



To be submitted to the Council at its meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2020

## **CABINET**

**4<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 5.00 p.m.**

**Present:** Councillor Jackson (in the Chair)  
Councillors Cracknell, Fenty, Lindley, Procter, Shepherd, Shreeve and S. Swinburn.

### **Officers in attendance:**

- Rob Walsh (Joint Chief Executive)
- Joanne Hewson (Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Children's Services)
- Steve Pintus (Director of Public Health)
- Clive Tritton (Interim Director of Economy and Growth)
- Sharon Wroot (Director of Resources and Governance)
- Helen Isaacs (Director for Communities)
- Iain Lovell (Assistant Director Communications)
- Damien Jaines-White (Acting Assistant Director Regeneration)
- Simon Jones (Chief Legal and Monitoring Officer)
- Paul Windley (Democratic and Scrutiny Team Manager)

### **Also in attendance:**

- Councillor Rogers (Ward Councillor for Sidney Sussex)

### **CB.54 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence for this meeting.

### **CB.55 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Fenty declared a personal and prejudicial interest in items CB.59 and CB.63 as a Director and shareholder of Grimsby Town Football Club. He left the meeting during the consideration of these items.

## **CB.56 MINUTES**

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020 and the special meeting of Cabinet on the 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

## **CB.57 2020/21 QUARTER TWO FINANCE MONITORING REPORT**

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources report providing information and analysis of the Council's financial performance during the second quarter of the 2020/21 financial year.

RESOLVED –

1. That the reported position at Quarter 2, the uncertainties related to the impacts of COVID19 and its potential longer term implications and the various actions being taken to bring spending back in line with budget, be noted.
2. That the Financial Monitoring Report be referred to Scrutiny for consideration.
3. That the revised Capital Programme included at Annex 1 of the report now submitted, be approved.

## **CB.58 TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION - RIVERHEAD SQUARE PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENT SCHEME**

Cabinet considered a report from the Leader of the Council presenting the final concept design for the Riverhead Square public realm improvement scheme, including the introduction of a space suitable for events, improved facilities for public transport users, a new footbridge over the Riverhead, and new seating and lighting.

RESOLVED –

1. That the final concept design for the Riverhead Square public realm improvement scheme at appendix 1 of the report now submitted, be approved.
2. That authority be delegated to the Interim Director of Economy and Growth, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to:
  - a. undertake the procurement and award of capital activities required to deliver the programme activity;

- b. take all actions necessary to secure the continued implementation and ultimate completion of the scheme including detailed design, bridge design, planning applications and all ancillary issues arising;
3. That authority be delegated to the Chief Legal and Monitoring Officer to execute all documentation arising.

## **CB.59 PLAYING PITCH PROVISION**

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Tourism, Heritage and Culture seeking approval of the proposed investment into Clee Fields and King George V (KGV) Stadium in accordance with the Playing Pitch Strategy.

RESOLVED –

1. That the recommended Option 3 in the report now submitted (listed as Option 5 in the associated feasibility study), determined by a thorough consultation and feasibility process resulting in the Clee Fields/KGV Stadium investment proposal set out in this report, be approved.
2. That authority be delegated to the Director of Economy and Growth and the Director of Resources and Governance in consultation with both the Leader of the Council and the Portfolio Holder for Tourism, Heritage and Culture to ensure that all necessary actions are carried out in order to commence, conduct and complete any appropriate procurement exercises for implementation of the anticipated scheme of works in order to achieve the necessary planning submissions.
3. That authority be delegated to the Chief Legal and Monitoring Officer to complete all requisite legal documentation in relation to the matters outlined in the points above.

## **CB.60 TRANSITION (EU EXIT)**

Cabinet considered a report from the Leader of the Council confirming the current position in respect of border control and the proposed staffing measures being put in place to ensure we can manage the anticipated impact of the EU exit.

RESOLVED –

1. That the report and request for a further update early in 2021, be noted.

2. That the adoption of the course of action identified as the “preferred option” as set out in Section 5 of Appendix 1 (Closed) of the report now submitted, be approved.
3. That authority be delegated to the Director of Economy and Growth in consultation with the Director of Resources and Governance to implement the proposed staffing changes to enable the Council to meet its statutory responsibilities in respect of import and export controls.
4. That authority be delegated to the Chief Legal and Monitoring Officer to execute and complete all requisite legal documentation in relation to the matters outlined above.

## **CB.61 URGENT BUSINESS – FREE SCHOOL MEALS OCTOBER 2020**

Cabinet considered an item of urgent business from the Portfolio Holder of Children, Education and Young People outlining the Council’s pledge in respect of providing support to those vulnerable young people and families who have a current entitlement to Free School Meals (FSM), over the October half term period.

This item was considered under the Special Urgency requirements as set out in the Council’s Constitution, and with the agreement of the Chair of the Children and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel. It was therefore not subject to the call-in procedure. This matter was considered urgent due to the tight time constraints and in order to collectively support our most vulnerable families during the COVID-19 pandemic.

With permission of the Chair, Councillor Rogers was invited to ask a question on this matter. Whilst welcoming the response from the administration to the campaign led by Marcus Rashford to ensure children who qualify for free school meals do not go hungry over half term, Councillor Rogers sought an explanation for the decision to only allow Aldi shopping vouchers. She acknowledged that prices of some goods may be lower in Aldi as opposed to other retailers, but would it not have been a better option to take into consideration that it may cost a family a fair proportion of the value of the voucher in transport costs, and provide a choice of supermarket nearer to their home, or where they usually shop?

Councillor Lindley, Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Young People, responded by explaining the rationale for choosing Aldi as there were three stores in the borough; Grimsby, Cleethorpes and Immingham whereas other supermarkets were only in Grimsby or Cleethorpes. In addition, Aldi could restrict the use of vouchers for food only. It was felt this was a balanced approach to ensure children had access to food, especially with the national lockdown looming. The vouchers would be

passed on to the families via the schools, with the exception of two schools and these would receive the voucher via the post.

RESOLVED –

1. That the pledge to families which will provide all young people who have a current entitlement to Free School Meals, with financial support of a one-off financial commitment of £10.00 each over the October half term period, be supported.
2. That authority be delegated to the Director of Children and Family Services, in consultation with the Director of Resources and Governance, to ensure that the Council's commitment to our most vulnerable young people is progressed.
3. That authority be delegated to the Director for Children and Family Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Young People and the Director of Resources and Governance to explore and implement any further support packages throughout the current academic year.

#### **CB.62 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED – That the press and public be requested to leave on the grounds that discussion of the following business was likely to disclose exempt information within paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

#### **CB.63 PLAYING PITCH PROVISION**

Cabinet considered an appendix to the report from the Portfolio Holder for Tourism, Heritage and Culture referred to at CB.59 above.

RESOLVED – That appendix to the report, pursuant to the decision at CB.59 above, be noted.

#### **CB.64 TRANSITION (EU EXIT)**

Cabinet considered an appendix to the report from the Leader of the Council referred to at CB.60 above.

RESOLVED – That appendix to the report, pursuant to the decision at CB.60 above, be noted.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 5.45 p.m.