



## **CABINET DECISION NOTICE**

Publication Date: 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020

At the meeting of the Cabinet held on the 9<sup>th</sup> December 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, Proctor, Shepherd, Shreeve and S. Swinburn.

### **DN.58 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence for this meeting.

### **DN.59 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interests made from Members with regards to items on the agenda.

### **DN.60 MINUTES**

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

### **DN.61 PROCUREMENT OF THE PRINTING AND PUBLICATIONS FRAMEWORK**

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources seeking authority to commence a procurement for a replacement Printing and Publications Framework.

#### **RESOLVED –**

- 1. That the commencement of a procurement exercise for the Printing and Publications Framework, be approved.**

- 2. That authority 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 framework for Printing and Publications.**
- 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 Printing and Publication Framework and allow the Council to award the framework.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED –

Do Nothing. This option will leave the Council non-compliant with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

Undertake all printing and publications jobs in-house. This would require a significant capital investment from the Council and would not represent value for money as the market is already set-up to meet the Councils individual requirements without the need for the Council to invest any capital.

## **DN.62      PROCUREMENT OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport seeking authority to commence a procurement exercise for an Environmental Services Management System.

**RESOLVED –**

- 1. That the commencement of a procurement exercise for the Environmental Services Management System be approved.**
- 2. That authority be delegated to the Director of Economy and Growth in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport to deal with all matters leading to and including the award of the contract for the Environmental Services Management System.**
- 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 Environmental Services Management System and allows the Council to award the contract.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED – A mapping exercise was undertaken across Environmental Services (including Customer

Services) and this provided a clear picture of the current use of multiple systems across the organisation. The “do nothing” option had been considered, but was not felt to be feasible, as there is a need to improve efficiency across all areas of the service and to be able to have a system that links into front line services. A whole Environmental Services Management System was originally looked into, but during the initial market engagement, it was clear a specific “off the shelf” management system to suit the broad range of services provided by Environmental Services was not available in the market and a procurement is required to have a more bespoke solution.

## **DN.63 HOUSING RELATED SUPPORT PROCUREMENT**

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Skills and Housing seeking approval to undertake a full and robust procurement exercise to enable Housing Related Support to be delivered post July 2021.

### **RESOLVED –**

- 1. That authority be delegated to the Director for Economy and Growth in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Skills and Housing to undertake a procurement exercise, for the delivery of Housing Related Support services in North East Lincolnshire.**
- 2. That the Director for Economy and Growth in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Skills and Housing be required, to seek Cabinet approval before formally awarding the Housing Related Support contract(s) with a commencement date of 1st July 2021.**
- 3. That the Chief Legal and Monitoring Officer be authorised to execute all documentation arising.**

REASONS FOR DECISION - The current Housing Related Support programme was commissioned in July 2016 for a period of 2 years with the option to extend for a further 3 x 1 years. The final 1-year extension will cease on 30st June 2021.

### **OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED –**

Do nothing - To do nothing, would result in the delivery of Housing Related Support (HRS) ceasing, with no planning or preparations in place to ensure ongoing support is provided to those who currently access both accommodation and floating support packages funded via HRS. This would lead to a significant increase in the number of people approaching the Council for further assistance in relation to their housing and independence needs, potentially also resulting in some people losing tenancies, placing them at increased risk of becoming homeless. Additionally, by removing floating support arrangements a

significant number of households may quickly reach crisis point, requiring the involvement and support of welfare and public services. We would anticipate an increase in sofa-surfing and rough sleeping across the borough.

Explore options to extend the current contract

The current contract is due to cease on 30th June 2021. As it will be 5 years since the last HRS programme was procured, the needs of those accessing HRS have continued to change over the delivery of programme. Thus, the current specifications for service delivery are not meeting the needs of those who need support. There are no contract extensions available as the procured contractual term was 5 years, to extend beyond this is against Procurement legislation and would leave the Council open to legal challenge.

Explore options to deliver an in-house programme

The Council does not have the resources to deliver an internal programme of HRS. Additionally, the time and resources required to develop an in-house programme is not achievable.

Explore options to terminate delivery of programme

The Council has maintained its commitment in funding the support offered to individuals to access HRS. The removal of such a programme across the Borough would create a significant increase in demand on services in the public and welfare sectors for those most in need. Removing the HRS would remove the frontline face to face / direct services for those residents who may be at risk of heading into crisis. HRS's frontline service reduces demand and the cost burden on key council services, including Adult and Children Services. Removal or significant reduction in HRS funding would also add additional pressures on the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector, who deal with debt, budgeting, health, welfare, education and housing issues, which are already stretched due to current levels of demand.

Seek permission to procure a revised HRS service, which is the preferred option.

## **DN.64 REGULATORY SERVICES MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Safer and Stronger Communities seeking authority to procure a new contract for a Regulatory Services Management System.

**RESOLVED –**

- 1. That the commencement of a procurement exercise for the Regulatory Services Management System be approved.**
- 2. That authority be delegated to the Director of Economy and Growth in consultation with the Portfolio Holder of Safer and Stronger Communities to deal with all matters leading to and including the award of the contract for the Regulatory Services Management System.**
- 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 Regulatory Services Management System and allow 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

**DN.65**

### **DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY AT LESS THAN BEST CONSIDERATION – LEASE DISPOSAL OF KENT STREET MUGA**

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Skills and Housing seeking authority to dispose, by way of a 99 year; full, repairing, and insuring lease, of the subject site; namely Kent Street MUGA.

**RESOLVED –**

- 1. That the principle of a full, repairing, and insuring lease of the subject Site for a term of 99 years at a peppercorn rent (£1 per annum if demanded) to Corinthians Complex Community Interest Company (CIC), be approved.**
- 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 terms and ensure that all necessary actions are carried out to complete the lease 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 – A proposal has been received from Corinthians Complex CIC which has been considered as part of the

Council's approach to Community Asset Transfers (CAT). The proposal has been agreed in principle which could result in the transfer of the subject site to Corinthians Complex CIC by virtue of a 99-year full, repairing, and insuring lease. The lease would enable the asset to transfer to the Group on the basis that their proposal is sustainable and viable over the term, as outlined through a detailed Business Case.

#### OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED –

To do nothing would see the Site continue to be under-utilised and would not enable Corinthians Complex CIC to take a more proactive role in the Community through managing the Site and seeking to improve it. The condition would continue to deteriorate attracting anti-social behaviour and all the repair and maintenance obligations and cost would rest with the Council. This would result in a negative impact to the community. Corinthians Complex CIC have presented a robust Business Case which demonstrates extensive social return on investment which requires a longer-term lease in support of the proposal and will result in a full use of the Site. It is not considered a viable option to improve the maintenance activities or fully manage the Site as is currently and the Council risk unnecessary and negative publicity as well as potentially being wholly liable for the Site, together with all future associated expenditure including any missed opportunity of investment into or expansion of the potential use and activities.

The freehold disposal of the Site has not been considered at this time. This is in respect of mitigating risk in maintaining the Site and in the event the proposal is no longer viable, which impacts on the on-going use of the Site, the Council could take action to seek alternative use of the Site and prevent any unauthorised uses, which a freehold disposal would remove.

## **DN.66 EUROPARC BUS SERVICE**

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport reviewing the existing subsidy costs, providing options for future delivery, and presenting a recommendation for the future of the bus service subsidy.

#### **RESOLVED –**

- 1. That the Director of Economy and Growth in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport be authorised to continue the existing 1, 2 and 20 Europarc bus services from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.**
- 2. That the Chief Legal and Monitoring Officer be authorised to execute and complete all requisite legal documentation in relation to the matters outlined above.**

REASONS FOR DECISION – The recommendation allows the continuation of the existing 1, 2 & 20 Europarc Bus Service (option 1)

and will enable progression towards the delivery of the Europarc bus bridge. The continuation of the existing 1, 2 & 20 Europarc bus service supports access to employment, health, education, training and local shopping by public transport.

Under the 1985 Transport Act, 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 housing estates 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 –**

The main options for future delivery of the 1, 2 & 20 Europarc bus service are detailed in the report (please refer to section 1.7). The following additional options are also available to local residents:

Car sharing - Liftshare.com is a free to join car share website which offers anyone who lives or works within North East Lincolnshire the opportunity to share their car journeys to and from work. The on-line system matches members who are making similar journeys.

Cycling - Overall cycle access to Europarc is adequate and serves most of the areas from where people could be reasonably expected to cycle to work on Europarc. A signed cycle route from the centre of Grimsby (via Lord St, Gilbey Rd, Estate Rd 1 and Laforey Rd) exists and a new off-road cycle link along Moody Lane and Woad Lane has recently been constructed to support cycle access to the South Humber Bank and Europarc. Typical journey times from Grimsby Town Centre to Europarc when cycling are around 20 minutes.

Walking - Walking is generally considered an option if journeys are less than 3km (2 miles) and the provision of quality lighting and good surfacing are key factors especially when journeys are likely to be made at night. Shift work at many of the factories on Europarc involves 24 hour working. It is unlikely that many of the people who currently access Europarc via the bus would desire to walk given the distances involved and possible security concerns.

