Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk



COUNCIL MEETING

Agenda

Thursday, 21st January, 2021 at 4.30 pm

Remote Meeting on Zoom and available for the public to view on <u>WestNorfolkBC on You</u> <u>Tube</u>

Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk



King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE30 1EX Telephone: 01553 616200 Fax: 01553 691663

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the **Borough Council of King's** Lynn and West Norfolk which will commence at 4.30 pm on Thursday, 21st January, 2021 via Remote Meeting on Zoom and available for the public to view on <u>WestNorfolkBC on You Tube</u> to transact the business shown below.

Yours sincerely

Lorraine Gore Chief Executive

BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED

1. PRAYERS

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. MINUTES

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 3 December 2020 and 14 January 2021.

4. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Please indicate if there are any interests which should be declared. A declaration of an interest should indicate the nature of the interest (if not already declared on the Register of Interests) and the agenda item to which it relates. If a disclosable pecuniary interest is declared, the member should withdraw from the room whilst the matter is discussed.

5. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive Mayor's communications and announcements.

6. URGENT BUSINESS

To receive any items of business which in the opinion of the Mayor are urgent.

7. PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS

To receive petitions and public questions in accordance with Standing Order 9.

8. CABINET MEMBERS REPORTS

In accordance with Standing Order 11.1 to receive reports from Cabinet Members in the following order and under Standing Order 11.2 (a) Members of the Council may ask questions of the Cabinet Member on their reports and Portfolio areas:

(Councillors are reminded that this is a question and answer session not a debate.)

- 1) Business Development Councillor G Middleton (Pages 6 7)
- 2) Climate Change & Commercial Services Councillor P Kunes (Pages 8 9)
- 3) **Development Councillor R Blunt** (Pages 10 12)
- 4) Environmental Services & Public Protection Councillor S Dark to follow
- 5) Housing Councillor A Lawrence (Pages 13 14)
- 6) **Project Delivery Councillor P Gidney** (Pages 15 17)
- 7) Deputy Leader and Culture, Heritage and Health Councillor Mrs E Nockolds (Pages 18 - 20)
- 8) Leader and Resources Councillor B Long (Pages 21 23)

9. MEMBERS QUESTION TIME

In accordance with Standing Order 11.2 (b), Members of the Council may ask any questions of the Chair of any Council Body (except the Cabinet).

10. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COUNCIL BODIES

(Members are reminded this is a debate, not a question and answer session)

To consider the following recommendations to Council:

1) Cabinet: 5 January 2021 (Page 24)

CAB217: Council Tax Support: final scheme for working age people for 2021/2022

Lorraine Gore

Chief Executive

21 January 2021

COUNCILLOR GRAHAM MIDDLETON -

CABINET MEMBER FOR BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

For the period December 2020 to January 2021

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Future high streets

As you will now all be aware our bid for future high street funding was not successful. We are awaiting in depth analysis and feedback from government so we can set out plans for adapting projects and bids in the future.

All is not lost however we do have some fantastic projects they have been worked up and and will continue to look into funding opportunities with our partners to peruse these goals. Viable options so far include the governments levelling up fund, due to be announced any time soon and the UK prosperity fund there may also be an opportunity to incorporate some of these projects into the town investment plan and potentially look into re prioritising projects within this.

Kings Lynn public realm

First phase of the public realm plan which features a part of King's Lynn High Street is well underway. Currently materials have been put on order and we have currently put required works out to tender. This is funded through the accelerated funding and once will have an exact cost we can then look at where else to spend the remaining. These works will kick off a wider plan featured in our town investment plan for transformation of our key links and routes around town including areas such as Boal Quay, Baxter's Plain, train station for court and the High Street.

Go digital project

County councils go digital project, aimed at offering grant packages in the form of digital consultancy has been launched and is already over subscribed in Norfolk and west Norfolk. Therefore, we were approached by the county asking if we wish to top up the pot to enable more west Norfolk business to benefit. To this end we have agreed to pay for up to 25 more businesses to be able to take part and we would like this to be ring fenced at this time for

hospitality and retail. We will top this up further if required. This has been funded through the adaptation funding received by the government. As part of the project business will allocate a sector specific expert, a digital audit, advise on next steps and funding to assist with adaptations to websites etc

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

HAZ Briefing Cabinet sifting BID meeting Portfolio sessions Cabinet Portfolio session with various officers (throughout the month) R and D Panel

21 January 2021

COUNCILLOR PAUL KUNES - CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE CO2 REDUCTION, BIO DIVERSITY AND COMMERCIAL SERVICES

For the period December 3rd 2020 to 21st January 2021

1 **Progress on Portfolio Matters.**

Climate Change and CO2 reduction.

