

Report of Cabinet

1. Any Cabinet recommendations on the reports that required a decision by full Council appear as separate items on the agenda.

GENERAL REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 JANUARY 2020

Existing Leisure Centre Investment Plan and Contract Negotiations

2. Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Neighbourhoods and Development that proposed an investment plan for the Council's existing Leisure Centres based on condition surveys carried out in 2016, available as background papers to the report.
3. The investment plan proposed improvements to the Leisure Centres linked to a hierarchy of need which will ensure that the Leisure Centres are fit for purpose for another five to ten years, whilst also enhancing the offer for customers. In addition, the report highlighted other key areas facing Leisure Services in South Ribble including the exploration of a potential extension to the Leisure Contract with the current Leisure Operator.
4. Assurances were given that the other party of the dual use agreement for Penwortham had confirmed their commitment to pay for those elements of the contract they were responsible for and that the current operator was content to continue managing the centres in the current situation.
5. Cabinet are recommending to full Council through the annual budget setting process that a sum of £2.1m is put in place for investment into the existing Leisure Centres to be spent over 2020/21 and 2021/22 and subject to the proposed investment into the existing Leisure Centres being approved by full Council, granted delegated authority to the Cabinet Member (Health, Wellbeing and Leisure) in consultation with the Director (Neighbourhoods and Development) to spend up to £2.1m investment where appropriate into the existing Leisure Centres ensuring that all procurement, financial and legal processes are followed in carrying out the work.

Development of an Extra Care Scheme within South Ribble

6. Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Neighbourhoods and Development that provided an update on plans to develop an extra care scheme within South Ribble and sought approval to progress, with the establishment of an officer working group to identify a suitable site, review procurement options and identify funding sources for the scheme.
7. With South Ribble being one of a number of authorities which have yet to develop an Extra Care scheme in Lancashire, there is now pressing demand. Lancashire County Council's Housing with Care and Support Strategy 2018-2025 indicates that South Ribble has a current need to provide for at least 204 Extra Care apartments in the borough by 2025 and officers have been working with the County to progress this issue.

8. Management costs of such a scheme will need to be contained within the Business Plan but Cabinet are confident that the development of the scheme would be cost neutral to the Council and could provide a sustainable income in the years to come. The criteria for applicants would be based upon residency in South Ribble or having had a local connection to the area.
9. Cabinet approved the decision to develop, own and manage an Extra Care Scheme within South Ribble in line with the need for Extra Care Housing as outlined within the LCC Housing Care and Support Strategy 2018-2025, and granted delegated authority to the Director (Planning and Property) to identify sites within the Council's ownership of which the Council can acquire in order to build an extra care scheme within South Ribble.
10. The Director (Planning and Property) has also been asked to establish an officer working group with agreed terms of reference to drive forward identification of a site, review procurement options and identify sources of funding to build and manage the scheme with details of the preferred site, procurement route and funding options being reported back to Cabinet in June 2020.

Strategic Review of Community Involvement, including My Neighbourhoods Final Report

11. The Cabinet Member (Community Engagement, Social Justice and Wealth Building), Councillor Aniela Bylinski Gelder, presented the final report from the cross-party Member Working Groups, Strategic Review of Community Involvement, including My Neighbourhoods.
12. The Review proposes several recommendations centred around six key areas of community engagement:
 - Ensuring a Community Involvement Culture.
 - My Neighbourhoods
 - Involving Young People
 - Extending Democracy
 - Strengthening the voluntary, community and faith sector.
 - Parish and Town Councils.
13. Some Members in the audience commented that they felt uncomfortable with the recommendations for the Council to become an affiliate member of the Co-operative Councils' Innovative Network and accredited Co-operative Council, feeling that the organisation was too Labour centric. The Cabinet Member expressed her disappointment at such comments, as the cross-party working group had signed off all the recommendations of the group at its final meeting, and made the point that the network's values were in keeping with the Council's own.
14. The Cabinet Member would shortly be writing to the Chairs of the five Neighbourhood Forums for their views on how their individual meetings should be reviewed, in order to meet the evaluation criteria in 12 months' time. It was fully anticipated that each Forum would be delivered differently to meet the

requirements of local circumstances. Permanent changes to the Forums would need a change to the Constitution along with the streamlining of the governance arrangements for spend.

15. Cabinet are particularly pleased with the outcome of the review, and we accepted all the recommendations.

IDOX Enterprise and Capability Review Project

16. Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Customer and Digital that informed on the need to upgrade and expand software technologies were appropriate following an assessment of existing and new technology requirements.
17. The report also sought approval for the IDOX Enterprise and Capability Review project that would provide several operational improvements, as well as providing an improved experience for residents and businesses who interact with the Council digitally. The initial investment required is anticipated to be partly offset over time with the reduction in required back office administration and a channel shift towards online methods of interaction.
18. Cabinet agreed to a Member Briefing being delivered to help Members better understand the proposals and it was also felt that this could be extended to other key areas of the Digital to Improve Programme.
19. The Cabinet approved commencement of the IDOX Enterprise and Capability Review Project under the Digital to Improve Programme, and approval of the scope of the project, along with approval of the £146k capital, an increase of £3k to the annual maintenance and support contract within the ICT revenue budget and 20k from the 2019/20 revenue underspends to fund migration costs.
20. Cabinet also granted delegated authority to the Director (Customer and Digital) in consultation with the Portfolio Holder to allow a direct award to the provider.

Vehicle Procurement Programme 2020 / 21

21. Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Neighbourhoods and Development that sought approval to spend the proposed capital budget of up to £1,247,000 on the vehicle and plant replacement programme. The report also sought agreement for the procurement evaluation.
22. The Council's approved vehicle and plant replacement programme for 2020/21 included for the replacement of 20 vehicles and items of plant. The Council has expressed its commitment to develop the greenest possible fleet thus reducing the amount of pollutants produced and will give priority to the purchase of full electric or hybrid vehicles.

23. Considering this commitment, Members queried the 5% criteria weighting placed against Environmental Impact. Cabinet agree that this was low and had already requested a review of the weightings for future tenders. Part of the reason for this was that much of the green technology for vehicles is currently cost prohibitive but this will change. All the vehicles and plant would next be up for procurement in five to seven years.
24. Cabinet approved the capital spend budget of up to £1,247,000 on the vehicle and plant replacement programme and the evaluation criteria.

Worden Hall Project Update

25. Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Planning and Property that updated Cabinet in recommendations arising from the officer working group to develop an enhanced Option 1 proposal for Worden Hall. The business plan has been reviewed to ensure that the proposals are costed and can be delivered without the need for ongoing revenue subsidy from the Council.
26. The Cabinet Member outlined the proposals that included, an extended café space to be relocated from the stables to the ground floor of the Derby Wing, the stables and hayloft to be re-purposed as a bar and green room, with a hoist to provide access to the first floor, along with a foyer to support the event space, and utilisation of the Marsden Room for weddings and events.
27. Project management skills would be strengthened through ensuring that the right professional skills are commissioned were appropriate.
28. Members were reminded that the aim of project and spend is to prevent the Grade II listed building from falling into further disrepair and ensuring that the asset is fit for purpose for use by the local community, a view that many residents shared in the recent consultation exercise on the future of the Hall.
29. Cabinet noted the proposals for the enhanced Option 1 proposals as outlined in Appendix 2, approved the drawing up of detailed capital costings for the proposed work and looks forward to receiving an updated report detailing the capital costs of works and updated business plan at its meeting in February.

Climate Change Emergency Task Group Update

30. Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Neighbourhoods and Development that updated on the progress of the Climate Emergency Task Group, the reasons why the working group was formed, the scope of the review and indicative first priorities for the group.
31. The Climate Emergency Working Group is planning activities in four key areas:
 - To cut the Council's direct carbon emissions to net zero carbon by 2030;
 - To use the Council's direct areas of wider influence;
 - To become a climate change leader for the borough; and
 - To investigate, promote and as required implement measures to help mitigate against the impacts of climate change.

32. The Cabinet thanked Councillor Thulbourn, Vice Chair of the Group, who had been instrumental in the work of the group to date and extremely helpful in supporting the Chair, Councillor Ken Jones. Thanks, was also extended to Councillors Ken and Susan Jones for their tireless efforts in establishing a group that would help to make a real difference for its residents around air quality and climate change.
33. An update on the tree planting programme that the Cabinet has committed to delivering over the next four years, was also provided, reporting that 32,000 trees of the 110,000 target, had already been planted. The Council was also looking to launch a campaign about the risks and pollution of wood burners and coal fires across the Borough.

Town Centre Masterplans

34. Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Planning and Property that updated on the various town centres and masterplan work. The report also sought approval to consult on the draft Leyland Town Centre masterplan. The intention is to have a robust consultation exercise on the draft Leyland Town centre Masterplan which will last for around eight weeks. Details of the responses received will then be reported back to Cabinet prior to any decision being made.
35. The Cabinet Member also updated on the work done to date on the Penwortham masterplan and gave notice of a masterplan that was scheduled for Tardy Gate at Lostock Hall. The Cabinet Member was due to meet with Penwortham Councillors once the masterplan was drafted.
36. Cabinet noted the update report and approved for consultation purposes the draft Leyland Town Centre Masterplan.

Urgent Decision regarding Land at Leyland

37. Cabinet considered and noted a confidential report of the Director of Planning and Property that provided an update on an urgent decision that had been taken in relation to the Test Track site in Leyland.

Recommendation

38. To note the report.

COUNCILLOR PAUL FOSTER
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

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