



## **CABINET DECISION NOTICE**

Publication Date: 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020

At the meeting of the Cabinet held on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020 the following matters were discussed. The decisions of Cabinet are set out below each item along with reasons for the decision and other options considered.

### **Present:**

Councillor Jackson (in the Chair)

Councillors Cracknell, Fenty, Lindley, Procter, Shepherd, Shreeve and S. Swinburn.

### **DN.36 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence from this meeting.

### **DN.37 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest with regard to any items on the agenda for this meeting.

### **DN.38 MINUTES**

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

### **DN.39 PROCUREMENT OF LOCAL TAXATION AND BENEFITS PRINTING AND POSTAGE SERVICE**

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources seeking approval to procure a new printing and postage service for the Local Taxation and Benefits Service.

## **RESOLVED –**

- 1. That the commencement of a procurement exercise for the Local Taxation and Benefits Printing and Postage Service be approved.**
- 2. That responsibility be delegated to the Director of Resources and Governance, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources, to deal with all matters leading to and including the award of the contract for the Local Taxation and Benefits Printing and Postage Service.**
- 3. That the Chief Legal and Monitoring Officer be authorised to complete and execute all legal documentation in connection with the award.**

REASONS FOR DECISION - The decision allows the Council to commence a procurement exercise for the Local Taxation and Benefits Printing and Postage Service and allows the Council to award the contract.

## **OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED –**

Do Nothing. This option would leave the Council with no contract in place, and non-compliant with the requirements of the Public Contract Regulations 2015.

Utilise the Council's Print Section. This option would require a significant capital investment to get the equipment necessary to meet the printing requirements. It would also require additional specialist programming skills not currently available within the Council.

## **DN.40 REVIEW OF PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDERS**

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Safer and Stronger Communities seeking approval to extend for the period of three years, the current Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) covering seven wards within the borough.

## **RESOLVED –**

- 1. That the extension of a period of three years of the seven ward based PSPO areas in West Marsh, East Marsh, Park, Heneage, Sidney Sussex, Croft Baker and South be approved.**
- 2. That the current £100 penalty to be paid within 14 days of issue in the form of a fixed penalty notice (FPN) for failing to comply with a PSPO be retained, with an amendment to remove the early discount currently available so the fine is consistent with the Place Based ASB PSPO's (introduced in**

**2019 in parks, open spaces and tighter defined geographical areas of the borough).**

- 3. That the intelligence led, *Placed Based* approach to introduce PSPOs where necessary in defined geographical areas covering a range of requirements where evidence supports the introduction, continue to be supported.**
- 4. That the Chief Operating Officer be authorised, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Safer and Stronger Communities, to implement the PSPO extensions and to approve all future renewals, variations and extensions to these PSPOs, where evidence supports the application.**
- 5. That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to execute all documentation in connection with these PSPO's.**

REASONS FOR DECISION – Approving the continuation of the seven ward based PSPO areas enables the Council and Police to deal with alcohol influenced anti-social behaviour (ASB) within the areas of highest concern.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED –

The creation of new PSPO areas to correspond with existing Cumulative Impact Zone (CIZ) areas – This option was considered which would significantly reduce the geographical coverage of PSPOs across the borough with a focus on the high demand areas which have a larger concentration of licensed premises. This would incur costs of removing existing signage across the existing PSPO areas but could allow for more targeted enforcement around alcohol.

Based on the statistical evidence in relation to alcohol related ASB across the 7 identified wards and the wider consultation results, in addition to the potential for wider displacement of individuals outside of a smaller geographical PSPO area, this option was discounted.

Discharging existing PSPOs – Whilst this option was considered, it was felt prudent to continue with existing ward based PSPO areas. Feedback shows that when approached individuals have been compliant and stopped drinking and the Police would lose the option to compel an individual to leave the area for 24 hours. To discharge the order is likely to see an increase in alcohol related ASB in our busiest wards in particular with the Covid 19 restrictions being in place and more people utilising public open space to meet and socialise with family and friends.

**DN.41**

## **POLICY FOR SPENDING SECTION 106 AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMUTED SUMS**

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Skills and Housing seeking approval of the Section 106 Affordable Housing Commuted Sum policy.

### **RESOLVED –**

- 1. That the Policy for the Spending of Section 106 Affordable Housing Commuted Sums be approved.**
- 2. That the Director of Economy and Growth be delegated responsibility to approve Enabling Viability Grant funding proposals, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Skills and Housing.**

### **REASONS FOR DECISION –**

The highest identified Housing need in North East Lincolnshire is for Rented Social Housing, with more than 3000 households on the Council's Housing Register at any given time. However, this is the most challenging tenure to deliver, with financial challenges specific to low rental value areas.

The viability of developing social housing can be very challenging and the reality is that Affordable Housing Commuted Sum funds are sometimes required to bridge the gap between market value of a property being built/offered to a registered housing provider and price the registered housing provider is permitted to pay for a property.

Offering a Viability Enabling Grant (money from s.106 commuted sums) is a key incentive offered to encourage new investment in Rented Social Housing stock in North East Lincolnshire. The Local Authority has had four Preferred Partners over several years but, due to recent year on year rent reductions for social housing providers and subsequent stock rationalisation by all Registered Providers, one has withdrawn their commitment to investing in new stock development in North East Lincolnshire.

### **OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED –**

Do nothing by not providing a Viability Enabling Grant would result in Rented Social Housing being unviable to develop, as there is no other incentive to support existing Registered Providers or attract new Registered Providers to invest in our financially challenging area. This would encourage an ad hoc spending with no set purpose. This would risk losing Council Planning Gains as unspent Commuted Sum money would be repaid to developers.

Using s.106 Affordable Housing to purchase individual dwellings, new build, or renovation, does not secure an equivalent number of additional Affordable Housing units and may not achieve value for money but may deliver regeneration and social benefits to a neighbourhood. In the event that the time for payment of money back to the developer is close and no scheme is in place then it may then be the option pursued by the Council.

## **DN.42 DISPOSAL OF THE FORMER HOLME HILL SCHOOL/ EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT CENTRE**

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Skills and Housing seeking authority to dispose of the former Holme Hill School/Education Development Centre.

### **RESOLVED –**

- 1. That the marketing and disposal of the former Holme Hill School/ Education Development Centre be approved; subject to a condition of disposal that works are undertaken to address defects that remove the Site from the Heritage At Risk Register and the Site be progressed for further development (within an agreed timeframe).**
- 2. That authority be delegated to the Director of Resources and Governance, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Skills and Housing, to settle all heads of terms and ensure that all necessary actions are carried out to complete the disposal.**
- 3. That the Chief Legal and Monitoring Officer be authorised to complete and execute all requisite legal documentation in relation to the matters outlined above.**

REASONS FOR DECISION - The Site has not been in full operational use over recent years; having been last fully occupied by Rock Foundation as a community facility. The Site has not benefited from investment for a significant period since it was no longer required for operation use by the Council. The proposal is to market the Site to ensure it is brought back into a good standard of repair and beneficial use. This will result in a use which is demonstrably sustainable and viable and removes all cost liabilities from the Council.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED - To do nothing would see the Site continue to be under-utilised and would not enable investment into maintaining a Grade II Listed buildings to their full potential. The overall condition would continue to deteriorate attracting anti-social behaviour and all the repair and maintenance obligations as well as the likelihood of being served statutory notice to carry out repairs due to the Listed status would rest with the Council. This is not recommended as the best option as all liability would rest with the Council which would not result in

the level of investment required and would result in a negative impact to the community.