I have had several briefings from Officers to discuss future plans for such matters as Tree planting, Bio diversity, air quality and the re-fit program to move forward our aim to become Net Carbon Zero. We have begun to draw up a draft action plan which can be used as the basis for discussion with the climate change working group.

I had hoped to be able to announce a tree planting scheme in King's Lynn, but this has been delayed due to officers being diverted to Covid roles. I hope I can report on this before the next full Council meeting

Cremations and Burials.

The Crematorium staff have been very busy for the last 3 weeks, because of the problem at Boston Crematorium. A number of additional cremations (not services) have had to be carried out.

On the 16th December I accompanied The Mayor to the Crematorium, where we presented a cheque for £10,000 to the Big C cancer charity. The money is raised from the sale of metal recovered from medical implants.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Football club car parking

I am pleased to report that tenders have been received and it expected an order will be placed soon.

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

Cabinet

Portfolio briefing: -Climate Change, Car parks, Crematorium and Cemeteries and IT. R&D Panel E&C Panel Cabinet Briefing Conservancy Board. IDB LGA Coastal special interest group Flood and Coastal risk management group. **All of the above meetings held on line.**

21st January 2021

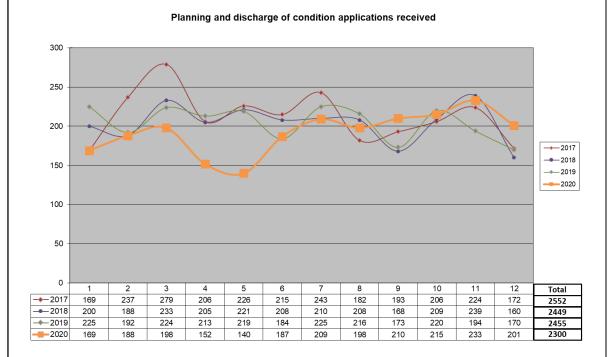
COUNCILLOR RICHARD BLUNT - CABINET MEMBER FOR DEVELOPMENT

For the period from 21th November 2020 to 8th January 2021

1 **Progress on Portfolio Matters.**

Planning and Discharge of Conditions applications received

Applications received for November and December continued to be high. Despite the impacts of Covid-19 applications were only down 155 (-6.3%) on the previous year.



Major and Minor dwelling applications received comparison

1/1/18 – 31/12/18	1/1/19 – 31/12/19	1/1/20 - 31/12/20	
26	26	19	
392	426	284	
*Minor dwelling applications = up to 10 units		Major dwelling applications = over 10 units	
	26 392	26 26 392 426	

Revenue income

Income for 2020/21

Projected	Actual	Variance
Apr - Dec	Apr – Dec Income for December is estimated at this time	
£872,738	£1,135,956	+ £263,218

Despite the challenges in adapting to new methods of working for both the planning admin team and planning officers, the performance for determining planning applications has been very good for 2020, with Major applications 94% in time (against a national target of 60%), and non-Major applications also 94% in time (against a national target of 70%).

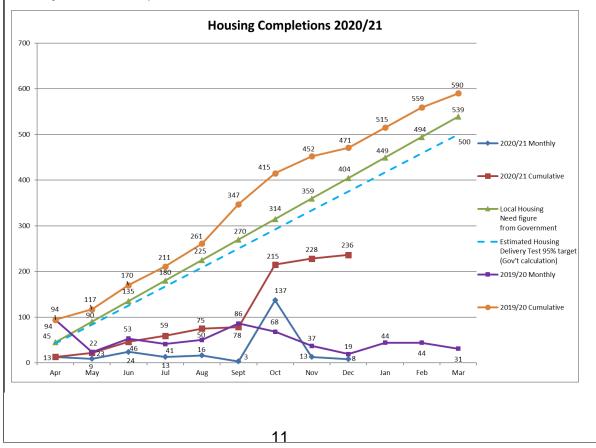
We continue to have a backlog of planning applications in the validation team, 75 at the time of writing my report (approximately 6 days). The team have now recruited to fill a vacant position and therefore this will help to reducing the backlog over the coming weeks and get back to normal service standards.

Housing Completions

Completions are still considerably lower in comparison to the same time last year. 236 completions between April and December compared to 471 for the same period in 2019.

We continue to wait to see if the Government will announce if the Housing Delivery Test calculation will be altered to reflect the impacts of Covid-19.

The UK completion figures issued by MHCLG indicated there was a 62% reduction compared to last year between April and June 2020.



Appeal Performance – decisions made by The Planning Inspectorate 1/1/20 – 31/12/20

	Dismissed	Allowed
Planning appeals	30	12
	71%	29%
Enforcement appeals	6	1
	86%	14%

The national average for planning appeals allowed is around 34%.

Local Plan review Update

The Local Plan Task Group met on 2 December and considered a series of amendments to the LPR document to conclude the changes needed for the next stage. In addition, we gave an overview of the next stages both to get to Cabinet / Council and the subsequent statutory stages. A more detailed proposed timetable was discussed by the Task Group on 13 January. Attention has been given including discussion at the Corporate Performance Panel, to the Communication Strategy for the next stage. It is vitally important that Borough Councillors; parish and town councils; and the general public and businesses understand how to make their views count when we formally 'publish' the LPR document. A number of approaches will be used, including whole Council briefings and special briefings for parishes and town councils.

Meetings Attended (via Teams Zoom and Youtube)

Portfolio Meetings, Planning Committee Planning Committee Sifting Planning Committee Training Local Plan Task Group Cabinet Cabinet Briefings and Updates Cabinet Sifting Environment and Community Panel Corporate Performance Panel Norfolk Strategic Planning Forum Audit Committee Members Training Various Meetings with Officers

21 January 2021

COUNCILLOR ADRIAN LAWRENCE - CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING

For the period December 2020 to January 2021

Progress on Portfolio Matters.

I would like to wish everyone a Safe and Happy New Year. I would also like to thank council staff for all their hard work in 2020.

HomeChoice

210 new forms/Change of circumstances

1086 live applications

3 emergency 149 high 344 Medium 590 low 42 properties let last month

Long Term Empty Properties

There were 893 LTEP's at the beginning of the month which represents 1.2% of the Borough's total housing stock. This was down slight from the previous month which was 914 which represents 1.23% of the total housing stock.

Evictions

The moratorium on landlords evicting tenants from their properties ended in September 2020, however, when serving an eviction notice they had to give tenants 6 months' notice and no evictions could take place. There were some exceptions to this where a shorter notice period may be provided. These include those cases in relation to anti-social behaviour (including rioting), false statement and where a tenant has accrued rent arrears to the value of at least 6 months' rent. From the 11th January bailiff action can be resumed, meaning that renters can be evicted where appropriate notices have been served. We have been monitoring these changes throughout and will be working with families, individuals and landlords to prevent evictions where possible. We have sought additional funding to help with this prevention work.

We would urge anyone who is experiencing difficulties to get in touch with the Housing Options Team as soon as possible.

Christmas Holiday period

The out of hours Housing Options service received a relatively high number of calls throughout. The welfare cabins, winter Nightshelter and local hotels/B&B were used as temporary accommodation to ensure no one was rough sleeping.

Meetings Attended

Cabinet Briefings and Updates Cabinet's Full Council Cabinet Sifting Teams Meetings will officers and various phone calls.

21 January 2021

COUNCILLOR PETER GIDNEY

CABINET MEMBER FOR PROJECT DELIVERY

For the period November 2020 to 09 January 2021

1 **Progress on Portfolio Matters.**

Hunstanton

Bus Station / Library Site - Following the positive planning decision we are looking in detail at the preliminary works needed to facilitate the development. This includes detailed design of the proposed shelters (in consultation with the Town Council) and designs for the temporary library (in consultation with NCC). Now planning has been obtained negotiations with NCC are progressing regarding the transfer of the existing library for the new library. Contract Terms are scheduled for agreement next month.

Southend Road - Southend Road - A revised application is to be presented within the next few months following the refusal by planning committee in December. There are solutions that should overcome the concerns raised at the planning committee.

Community Centre. - The borough council used to lease the Hunstanton Community Centre, and grounds, to Hunstanton Town Council for £1 per annum. The town council wishes to invest in the Community Centre building; however, they requested that the freehold is transferred to them to allow them to undertake the works. The borough council has therefore transferred Hunstanton Community Centre to Hunstanton town council for the sum of £1 with a restrictive covenant ensuring that the site can only be used for community centre purposes, and allowing the borough council to use the site in civil emergencies and for elections when required.

This facilitates the improvement works to the community centre and reduce the borough council's ongoing grounds maintenance costs.

Burnham Market

An application for 9 new homes has been submitted at Sutton Estate -Burnham Market. These new 2 & 3 bed units, designed in consultation with the parish council, aim to provide a strong capital receipt for the council whilst offering a cost-effective alternative to other accommodation within the village. Custom and Self Build Sites

Some progress has been made on the Custom and Self Build Sites at Stoke Ferry and Sedgeford. Further details will be presented in my next report.

Kings Lynn

Sommerfeld and Thomas, South Quay.

Sommerfeld and Thomas - We have appointed a conservation architect to support us in de-risking the Sommerfeld and Thomas building. They will identify and specify repairs that need to be carried out to protect stabilize the condition of the building for future regeneration schemes undertaken by either the Council or a private organisation if sold.

This work is funded by Business Rates Pool (match funded by BCKLWN) and the Coastal Revival Fund. We are also awaiting tender submissions for a consultant that will support the council by undertaking investigations and surveys on the adjacent Grain Silo site. This again aims to de-risk the site for future redevelopment.

Chapel Street HAZ (Housing Action Zone).

A meeting was held on the 18th December between some Stakeholder Groups, Historic England, borough council officers and members. There was a presentation by the architects and a discussion followed. Several pertinent points were made by stakeholders and members.

The scheme is to be worked up for presentation and evaluation by the borough council, hopefully in the near future depending on permitted national working restrictions.

A Press Release beginning of January

Work has commenced on the latest scheme in a Major Housing Project with partners Lovell and Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk, which will bring 105 new homes to King's Lynn.

The scheme, named Nora 4 at the Nar Ouse Regeneration Area, is situated off Morston Drift in the South Lynn part of King's Lynn on a former factory brownfield site, which has now seen extensive remediations works carried out by the Borough Council.

Nora 4 will consist of a selection of 105 brand-new homes, including 37 available for open market sale, 52 for private rental, 11 for affordable rent and five for shared ownership. The first homes are expected to be completed in February 2022 and the construction work as a whole in May 2023.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Continuing evaluation of projects, viability and benefits. Scheduling of viable projects.

3 Meetings Attended

Meetings Attended

December

- 10 Cabinet x 2
- 14 Cabinet Sifting
- 16 Marriott's Warehouse Cabinet Briefing
- 17 Portfolio meeting HAZ Chapel Street
- 18 Guest EN Portfolio meeting Chapel Street HAZ Stakeholders meeting

January

05 Cabinet Meetings

(Please note there are ongoing communications with officers in addition to the above at all times)

21 January 2021

COUNCILLOR MRS EA NOCKOLDS CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE & HEALTH

For the period from December 3rd 2020 to January 15th 2021

1 **Progress on Portfolio Matters.**

The Borough Council has continued working very closely with the QE Hospital. Our District Discharge team knowing the pressure that the hospital is under, are ensuring that they offer as much support as possible. As such they offered an on call emergency District Direct service over the Christmas and new year period. A number of calls were received during this time and assistance was given with getting patients home. The Council's Handyperson Service is also supporting the QE by delivering equipment to patient's homes as well as fitting grab rails etc in order to continue allowing people to be discharged from hospital.

A new 'Fall Prevention Initiative' plan has been organised with the CCG, QEH and ourselves. The initiative will allow us to work in partnership and offer low level preventative measures for those Orthopaedic cases who are awaiting hip/knee surgery and have been delayed due to Covid19 pressures. At the moment letters will be sent out to the over 70's to introduce the initiative which will be followed up with a phone call within 5-7 days of receiving the letter with the offer of the Handypersons service. Data of this initiative will be communicated to all partners. If successful the plan is to roll out the initiative to over 60's.

The staff working with AskLILY was also on call over the Christmas period, help and advice was passed on to our residents who made contact. Some Council staff have been redeployed to help in supporting clients who are struggling with shielding and being confined to their homes. LILY has had some good engagement with social media. For example on the LILY facebook page a LILY Home Working group has been formed to provide a place for people to talk to others who are working from home, also a LILY Social Facebook Group is a safe place to chat online to other lonely people. Another example is a monthly Lockdown Activities Calendar.

The West Norfolk Early Help Hub meets regularly. The aim is to bring forward residents complex situations which have been referred by professionals, who have gained individuals/families consent beforehand, and try to solve the issues and or offer support. Common referrers include schools, housing associations, social services, police and mental health services. Cases of common concern at the moment include, exacerbation in neighbourhood

nuisance/disputes, parents ability to cope with children's education and behaviour and families going through financial hardship/struggling with debt.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Throughout the pandemic the Lynn Museum staff have developed a broad range of digital resources to support audiences of all ages. During the time the Museum was open to the public all visitors were pre-booked using the Art Tickets web-site. If there was capacity within the Museum 'walk-in' nonbooked visits were facilitated. During the opening times visitors came from as far a field as Devon, Cornwall, Newcastle and Liverpool area as well as Essex, Derbyshire and Oxfordshire.

The Museum's partnership with Google Cultural Institute currently includes all exhibitions which allows people to visit the Lynn Museum from home, its similar to 'Street View'. For each month of the last 3 months over 700 viewers have viewed the Google site. The Museums YouTube channel now hosts 23 separate films, some of which have been created by staff. As well as focussing on digital delivery museum staff have maintained positive links with the local press with fortnightly, 'PictureThis' column with a focus on local drawings, engraving and paintings with an explanation.

The Tourism Department are continuing contacting Tourism businesses who have not advertised or communicated with us before. Recently 8 new accommodation providers agreed to advertise with our visitwestnorfolk website and phone app. The web-site is being changed into a modern version of our main web-site and will be more accessible for those visitors with impaired vision, hoping to launch in March. Recently the dept. have had some interest in our town's Maritime History, the most recent is the People Friend magazine. Background details of the Hanseactic connections and photographs of the Maritime Trail was sent to a journalist/writer. A slimmer version of the 'Where to Stay in west Norfolk' booklet is almost completed ready for print.

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

Virtual meetings via Microsoft Teams and Zoom. Portfolio meetings with; Lorraine Gore Chief Executive Duncan Hall Assistant Director and HAZ Programme Manager Martin Chisholm Assistant Director and all Grounds Maintenance Managers John Greenhalgh Assistant Director and District Discharge & LILY staff Cabinet Visit Norfolk Board HAZ Developing Cultural Programme meeting HAZ Stakeholders meeting Alive West Norfolk Board meeting Collusion Art group New Anglia LEP Tourism Sector workshop Kings Lynn Internal Drainage Board Trues Yard AGM

21 January 2021

COUNCILLOR BRIAN LONG – LEADER & CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES.

For the period 3rd December 2020 to 11th January 2021.

1 **Progress on Portfolio Matters.**

Covid-19

From my last report to now the levels of Covid19 has increased across west Norfolk as it has across the Country. Cases per 100,000 are now around 450, the highest it has been. As Leader I attend the Norfolk Engagement Board and have direct access to NHS and CCG and Public Health within this forum. It is certain to say that the numbers and information coming from these bodies does not look good in the short term. However at the time of writing more and more of our most vulnerable are receiving the vaccine at venues in West Norfolk. I have pushed those charged with the vaccination process to increase the capacity for vaccination sites, especially where gaps appear within the network. Hopefully present the lockdown we are presently in will see numbers start to decline and hopefully we can come out of lockdown in a lower tier than we went in.

Because of the increasing cases the Borough Council has moved more staff to home working to decrease numbers within Kings Court, as a precautionary measure and to help keep our staff safe. Again within my report I wish to thank everyone within the organisation for their efforts during the pandemic.

Internal Drainage Board Special Levy.

As you will see from my meetings attended I along with the S151 officer have had meetings with each of the Drainage Board Groups, (Middle Level Commissioners, Ely Group and the Water Management Alliance). Each of these bodies Levy the borough council, via individual their constituent Drainage Boards. It is important to understand likely increases they are proposing so that we can formulate our budget. Most Boards are only considering inflationary increases, which is welcome and justifies each of the meetings.

