

MINUTES OF CABINET

MEETING DATE Wednesday, 16 December 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors Paul Foster (Chair), Michael Titherington (Vice-Chair), Aniela Bylinski Gelder, Bill Evans, Susan Jones and Matthew Tomlinson

OFFICERS: Gary Hall (Chief Executive), Jonathan Noad (Director of Planning and Property), Andrew Daniels (Shared Service Lead - Communications and Visitor Economy), Dave Whelan (Shared Services Lead - Legal & Deputy Monitoring Officer), Darren Cranshaw (Shared Services Lead - Democratic, Scrutiny & Electoral Services) and Clare Gornall (Democratic and Member Services Officer)

OTHER MEMBERS AND OFFICERS: Councillors Adams, Alty, Bell, Bretherton, Chisholm, Clark, Coulton, Mary Green, Michael Green, Hancock, Hesketh, Martin, Melia, Lomax, Ogilvie, Mrs Smith, Sharples, Trafford, Walton, and Yates

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165 Apologies for Absence

There were none.

166 Minutes of the Last Meeting

Decision made (unanimously):-

That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2020 be agreed as a correct record.

167 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

168 Cabinet Forward Plan

The Leader of the Council presented the Cabinet Forward Plan for the period 1 December 2020 - 30 November 2021 for information.

A slight error in the Plan was noted in that the decision dates had been omitted from the items 'Fees and Charges 2021-2022' and 'Council Housing Delivery Programme'. The decision date for both should be 20 January 2021.

Decision made (unanimously):-

That, subject to the amendments above, the Cabinet Forward Plan for the period 1 December 2020 - 30 November 2020 be noted.

169 Urgent Decisions Taken Due to COVID-19 Pandemic

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Foster, presented a report of the Shared Services Lead – Democratic, Scrutiny and Electoral Services detailing urgent decisions taken in accordance with the Council’s Constitution due to the COVID19 pandemic.

Decision made (unanimously):

That the report be noted.

170 Refresh of Communications Strategy

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Foster, presented a report of the Deputy Chief Executive regarding a refresh of the Communications Strategy.

Councillor Mrs Smith referred to page 38, paragraph 3 of the report and proposed that the wording be amended slightly to “...and the new shared service **between Chorley and South Ribble**”. The Cabinet accepted this amendment.

Decision made (unanimously):-

1. That, subject to a minor amendment on page 38, paragraph 3 of the report that the wording be revised to “...and the new shared service **between Chorley and South Ribble**”, the new Communications Strategy be approved;
2. That an update be brought back to Cabinet in six months regarding the Communications Strategy Action Plan; and
3. That the updated media protocol be approved.

Reasons for decision

A refresh of the Communications Strategy was one of the actions outlined in the annual governance statement. At the same time the Council has also taken the opportunity to update the media protocol to provide more clarity for officers.

Alternative options considered and rejected

The detail of the Strategy was formed as part of a review of the Communications Team over the summer. There were various approaches to how we would develop our communications included in the Strategy.

The option to continue with the existing Strategy was rejected as it was out-of-date and a refresh of the Strategy was a requirement of the annual governance statement action plan.

171 Next Steps Accommodation Programme

The Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Leisure, Councillor Mick Titherington, presented a report of the Director of Planning and Property which gave details of a bid submitted to the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) alongside Homes England, and in relation to the funding to continue the provision of accommodation for rough sleepers or those at risk of rough sleeping.

Decision made (unanimously):-

1. That the expenditure of £70,000 capital from section 106 money, specifically from the monies allocated for Housing, be approved;
2. That the partnership working with Progress Housing Association to deliver this proposal, be approved.

Reasons for decision

This decision will enable the Council to release £70,000 match funding to support the Next Steps Accommodation bid.

The Council will now be able to work in partnership with Progress Housing Group to deliver 2 specific units of accommodation to house individuals who are at risk of rough sleeping, and to provide the support required to sustain that accommodation.

Alternative options considered and rejected

It was initially considered that the Council should acquire the properties however this needed investment partner status which timescales did not permit.

The proposals were in line with the range of options that could be considered within the bid and that were achievable within the timescale.

172 Infrastructure Funding Statement

The Cabinet Member for Planning, Regeneration and City Deal presented a report of the Director of Planning and Property requesting approval of the infrastructure funding statement and its publication onto the Council website. The report indicated that this was to replace the current regulation 123 list that has been in place since the adoption of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) in July 2013.

Decision made (unanimously):-

1. That Cabinet approves the Infrastructure Funding Statement for display on the Council website for the next year.
2. That Cabinet requests the Director of Planning and Property to prepare a policy for spending Developer Contributions.

