

# **GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **CABINET MEETING**

**Tuesday, 16 November 2021**

**PRESENT:** Councillor M Gannon

Councillors: C Donovan, J Adams, M Brain, L Green,  
G Haley, J McElroy, M McNestry and B Oliphant

Also in attendance: Councillor R Beadle

### **C84 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence has been received from Councillor A Douglas.

### **C85 MINUTES**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 19 October 2021 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **C86 GATESHEAD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2021**

Consideration has been given to recommending the Council to approve the new Economic Development Strategy for Gateshead 'Good jobs, growing businesses and great places' as part of its policy framework.

RESOLVED - That the Economic Development Strategy for Gateshead 'Good jobs, growing businesses and great places' be endorsed and the Council be recommended to adopt it as part of its policy framework.

The above decision has been made for the following reasons:

- (A) To ensure the Council is well placed to respond to the economic opportunities and challenges facing the borough.
- (B) To take action to create a fairer, greener, more resilient economy for Gateshead that enables everyone to thrive.

### **C87 REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION**

Consideration has been given to recommending the Council to approve a number of amendments to the Constitution.

RESOLVED - That the Council be recommended to approve the proposed changes to the Constitution as set out in appendix 2 to the report.

The above decision has been made to ensure that the Constitution remains fit for purpose and that its aims and principles are given effect.

## C88 **COMPLAINTS POLICY UPDATE**

Consideration has been given to recommending the Council to approve changes to the Complaints Policy.

RESOLVED - That the Council be recommended to approve changes to the Complaints Policy as set out in the report and appendix 2 to the report.

The above decision has been made for the following reasons:

- (A) To ensure a consistent service is provided to all residents.
- (B) To ensure that the Council is compliant with the requirements of the Housing Ombudsman's Complaint Handling Code.

## C89 **CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2021/22 - SECOND QUARTER REVIEW**

Consideration has been given to the latest position on the 2021/22 Capital Programme and Prudential Indicators at the end of the second quarter to 30 September 2021.

RESOLVED -

- (i) That the Council be recommended to approve the revision to the 2021/22 Capital Programme as detailed in the report and appendix 2 as the revised programme.
- (ii) That the Council be recommended to agree the financing of the revised Capital Programme.
- (iii) That it be confirmed to Council the capital expenditure and capital financing requirement indicators have been revised in line with the revised budget and that none of the approved Prudential Indicators set for 2021/22 have been breached.

The above decisions have been made for the following reasons:

- (A) To ensure the optimum use of the Council's capital resources in 2021/22.
- (B) To accommodate changes to the Council's in-year capital expenditure plans.
- (C) To ensure performance has been assessed against approved Prudential Limits.

C90

### **CAPITAL STRATEGY 2022/23 TO 2026/27**

Consideration has been given to recommending the Council to approve the Capital Strategy for 2022/23 to 2026/27 to support the framework used to set and monitor the Capital Programme.

RESOLVED - That the Council be recommended to approve the Capital Strategy for 2022/23 to 2026/27 as set out in appendix 2 to the report.

The above decision has been made to ensure that the Council fully complies with the requirements of good financial practice in capital accounting.

C91

### **REVENUE BUDGET 2021/22 - SECOND QUARTER REVIEW**

Consideration has been given to the latest monitoring position on the 2021/22 revenue budget at the end of the second quarter to 30 September 2021, including impacts of the global pandemic.

RESOLVED - (i) That the Council's revenue expenditure position at the end of the second quarter to 30 September 2021, as set out in appendices 1 and 2 to the report be noted.

(ii) That the budget virements as set out in the report be approved.

The above decisions have been made to contribute to sound financial management and the long-term financial sustainability of the Council.

C92

### **BUDGET APPROACH 2022/23 TO 2024/25**

Item deferred.

C93

### **CLIMATE EMERGENCY STRATEGY, ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT REVIEW AND CLIMATE UPDATE**

Consideration has been given to draft Climate Emergency Strategy and the commencement of consultation on it with partners, stakeholders and residents; the outcomes of the first annual review of the independent environmental audit of the Council's activities and to the ongoing activities that are progressing towards the Council's climate and environmental sustainability targets.

