

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK

CABINET

**Minutes from the Meeting of the Cabinet held on
Tuesday, 2nd October, 2018 at 5.30 pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall,
Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn PE30 5DQ**

PRESENT: Councillor B Long (Chairman)
Councillors R Blunt, I Devereux, P Hodson, A Lawrence, Mrs K Mellish and
Mrs E Nockolds

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A Beales

CAB61 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meetings held on 21 August and 18 September 2018 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

CAB62 **URGENT BUSINESS**

None

CAB63 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

CAB64 **CHAIRMAN'S CORRESPONDENCE**

None

CAB65 **MEMBERS PRESENT UNDER STANDING ORDER 34**

None

CAB66 **CALLED IN MATTERS**

There were no items called in.

CAB67 **FORWARD DECISIONS**

The Forward Decisions List was noted.

CAB68 MATTERS REFERRED TO CABINET FROM OTHER BODIES

Corporate Performance Panel recommendation on Council Tax Discounts 2019/20 – 10 September 2018. This was considered with the item.

CAB69 ANIMAL WELFARE CHANGES AND FEE STRUCTURE

Cabinet considered a report which explained that new regulations came into force on 1st October 2018 which changed the way in which animal boarding establishments, dog breeding establishments, pet shops and riding establishments were licensed. In addition to this, a new category of animal licensing would be introduced for the day care of dogs and the responsibility for the licensing of exhibition of animals would move from Norfolk County Council to the Borough Council. The report was to make Members aware of the changes and to approve a new cost recovery based fee structure.

Cabinet discussed how the fee structure had changed from the previous set of fees, and the interaction between departments to raise awareness of licenses being issued. The question of whether planning permission was required for premises boarding dogs was raised, to which it was responded that each case would have to be examined by the planning department. It was also explained that amongst other things officers had been contacting people offering puppies for sale on line to inform them of the need to be licensed.

RESOLVED: That the new fee structure for animal welfare licensing be approved.

Reason for Decision

The Council has to set reasonable fees based on cost recovery for the service provided.

CAB70 COUNCIL TAX DISCOUNTS 2019/20

Cabinet considered a report which covered three proposed changes to Council Tax discounts for 2018/2019 and 2019/2020. The first was a review of the one month, 100% discount for empty and unfurnished properties. The second was the increased premiums payable for long term empty properties. The third was the introduction of a 100% discount for care leavers. The first two changes were proposed to take effect starting from 1 April 2019, with the Care Leavers' discount starting from 1 April 2018. The report also covered a change to the delegated authority for considering individual discount applications.

The Corporate Performance Panel at its meeting on 10 September 2018 had considered the report and commented that relating to the Care Leavers discount, it indicated that when a carer leaver moved in

with a single household who then lost their single resident discount then it might be considered to extend a care leaver discount to that residence and that Cabinet be asked to consider this when determining the decision. This point had been incorporated into the proposals.

In response to questions relating to the potential exclusion of Almshouses with residency criteria which meant the properties may be empty whilst suitable tenants were found, or older properties undergoing renovation which may take longer to carry out than the year permitted under the empty property regime, it was noted that there was a Hardship Fund which individuals could apply to.

The recommendation to remove the one month discount, and the high costs in officer time of the administration of the discount were discussed.

The Cabinet fully supported the comments from the Corporate Performance Panel regarding the disregarding of care leavers moving into properties.

RECOMMENDED: 1) That the proposal to remove the one month 100% discount for empty and unfurnished properties from 1 April 2019 be approved.

2) That the maximum increases to the long term empty property premium starting from 1 April 2019 be approved.

3) That the introduction of the Care Leavers' local discount from 1 April 2018 on the criteria listed in the report be approved.

4) That the wording for delegated authority for individual applications be amended to 'Applications will be determined by the Revenues and Benefits Manager in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Performance and the relevant Ward Member.

Reasons for Decisions

To ensure council tax discounts are reviewed and updated in line with recent changes and to take into account the comments from the Corporate Performance Panel.

CAB71 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

CAB72 **APPEALS AGAINST BUSINESS RATE RELIEF HARDSHIP REVIEW REFUSALS**

Cabinet considered 2 individual appeals against the refusal to award Business Rates Hardship Relief. The applicant for case reference 7324560 presented their case to Cabinet and responded to questions. Cabinet debated the applications.

RESOLVED: That the following appeals against the refusal of Business Rate Hardship Relief be refused and the original decision not to award be upheld:

Reference Numbers : 735274x and 7324560

Reason for Decision

To ensure the decision regarding Hardship Relief is reviewed. The Hardship Relief guidelines state Cabinet can be asked to reconsider any decision regarding Hardship Relief.

CAB73 **RECYCLING CONTRACT VARIATION**

Councillor Devereux presented a report which explained amendments to the contract involving the Waste Collection Authorities, Norfolk County Council and NEWS Ltd that processed collected dry recyclables. All parties had negotiated a mutually acceptable variation to the contract that resolved the dispute. The dispute related to the amount of non recyclable material being collected in recycling bins and being delivered for sorting and the extra costs involved in removing and treating this excess waste.

Cabinet discussed the continued efforts to raise awareness of the effect of and cost of contamination of the recyclable waste.

RESOLVED: That the proposed Deed Variation to the contract between the Council and NEWS Ltd be agreed and that officers proceed to implement the decision at the earliest available opportunity.

Reason for Decision

The Deed of Variation offers a reasonable settlement of a contract dispute which ensures the continued delivery of the contracted services.

The meeting closed at 6.40 pm