#### **DN.67 HALF-YEARLY TREASURY REPORT 2020/21**

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources presenting details of treasury management arrangements, activity and performance during the first six months of 2020/21.

**RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL – That the content of the report in respect of treasury management activity during 2020/21, be approved.**

REASONS FOR DECISION – The Council’s treasury management activity is guided by CIPFA’s Code of Practice on Treasury Management (“the Code”), which requires local authorities to produce annually Prudential Indicators and a Treasury Management Strategy Statement on the likely financing and investment activity. The Code also recommends that members are informed of treasury management activities at least twice a year. We therefore report after Quarter 2 and year end.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED – These were set out on Page 28 of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement.

## **DN.68      CALCULATION OF COUNCIL TAX BASE 2021/22**

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources setting the Council Tax Base and outlining the proposed Council Tax Support Scheme for 2021/22.

### **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL –**

- 1. That the proposed Council Tax Support Scheme for 2021/2022 which maintains the discount of 65% for all working age customers be supported.**
- 2. That the discretionary adjustments for properties empty for more than ten years be approved.**
- 3. That subject to the recommendations above, it be agreed that the Council Tax Base for the Council and other precepting bodies in 2021/22 be set at 44405.4 Band D equivalents (as detailed in Appendix A of the report now submitted).**

REASONS FOR DECISION – Setting the Council Tax Base is a statutory requirement that forms the basis of the calculation of the Council Tax charge for 2021/22. The tax base needs to be agreed and notified to major precepting bodies by no later than the end of January 2021.

### **OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED –**

There is discretion in estimating the Council Tax collection rate. For 2021/22 it is considered prudent to assume a reduction in the level of collection by 1% to 97.2% given the ongoing economic challenges brought about as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Whilst the majority of collection happens within the billing year collection does continue after this point in time, the 97.2% relates to the level of overall Council Tax collected over an extended period in time.

The Council could decide not to apply the additional surcharges introduced by the Government in 2019/20 in relation to empty properties. However, this would not support the Council’s aim for long-term empty properties to become sustainably occupied.



In relation to CTSS, any material to changes to the scheme require a consultation process to be undertaken and the approval of full Council.

## **DN.69 GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE JOINT STRATEGIC OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

Cabinet considered a report from the Leader of the Council seeking approval to form a joint committee with North Lincolnshire Council and Lincolnshire County Council which will be tasked with looking at opportunities to work together on strategic matters.

### **RESOLVED –**

- 1. That the creation of a joint committee, the Greater Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Oversight Committee, to explore strategic issues and alignment of opportunities across Greater Lincolnshire, be supported and authorised.**
- 2. That authority delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, and with the support of the Chief Legal and Monitoring Officer, to settle terms of reference and governance arrangements around the proposed committee.**
- 3. That the matter be referred to the next meeting of Full Council for approval.**

REASONS FOR DECISION – The Council has long realised the benefits of collaborative and partnership working across all sectors, both public and private. There are opportunities to strengthen partnership working across the unitary authorities of Greater Lincolnshire. The recommendations within this report helps to further the interests of the residents and businesses of Greater Lincolnshire, exploring opportunities to work strategically together and realising any potential to enable funding to be better utilised, service quality to be improved and greater outcomes to be delivered. The recommendations build on existing relationships and seeks to place a greater degree of structure, formality and visibility around them.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED – Joint working arrangements could be explored informally, or purely through the development of proposals to reform local government in Greater Lincolnshire. However, this could delay the benefit of working closely together until a point where the government is ready to consider the arrangements in Greater Lincolnshire in more detail. The recommended approach enables earlier benefits to be delivered, whilst still enabling reform on a larger scale, if appropriate, in the future.

**DN. 70 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.71 FUTURE DELIVERY OF THE REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP SERVICES**

Cabinet considered a report from the Leader of the Council presenting an options appraisal and recommendation for the future delivery of the services currently delivered through the Partnership.

**RESOLVED –**

- 1. That the agreement with Engie Services Limited be extended to 30 June 2025.**
- 2. That authority be delegated to the Director of Economy and Growth to negotiate and finalise contractual arrangements relating to this extension with Engie Services Limited.**
- 3. That the Chief Legal and Monitoring Officer be authorised to execute all documentation arising.**

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

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

**DN.72 EUROPARC BUS SERVICE**

Cabinet considered an appendix to the report from the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport referred to at DN.66 above.

**RESOLVED – That appendix to the report, pursuant to the decision at DN.66 above, be noted.**

REASONS FOR DECISION – As per DN.66

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED – As per DN.66