

Report of Cabinet

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

GENERAL REPORT OF THE MEETING OF CABINET HELD ON 20 JANUARY 2021

Housing Assistance Policy Review

1. The report proposed amendments to the existing Assistance policy to reflect the findings of the 2019 Stock Condition survey. The report explained the key findings of the survey after comparison with the previous stock condition survey which had been carried out in 2012.
2. The policy as it stood did not provide any help for elderly residents who had a CAT1 Hazard but were not in receipt of a qualifying benefit. This, along with affordability issues means residents who needed the help would not qualify for it. This results in occupiers being left in the property with a hazard until such time as they were able to afford the work, or the council has to seek assistance from external funders which takes time and may not cover all the costs.
3. The Government's new Green Homes Grants scheme may not fully fund measures required which would mean that although qualifying an individual may not be able to have the work carried out. The scheme is split into 2 types of measures, primary and secondary, either measures do not include for boiler replacements only heating controls.
4. Cabinet therefore approved proposed amendments to the existing Housing Assistance Policy.

Future Management of Leisure Centres

5. The Cabinet a report bringing forward options on the future management of leisure centres in South Ribble.
6. Cabinet approved the following:-
 - 1) That Cabinet recommends to Full Council that the future management of the Council's Leisure Centres be taken back to an in-house management arrangement. This will mean the Council decides not to extend its current leisure management contract with Serco Leisure Operating Ltd at the end of March 2021.
 - 2) Subject to approval by Full Council on the above recommendation, officers will bring a further report to Cabinet as to how the proposed new in-house management arrangement will operate. This will balance the requirement for the council to maintain influence over the borough's leisure services whilst ensuring the most financially efficient approach is undertaken.
 - 3) That Cabinet requests that officers continue working with SERCO to finalise any compensation payable to Serco Leisure Operating Ltd with respect to loss of income in relation to the closure of the Leisure Centres and delegates that decision to the Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Leisure in consultation with the Section 151 Officer of the Council.

7. As per the report from the LGA in July 2020, culture and leisure has been among the parts of the economy worst hit by Covid-19. This has meant that councils throughout the country are having to review the current operating models for providing leisure services to residents.
8. As well as the effects of Covid-19, the current contract with Serco Leisure Operating Ltd was due to expire at the end of March 2021 and as such the council was required to review the approach to delivering leisure services.
9. Considerable work has been undertaken on looking at a variety of future options for the management of the council's leisure centres. This has included setting up alternative in-house delivery models or extending the existing contract with Serco Leisure Operating Ltd (SLOL) and then going through a tender exercise to outsource the management of leisure centres to a third party. The decision is a result of the work undertaken taking on board the current and future impact of the COVID crisis.

COUNCILLOR PAUL FOSTER

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL