

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK

CABINET DECISION SHEET

Decision Sheet from the Meeting of the Cabinet held on Tuesday, 17th March, 2020 at 3.30 pm in the Council Chamber - Town Hall, Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn PE30 5DQ

PRESENT: Councillor B Long (Chair)
Councillors R Blunt, I Devereux, P Gidney, P Kunes and A Lawrence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor G Middleton G Middleton

1 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: The Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 February 2020 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2 **URGENT BUSINESS - PAY AWARD 2020/21**

In accordance with Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chair decided that the following matter should be considered following the Government's advice on public gatherings relating to the Corona Virus, it was not definite that the meeting in April would go ahead.

RESOLVED: 1) That an annual pay award of 2.5% be implemented with effect from 1st April 2020.

2) That the Authority continues its practice of matching the bottom point of PG Scales to the lowest point on the National pay scales if these exceed the Borough Council's lowest pay point when the National Pay Award is agreed.

Reason for Decision

To implement an annual pay increase for employees which reflects current labour market information and the increasing difficulty experienced in recruiting professional technical and managerial posts throughout the Authority. To reflect the approach taken by the National Employers in relation to increases in the minimum wage paid to employees. These recommendations are reflected in the Authority's Financial Plan.

3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

4 **CHAIR'S CORRESPONDENCE**

The Chair reported receipt of emails from Councillors on items where they had been requested to submit them in writing rather than attend in person due to the current restrictions.

5 **MEMBERS PRESENT UNDER STANDING ORDER 34**

Councillor M de Whalley attended under standing order 34.

Councillor Ryves had submitted questions on the Capital Strategy report.

Councillor Dickinson submitted her comments to present the Audit working group report.

Councillor Joyce submitted a comment supporting the proposals contained in the Compulsory Purchase Order report.

6 **CALLED IN MATTERS**

It was noted that Call ins were made on the following items which were unsuccessful following consideration by the Chief Executive:

CAB97 – Notice of Motion 5/19 from Cllr de Whalley – Climate Change

CAB98 – Notice of Motion 4/19 from Cllr Kemp – Hardings Way

CAB103 – King's Lynn Area Transport Strategy (KLTS) was called in which was permitted by the Chief Executive. Corporate Performance Panel at its meeting on 2 March 2020 considered the item and did not support the call in, but did support the suggestion of a Task Group to monitor the KLTS.

7 **FORWARD DECISIONS**

The forward decision list was noted.

8 **MATTERS REFERRED TO CABINET FROM OTHER BODIES**

Nothing direct

9 **CAPITAL STRATEGY 2020/21**

Recommended: That the Capital Strategy 2020/21 as attached to the report be approved.

Reason for Decision

Not to approve these policies would contravene the requirements of both legislation and good practice. In addition, the external auditors may comment in their report to those charged with governance (ISA260).

10 **REPORT OF THE AUDIT CROSS PARTY WORKING GROUP ON KLIC**

RESOLVED: That the report and its recommendations be noted.

Reason for Decision: To receive the findings of the Working Group. Councillor Dickinson's comments to present to the Cabinet in her absence are appended to the minutes.

11 **POTENTIAL COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER - WEST LYNN**

RESOLVED: 1) That officers seek to acquire the property voluntarily from the owners, and if after attempts to voluntarily acquire the property from the owners fail, to make a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) for the acquisition of the Land and its disposal at auction with appropriate conditions to secure its repair.

2) That all aspects of the process be delegated to the Executive Director or Assistant Director for Environment and Planning, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Development.

Reason for Decision

To confirm this is not a recommendation to Council, but a decision within Cabinet's powers.

The building is Grade II Listed and categorised as a building at risk because of its poor condition. It is unoccupied and reasonable steps are not being taken to properly preserve the building. In its current state it is also considered detrimental to the character, appearance and general wellbeing of the village.

The Council considers that should voluntary acquisition fail, the compulsory purchase of the Land will facilitate the carrying out of restoration work which will secure the future of the listed building, make a positive contribution to the character and appearance of the area, and promote the social and environmental wellbeing of its area for the reasons explained in this report.

12 **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 item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely

disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

13 **BUSINESS RATES HARDSHIP RELIEF APPEAL - 7336667**

RESOLVED: That the decision not to award Hardship Relief be upheld, but the position in the coming year with the Governments recent announcement on assistance to small businesses be welcomed.

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.

The meeting closed at 4.10 pm