Reasons for decision

The infrastructure funding statement was a requirement of the CIL Regulations 2010 (as amended) Regulation 121A. It is a requirement to publish an infrastructure funding statement annually by 31st December.

Alternative options considered and rejected

None, for the reasons given above.

173 Pearson House, Station Road, Bamber Bridge - Renaming

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Foster presented a report of the Director of Planning and Property to consider the renaming of Pearson House, Bamber Bridge.

A query was raised by Councillor Clark in relation to the Council's policy as regards the naming of streets e.g. in new housing developments. It was agreed that the Chief Executive would clarify the current position to Councillor Clark following the meeting.

Decision made (unanimously):-

That, subject to clearance from the street naming and numbering process, Pearson House be renamed Tom Hanson House.

Reasons for decision

The redevelopment of Pearson House is currently ongoing and due to complete in 2021 with handover to Community Gateway on a lease arrangement. Local ward members have requested a change in the name of the property to honour former Borough Councillor Tom Hanson.

Alternative options considered and rejected

None, for the reasons given above.

174 Worden Hall Project

The Cabinet Member (Finance, Property and Assets), presented a report of the Director of Planning and Property providing members with a further update on the Worden Hall Project. The report also requested approval for the next stage of the project which proposes to authorise the Cabinet Member (Finance, Property and Assets) in consultation with the Chief Executive to commence a procurement exercise to identify a contractor and professional services to implement the Worden Hall Project.

A member of the public submitted two questions to Councillor Tomlinson in relation to the report, which were as follows:

1. Paragraph 6 of the Worden Project states that you and the CEO will decide which contractor will be authorized to undertake the Worden Hall Project works (Subject to Cabinet approval).
The contract will be awarded to the highest scoring contractor in the terms of social value, quality of submission, timeframe for implementation and price.

I can understand how you can quantify awarding a contract using points 2,3 & 4 but point 1, social values are a personal, family, group, geographical and more divisive a political decision.

So Councillor do you agree with me that the Social Value criteria should be removed from the bidding process, if not why?

2. If you proceed with the proposed bidding process what will the percentage weightings be allocated to each of the four proposals.

The response by Councillor Tomlinson was as follows:

In response to the first question, there seems to have been a misunderstanding of the concept of "social value" because none of the criteria ascribed to the term in the question are accurate. Social Value has previously been explained at Scrutiny and Cabinet meetings by Councillor Bylinski Gelder, in which she clarified that the Social Value Act 2012 placed an obligation on local councils to look holistically at procurement. South Ribble Borough Council is already behind in this regard, and indeed other councils are winning awards for the way social value informs their procurement. The project provides an excellent opportunity, especially in the current climate to upskill, employ and improve financial outcomes for some of the residents in South Ribble. According to Councillor Bylinski Gelder, it is common sense to apply social value in a project like Worden Hall and therefore my answer to the question posed is - no.

In response to the second question, we are not yet at a stage to provide those figures, however to use previous examples, in the case of Tom Hanson House social value was 6% and for Hurst Grange Coach House it was 20%. I would expect the weighting to be in the lower range of those quotes. The weightings will be fully disclosed in the future report to Cabinet.

Decision made (unanimously):-

1. That Cabinet welcomes the progress of the Worden Hall project and notes the formal submission of the project to Planning this week;
2. That Cabinet authorises the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Property and Assets in consultation with the Chief Executive to commence a procurement exercise to identify a contractor and professional services to implement the Worden Hall project;
3. That subject to the receipt of Planning permission and Listed Building consent, Cabinet authorises the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Property and Assets in consultation with the Chief Executive to appoint the highest scoring contractor and professional services in terms of social value, quality of submission, timeframe for implementation and price be appointed to undertake the works;
4. That a further report be brought back to Cabinet outlining proposals as to how the refurbished Worden Hall will be run in the future to the benefit of all including local communities and visitors alike.

Reasons for decision

The rationale behind the decision was to identify the most effective way forward both in terms of best value and deliverability in taking the Worden Hall project through to completion. This was about have the right level of professional services in place to support the Council in tendering for and managing the construction phase of the project.

This is an exciting project which will transform the look of Worden Hall as shown in Appendix 1 to the report. The proposals outlined will allow the ambitions of the Worden Hall project to be realised which is for the hall to be re-born as the vibrant heart of Worden Park enabling a hive of community activity, drawing local residents and visitors from across the region to the Park and hosting a myriad of local events.

Alternative options considered and rejected

There have been a number of potential options put forward for the future of Worden Hall including do nothing. Through public consultation the chosen option as outlined in this report was adopted as the preferred way forward.

The project is now at the point of being submitted for formal planning approval. It is now crucial that we commence work on taking the project through the next phase of getting the right professional services in place and following a procurement process to get the right contractor in place for the construction phase of the project.

Chair

Date