8 Car Trains from Kings Lynn

As mentioned in my meetings attended below I was fortunate enough to attend the launch of the 8 car services from Kings Lynn. This along with a half hourly frequency is one of the improvements I have striven for since my first election. Longer trains and the extra capacity that gives makes journeys more pleasant and encourages people to use the trains as an alternative. It also

helps with overcrowding which we have seen prior to the Pandemic. Often by the time services arrived at Ely trains were packed, so additional capacity was essential. However longer trains is only part of what is needed and I will still push from Half Hourly services and improvements to Ely North Junction as a bottleneck in all of East Anglian rail capacity.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Budget Monitoring

At the time of writing this report I am expecting a Monitoring Report updating us on our finances following acceptance of our revised Budget (September). This Monitoring report has not been received in time to include within this report but following a request from Cllr Morley I will with the Mayor's permission update Council verbally.

Councillor Code of Conduct

The Local Government Association has produced a new model code of conduct which is presently being assessed by Norfolk County Council. Norfolk Council Leaders have been asked to bring forward this model for consideration to each district and parish. I will therefore ask officers to facilitate this via our processes, ultimately a decision for full council it will give consistency across all local councils on what behaviour is expected from those elected.

Business Rates Pooling

As members will be aware we pool growth on Business Rates in Norfolk and facilitate retention to invest in projects in within the County. Over the past years since pooling has commenced West Norfolk has in fact been at the forefront in business rates growth and has often been the largest contributor. Because of the likelihood of us not achieving growth across Norfolk in 2021, I along with other Leaders have agreed not to pool rates in 21/22. This is important not least that any district that is in deficit would be subsidised from the pool.

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

In addition to the usual round of Portfolio and Cabinet Meetings I have also attended the following (via Teams / Zoom). Kings Lynn Town Board Norfolk Public Sector Leaders Board Planning Committee Various Meetings with Freebridge Community Housing Norfolk Covid 19 engagement board Water Management Alliance Board Launch Event for 8 Car Trains from King's Lynn (real meeting) Meetings with Internal Drainage Board – Ref Levy Payments for 2021. Ministerial Webinars ref Covid 19. Anglian Regional Flood and Coastal Committee Audit Committee District Council Network – Briefing Discussions with Breckland District Council Corporate Performance Panel Meetings with Independent and Labour Group Leaders

To Be attended at time of writing: Alive West Norfolk Board Kings Lynn Internal Drainage Board Norfolk Public Sector Leaders Board Joint Safety and Welfare Committee Extraordinary Council Meeting Long Service Awards Agenda Item 10i

RECOMMENDATION TO 21 JANUARY 2021 COUNCIL FROM 5 JANUARY 2021 CABINET

CAB217 COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT: FINAL SCHEME FOR WORKING AGE PEOPLE FOR 2021/2022

Cabinet was reminded that the council must review and agree its 2021/2022 Council Tax Support (CTS) scheme for working age people by March 2021. It was necessary to first consult with the major preceptors then publish a draft CTS scheme for public consultation. The draft CTS Scheme was agreed by delegated decision and the public consultation, using a number of difference mediums, ran from 17 September 2020 to 2 November 2020. It was noted that there were few responses to the consultation. The final CTS Scheme must then be agreed by full Council.

The report detailed the results of the consultation and the recommended final CTS scheme for working age people for 2021/2022.

Under standing order 34, Councillor Rust drew attention to her comments made at the Corporate Performance Panel regarding the hope that the council would disregard a greater amount of income for applicants.

The Chair reminded Members that there was only a limited amount of money in the pot and the number of additional claimants was putting additional strain on budgets. He reminded members about the discretionary scheme for urgent cases.

Under standing order 34 Councillor Morely commented that it was disappointing that only 6 responses had been received on the consultation process. He asked if it was worth checking for more user friendly interfaces to encourage participation. The Chair explained that officers over the years had tried a number of different avenues for consultation but would continue to do so.

Under standing order 34 Councillor Moriarty commented that he was sure officers would continue to try to increase the responses.

Under standing order 34, Councillor Joyce commented that he felt it was unfair for local authorities to have to determine the levels of support. He considered it should be set by the Government and funded by it.

Cabinet confirmed that they would welcome more responses to the consultation and encouraged local members to encourage constituents to respond.

RECOMMENDED: That the draft CTS scheme for 2021/2022 which went to public consultation be adopted as the final CTS scheme for 2021/2022.

Reason for Decision

To ensure a CTS scheme for working age people for 2021/2022 is agreed by Council by 11 March 2021.