RESOLVED - (i) That the commencement of consultation with partners and the public on the draft Climate Emergency Strategy be approved.

(ii) That the publication of the Environmental Audit review be approved.

The above decisions have been made for the following reasons:

- (A) To progress towards the Council's net zero carbon commitment for Gateshead.
- (B) In respect of the Audit to show progress towards the Council's net zero carbon commitment.

C94

### **COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER OF SPRINGWELL COMMUNITY GARDEN, BLACKHILL CRESCENT, SPRINGWELL**

Consideration has been given to the grant of a 35-year lease of land to the rear of Blackhill Crescent, Springwell, previously declared surplus to requirements by Cabinet (Minute C82 2016/17), to Springwell Community Hub, pursuant to the Council's Community Asset Transfer policy.

RESOLVED - That the Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance be authorised to grant a 35 year lease of land to the rear of Blackhill Crescent, Springwell, as shown edged black on the plan attached to the report, to Springwell Community Hub, at nil rent, pursuant to the Council's Community Asset Transfer policy.

The above decision has been made to manage resources and rationalise the Council's assets in line with the Corporate Asset Strategy and Management Plan.

C95

### **SURPLUS DECLARATIONS**

Consideration has been given to declaring a number of properties surplus to the Council's requirements and future proposals for the properties.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That in respect of Crawcrook Park Pavilion and Bowling Green, Main Street, Crawcrook:
    - a) The property be declared surplus to the Council's requirements; and
    - b) The Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance be authorised to grant a 35-year lease of the property as edged black in the plan attached to the report, at a nil rent, pursuant to the Council's Community Asset Transfer policy, to Our Villages Crawcrook and Greenside Community Interest Organisation.
  - (ii) That in respect of Ravensworth Bowling Green and Pavilion, Cowen Gardens, Lamesley:
    - a) The property be declared surplus to the Council's requirements; and
    - b) The Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance be authorised to grant a 35-year lease of the property as edged black in the plan attached to the report, at a nil rent, pursuant to the Council's Community Asset

Transfer policy, to Ravensworth Community Bowling Club Community Interest Organisation.

- (iii) That in respect of the Thornley Woods Centre, Lockhaugh Road, Rowlands Gill:
- a) The property be declared surplus to the Council's requirements; and
  - b) The Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance be authorised to grant a 35-year lease of the property as edged black in the plan attached to the report, at a nil rent, pursuant to the Council's Community Asset Transfer policy, to Thornley Woodland Café Community Interest Company.

The above decisions have been made to manage resources and rationalise the Council's assets in line with the Corporate Asset Strategy and Management Plan.

C96

### **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED - That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the remaining item in accordance with paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

C97

### **GATESHEAD COUNCIL TRADING COMPANIES ANNUAL UPDATE**

Consideration has been given to the annual update on the current trading activity undertaken through subsidiaries wholly owned by the Council for the period 2020/21 including the impact of Covid-19.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the report outlining company activity to date, including the contribution to Council Thrive priorities, as set out in appendix 1 and financial performance as set out in appendices 2-4 to the report be noted.
  - (ii) That a further annual report be submitted to Cabinet in due course covering the 2021-22 performance of the Council's wholly owned trading companies.

The above decisions have been made for the following reasons:

- (A) To contribute to the sound governance, operational and financial management of the Council's wholly owned subsidiary companies.
- (B) To support achievement of Thrive priorities through the Council's trading companies.
- (C) To assist effective financial and performance oversight and awareness of all Council activity, regardless of delivery model.

Copies of all reports and appendices referred to in these minutes are available online and in the minute file. Please note access restrictions apply for exempt business as defined by the Access to Information Act.

The decisions referred to in these minutes will come into force and be implemented after the expiry of 3 working days after the publication date of the minutes identified below unless the matters are 'called in'.

Publication date: 17 May 2021

**Chair.....**