made by Cabinet following consultation on the education review.

Cabinet considered the following decision options: either to agree the recommendations as set out in section 1.2 of the report, noting the intention to work with the Schools Forum and Education Improvement Partnership as plans mature and proposals develop, or alternatively to disagree with the proposal and request Officers to carry out further work and submit alternative options.

Resolved that (1) the progress made in reviewing education in North Tyneside be noted; (2) the further actions outlined at paragraph 1.14 of the report be approved; and (3) further reports be submitted to Cabinet as required.

(Reason for decision – it will enable progress to continue in line with the plans agreed by Cabinet.)

CAB20/07/15 Strategy For Working With The Community and Voluntary Sector (All Wards)

Cabinet considered a report which requested approval of a Strategy and next steps for working with the Voluntary and Community Sector in North Tyneside.

The Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) in North Tyneside was dynamic and very diverse. It covered everything from Neighbourhood Watch groups, to faith groups, social enterprises and national/international charities and everything in between. It included 485 organisations and groups, with a further 70 operating within North Tyneside but with bases outside of the Borough. In 2013/14 the Voluntary and Community Sector had an income of over £77m.

Many of the organisations and groups were run by volunteers and it was estimated that almost 50,000 of the adult population in North Tyneside were involved in some form of formal volunteering (27% of the total population). The sector was also a major employer with at least 2,315 people working for a VCS organisation in 2013/14.

The proposed Strategy had been developed with the purpose of building additional capacity; improving liaison, involvement and engagement with the VCS; and decision making.

The strategy was called the Better Together Strategy and identified ways of combining resources, with a particular focus on identifying the best ways of maximising the benefits for residents as part of the Our North Tyneside Plan and Creating a Brighter Future Programme. This work would focus on the following principles:

Accessibility;
Best use of resources;
Community cohesion;
Equality;

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Independence;
Openness, honesty and respect;
Partnership;
Social Value; and
Volunteering.

Details of each principle were given in the report.

During discussion it was suggested that maybe the ethos of the Strategy could be supported by the North Tyneside Health and Well-Being Board. The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care undertook to ensure this was considered.

In response to a request the Deputy Mayor undertook to ensure that the Unions would be involved in the formulation of the proposed Social Values Policy.

Cabinet considered the following decision options:

Option 1 – approve the recommendations set out in section 1.2 of the report.
Option 2 – request that further work be undertaken on the Strategy to take place.
Option 3 – decide to not have a strategy for the way the Authority and Community and Voluntary Sector will work together and therefore not approve the recommendations detailed in the report.

Resolved that (1) the Better Together Strategy, as set out at Appendix 1 of the report, be approved; and
(2) delegated authority be granted to the Head of Corporate Strategy, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Community Engagement, to monitor the Strategy.

(Reason for decision – This will bring a greater level of coordination and transparency to how the Community and Voluntary Sector and the Authority work together.)

CAB21/07/15 North Tyneside Local Plan – Update (Previous Minute CAB119/01/15) (All Wards)

Cabinet considered a report providing an update on progress in preparing the Local Plan and requesting approval to the next steps in its production.

Having an up to date and robust Local Plan in place would give the Authority:

- Greater control over local decisions on future development;
- The ability to be proactive in accommodating growth and plan for the delivery of the supporting infrastructure (such as public transport and education); and
- A robust framework through which the objectives of the Council Plan could be delivered.

In October 2014, Cabinet had agreed a revised timetable for the delivery of the Local Plan (the Local Development Scheme) (Minute CAB76/10/14 refers) and to date that programme had been adhered to, most recently with the publication of the Local Plan Consultation Draft in February 2015.

There was now however, a need to revisit the Local Plan timetable prior to publishing the next formal version of the Plan - the 'Pre-Submission' Draft for the following reasons:

- Analysis of the consultation responses showed that two areas of significant concern had arisen from residents in relation to the Strategic Proposals at Murton Gap and Killingworth Moor;
- The Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport had requested the production of more detailed visual concept plans for these two sites to give residents a clearer

understanding of the proposals. This would provide residents and other consultees with a further opportunity to provide more detailed views on the proposals;

- Further discussions with ATLAS (the Advisory Team for Large Applications) had similarly indicated that the production of more detailed 'Concept Plans' (with the required supporting evidence) for these two strategic proposals would deliver a more robust Plan that would withstand scrutiny at the Public Examination;
- The establishment of the proposed Local Plan Steering Group would be able to consider and challenge the policies and proposals prior to their formal consideration by Members.

Consultation on this latest draft of the Local Plan had been held between 9 February and 27 March 2015. The report detailed the range of activities that had been undertaken to gain the views of Members, residents, businesses, developers and other stakeholders. 515 individuals or organisations had submitted written responses amounting to over 2,400 separate comments to the draft policies and proposals. Four petitions had also been submitted to proposals at Murton Gap (totalling some 420 signatories) and to the four proposals at Benton (totalling some 993 signatories). A summary of the general comments was attached at Appendix 1 of the report.

The Pre-Submission draft of the Plan was a critical part in the formulation of the North Tyneside Local Plan. Unless there were significant changes made to the Pre-Submission draft (that arose from the next formal public engagement stage), it would effectively be that version of the Plan that would be tested by an independent Planning Inspector at the Examination in Public stage.

It was therefore essential that proposals within the Pre-Submission draft were founded on robust and up to date evidence to ensure they withstood challenges, either by objectors to the Plan and/or under scrutiny of the Planning Inspector.

To date, there was already a comprehensive body of evidence developed to support the Plan. Officers had now had the opportunity to challenge the robustness of this evidence, through having:

- Regard to the comments submitted by residents and other interested parties to the Draft Plan 2015; and
- A greater understanding of how Planning Inspectors were increasingly becoming more forensic in their consideration of allocations for major strategic development proposals at other Examinations across the country.

