



## **CABINET DECISION NOTICE**

Publication Date: 5<sup>th</sup> November 2021

At a meeting of the Cabinet held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021 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, Lindley, Procter, Shepherd, Shreeve and S. Swinburn.

### **DN.75 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence received for this meeting.

### **DN.76 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest from any Councillor for this meeting.

### **DN.77 MINUTES**

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

### **DN.78 2021/22 QUARTER 2 FINANCE MONITORING REPORT**

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets providing key information and analysis of the Council's position and performance against its Finance and Commissioning Plan for the second quarter of the 2021/22 year.

#### **RESOLVED –**

- 1. That the reported position and the uncertainties related to the impacts of Covid and its potential longer-term implications, be noted.**

- 2. That the Financial Monitoring Report be referred to all Scrutiny Panels for consideration.**
- 3. That the revised Capital Programme included at Annex 1 of the report now submitted, be approved.**
- 4. That the use of Covid related earmarked reserves and unringfenced grant funding to offset Covid related service pressures be approved.**

REASONS FOR DECISION - The report is important in informing Cabinet on the financial position and performance of the Council and highlighting key risks and opportunities.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED - Not applicable to monitoring report.

## **DN.79 REVIEW OF SUBSIDISED BUS SERVICES**

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport considering options for future delivery of all subsidised bus services and seeking approval to implement a procurement exercise and to appoint a new supplier from 1 April 2022.

### **RESOLVED –**

- 1. That the commencement of a procurement exercise for option 1, as laid out in the report now submitted, be supported.**
- 2. That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Environment, Economy and Resources, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport to commence a procurement exercise (to deliver the bus services identified in option 1 as laid out in the report now submitted) and to make appropriate contract awards to the most economically advantageous tender.**
- 3. That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Environment, Economy and Resources, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport to carry out all ancillary activity in terms of post award implementation and mobilisation of such arrangements.**
- 4. That authority be delegated to the Assistant Director Law, Governance and Assets (Monitoring Officer) to execute all documents in connection with the above.**

REASONS FOR DECISION - Under s63 Transport Act 1985, North East Lincolnshire Council has a duty to consider the delivery of socially necessary bus services. Socially necessary bus services are those that wouldn't be profitable for bus companies to run, and bus services which the local community require (e.g. late night buses, bus services to isolated rural areas or to employment sites). This report aims to identify

the public transport requirements which would not otherwise be met and once identified, to secure what is appropriate.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED – There are other options available which include reducing the frequency of the 1, 2 & 20 Europarc bus service to hourly and reducing the number of vehicles operating the Phone n Ride service which may potentially reduce the value through the tender process.

North East Lincolnshire Council's Sustainable Local Transport Plan may provide further additional transport options including car sharing, cycling and walking.

## **DN.80 TOWNS FUND PROGRAMME – ST JAMES HOUSE**

Cabinet considered a report from the Leader of the Council seeking agreement to bid for funding for the future development of St James House as part of the Town Fund Programme.

### **RESOLVED –**

- 1. That the submission of a summary business case to Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC) (formerly Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government) for the St James House project, be approved.**
- 2. That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Environment, Economy and Resources, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, and on behalf of the Greater Grimsby Board to take all actions necessary, including**
  - a. Acceptance of £1.5m of grant funding from the DLUHC, (or such other sum as may be awarded) to support the St James House project.**
  - b. Defrayal of the grant to E-Factor towards the acquisition of St James House.**
  - c. Carry out any ancillary activity in support of the above recommendations.**

REASONS FOR DECISION - To facilitate the acquisition and renovation of St James House by E-Factor to bring St James House back into use and provide alternative business accommodation in the town centre.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED – Do nothing – this option would result in the building remaining vacant and in a deteriorating state in the centre of a newly enhanced public space. In addition, the demand for business accommodation, improved footfall or increased business support would not be achieved.

Do Less – this option considered seeking an alternative location. Although there are several other locations which could accommodate a business centre, there are none on the market of this size located in the town centre, or with the potential to offer such an attractive business location.

## **DN.81 HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT GRANT**

Cabinet considered a report from the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and Assets outlining how the Council intend to spend £1.5M of Household Support Grant Funding from the Government.

### **RESOLVED –**

- 1. That the high-level delivery framework, as laid out in appendix 1 of the report submitted, be approved.**
- 2. That authority be delegated to the Assistant Chief Executive, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets to effectively govern and administer the fund.**
- 3. That the procurement of vouchers for free school meals via the Crown Commercial Services approved list of providers be approved and delegates authority to the Assistant Chief Executive, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets to make appropriate award and deal with all ancillary matters.**

REASONS FOR DECISION - The Household Support Grant is the latest in a line of welfare grants that have been awarded to the Council to support vulnerable households with food and utility costs. Previous schemes have included the Hardship Grant, Winter Support Grant and Covid Support Grant and we have taken the elements that worked best from those schemes to propose the approach to be taken under the new fund.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED – We are limited by the eligibility criteria but other options include;

- Not accept the grant – we could inform the DWP that we do not want to run the scheme on their behalf. This is not seen as a viable option as vulnerable households in our community would be potentially placed in further difficulty.
- Allocate all the funding to free school meal voucher eligible households – this would disadvantage vulnerable households who do not have children such as single people and elderly residents
- Allocate a different mix of funding with more grants going directly to the VCS – whilst the VCS delivered a significant amount of the previous grants on our behalf it was not without challenge. The administration costs can be onerous and often a household

seeking support needs ongoing support rather than a one-off grant. We will liaise with the sector about their capacity and appetite for funding to be awarded directly to the VCS but recognise they may have wider service pressures over the Winter which may limit their involvement.

## **DN. 82 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).**

## **DN.83 BEREAVEMENT SERVICES PROJECT**

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport in relation to the final element of the Bereavement Services project.

**RESOLVED –**

- 1. That the option for providing funeral services, as set out in paragraph 1.4.1 of the report now submitted, be approved and delegates authority to the Executive Director Environment, Economy and Resources to implement such scheme in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport.**
- 2. That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Environment, Economy and Resources in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport to take all ancillary action as may arise in connection with such implementation.**

**REASONS FOR DECISION – as laid out in the report now submitted.**

**OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED – as laid out in the report now submitted.**