Due to this, the Authority had initiated the preparation of additional work to strengthen the Authority's evidence base. This work, detailed at Appendix 2 of the report, included:

- Refining existing technical pieces of work to take stock of recently released information and working jointly with specialist agencies
- In accordance with proposals within the Draft Plan 2015, the preparation of 'Concept Frameworks' for the strategic development sites at Murton Gap and Killingworth Moor. These Frameworks would be included within the Pre-Submission Draft and would address the policy requirements, site constraints and potential impacts of the proposals. They will provide residents and other consultees with a visual appreciation of the nature of the developments proposed, the opportunities these could bring and the solutions to a number of concerns they had previously expressed and allow those parties to provide more detailed commentary to the proposals. Consultation on the Draft Plan 2015 had highlighted the importance and value for residents of undertaking further work in relation to these suggested Strategic Allocations.

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As part of the preparation of the Pre-Submission draft, it was considered appropriate to create a clear and accountable governance structure to take the Local Plan forward. This would provide the time within the timetable for opportunity to challenge the Plan and the evidence behind it (which included consultation responses received to date) and to ensure that any issues that emerged could be quickly identified, shared and addressed.

Cabinet was therefore asked to approve the establishment of a “Local Plan Steering Group” which would receive regular updates on progress of the Local Plan; consider and advise on key issues as they emerged; and oversee delivery of the Local Plan from preparation of its Pre-Submission draft through to its formal ‘submission’ to the Secretary of State.

Membership of this group would consist of the Deputy Mayor, the Cabinet Member for Housing and Transport and the Head of Environment, Housing and Leisure.

At its meeting in October 2014, Cabinet had agreed to a revision to the Local Development Scheme (LDS). It was now considered necessary to amend this timetable to:

- Allow the Local Plan Steering Group to work with officers in the preparation of the Pre-Submission draft and the new and emerging evidence that supported it.
- Ensure the evidence base remained robust to support the wider plan as well as the strategic proposals for Murton Gap and Killingworth Moor.
- Allow for the preparation of the Concept Plans for Murton Gap and Killingworth Moor

It was proposed to amend the timescales so that the next draft of the Local Plan would be presented to full Council in October 2015 rather than July 2015. The report detailed the proposed changes, meaning that final adoption could be delayed 7 months. This delay was however considered acceptable in order to strengthen the submitted Plan, when compared to the delays associated with an Inspector possibly suspending the Examination or declaring the Plan unsound and recommending its withdrawal.

The report also set out a programme for adoption of a range of other planning documents, which were no longer essential to the content of the LDS.

During discussion assurance was given that in drawing up the Local Plan consideration would be given to the needs of elderly residents and those living with dementia.

Cabinet considered the following decision options:

Option 1 – approve the recommendations as set out at paragraph 1.2 of the report and the selection of Proposed LDS 2015 from the tables at paragraph 1.5.4 of the report for preparation of the Local Plan and other planning documents.

Option 2 – approve the recommendations set out at paragraph 1.2 but request officers consider an alternative LDS timetable for preparation of the Local Plan and other planning documents.

Option 3 – not approve the recommendations in paragraph 1.2 of this Report.

Resolved that (1) the responses to the Local Plan Consultation Draft 2015, be noted; (2) the progress made in developing the further evidence to inform the preparation of the Local Plan, including the suggested Strategic Allocations, be noted; (3) a Local Plan Steering Group be established, as outlined in paragraph 1.5.3 of the report; and (4) the proposed revised programme for preparing the North Tyneside Local Plan towards a formal Pre-Submission draft consultation, Submission to the Secretary of State and then Examination in Public be approved.

CAB22/07/15 Exclusion Resolution

Resolved that under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and having applied a public interest test as defined in Part 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

CAB23/07/15 Restructuring of the Senior Leadership Team (All Wards)

Cabinet considered a report which detailed proposals to restructure the Authority's Senior Leadership Team. The proposals had been subject to a 30 day consultation period which had ended on 10 July 2015.

A supplemental report was circulated which detailed the responses received to the proposals, the Chief Executive's and Deputy Chief Executive's comments on the responses received and confirmation of the final proposals for consideration.

Cabinet considered the following decision options: either to agree the recommendations as set out in section 1.2 of the report, or alternatively to refer the proposals back to Officers for further consideration of the options available to the Authority.

Resolved that (1) the proposals, the responses received from the affected employees/trade union representatives/ others and the comments of the Chief Executive in relation to the restructuring of the Senior Leadership Team, be noted;
(2) the proposed revised structure of the Senior Leadership Team, as set out in Appendix 1 to the main report, be approved;
(3) the appointment to the roles of Head of Environment, Housing and Leisure; Head of Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding; and Head of Finance be referred to the Appointments and Disciplinary Committee to implement on behalf of the Authority; and
(4) the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Elected Mayor and Deputy Mayor, Head of Law and Governance and Head of Human Resources, be authorised to take all appropriate further steps to implement the restructure of the Senior Leadership Team in accordance with Resolutions(2) and (3) above.

(Reason for decision – It will ensure that the Senior Leadership Team structure continues to be fit for purpose going forward and is aligned to the Authority's Creating a Brighter Future Change Programme.)

CAB24/07//15 Date and Time of Next Meeting

6.00pm on Monday 10 August 2015.

Minutes published on Thursday 16 July 2015.

The decisions contained within these Minutes may be implemented (unless called in by 3 Non-Executive Members for consideration by the Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee) immediately following the expiry of the call-in period; i.e. 5.00pm on 23 July 2015.