

# GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

## CABINET MEETING

Tuesday, 23 February 2021

**PRESENT:** Councillor M Gannon

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

Also in attendance: Councillors R Beadle, S Gallagher, K  
McClurey and JC Wallace

### C87 **MINUTES**

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

### C88 **ENERGY TARIFFS FOR GATESHEAD HEIGHTS PROJECT**

Consideration has been given to energy tariffs for High Rise Energy Infrastructure for Gateshead Housing Tenants (HEIGHTs) project residents for 2020/21.

The alternative options considered, but which were discounted, included setting higher or lower tariffs.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the following heat tariffs for residents as indicated be approved and applied for the period 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022:
    - 3.638p/kWh for Regent Court residents (a decrease of 12%)
    - 7.833p/kWh for Harlow Green residents (an increase of 3%)
  - (ii) That the following electricity tariffs for residents at Barford and Stretford Courts be approved and applied for the period 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022:
    - Standing charge: 18.51p/day (no change)
    - Unit rate: 13.31p/kWh (no change)
  - (iii) That the communication of the revised tariffs to HEIGHTs residents be approved.

The above decisions have been made for the following reasons:

- (A) To comply with heat and electricity supply agreements in place with customers.
- (B) To ensure the HEIGHTs scheme recovers its operating and construction costs over its lifetime.

- (C) To ensure HEIGHTs customers continue to pay fair and market reflective prices for their heating and electricity.

C89

## **CONTRACT FOR SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC DESIGN AND INSTALLATION SERVICES**

Consideration has been given to tenders received for the contract for Solar Photovoltaic Design and Installation Services.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the tender received from Solar Advanced Systems Ltd be accepted for the contract for Solar Photovoltaic Design and Installation Services, subject to no challenge being received during the statutory standstill period.
  - (ii) That the Strategic Director, Economy, Innovation and Growth be authorised to agree and approve the final contract sum within the budget allocation of £4.3m, and the scope and terms of the contract with Solar Advanced Systems Ltd, following consultation with the Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance and the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital.

The above decisions have been made because following a comprehensive evaluation of the tenders received, the tender from Solar Advanced Systems Ltd passed all the required evaluation criteria and achieved the highest combined score of the three tenders received.

C90

## **DEPARTMENT FOR WORK AND PENSIONS' RESTART PROGRAMME**

Consideration has been given to the Council appraising opportunities to deliver the Department for Work and Pensions' (DWP) 'Restart' employment programme as a subcontractor.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the Strategic Director, Economy, Innovation and Growth, following consultation with the Strategic Director, Resources & Digital and Strategic Director, Corporate Services & Governance appraises subcontracting opportunities arising from the Restart mini-competition.
  - (ii) That the Strategic Director, Economy, Innovation and Growth, following consultation with the Strategic Director, Resources & Digital and Strategic Director, Corporate Services & Governance be authorised to agree the terms of a resulting subcontract with prime provider(s) and provide an update to Cabinet on the outcome.

The above decisions have been made for the following reasons:

- (A) To pursue opportunities to deliver the DWP Restart programme as part of the Council's employment response to COVID 19.

- (B) To pursue opportunities to directly influence the local delivery of the national Restart programme to help make Gateshead a place where everyone thrives.
- (C) To ensure that the Council is able to meet the requirements of the procurement timetable set by the DWP.

C91

## **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) AND HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

Consideration has been given to the proposed Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget for 2021/22, the proposed Housing Capital Programme for 2021/22 and the indicative programme for the period 2022/23 – 2025/26.

RESOLVED -

That the Council be recommended to approve:

- (i) The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for 2021/22 as set out in appendix 2 to the report.
- (ii) The Housing Capital Programme for the five years 2021/22 to 2025/26 as set out in appendix 3 to the report.

The above decisions have been made for the following reasons:

- (A) To set a Housing Revenue Account for 2021/22 that is not in debit as required under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (Part VI).
- (B) To realise the Council's policies and objectives in relation to the Housing Strategy in order to maintain and enhance Council Housing provision in Gateshead.
- (C) To assist in the delivery of the Council's vision for Gateshead as set out in Making Gateshead a Place where Everyone Thrives.

C92

## **CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2021/22 TO 2025/26**

Consideration has been given to the proposed Capital Programme for the next five years to continue to provide significant levels of strategic investment to help maintain and deliver financial sustainability and support the Council's strategic approach to Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives.

RESOLVED -

That the Council be recommended to approve the following:

- (i) The Capital Programme for 2021/22 and the provisional programmes for 2022/23 to 2025/26, as set out in appendix 2 to the report, subject to external funding approvals being received.
- (ii) The provisional capital financing for the programme, as set out in appendix 3 to the report, and to delegate authority to the

Strategic Director, Resources and Digital to enter prudential borrowing which is consistent with the requirement of the Capital Programme and the Council's Treasury Management Strategy.

The above decisions have been made for the following reasons:

- (A) To continue to provide significant strategic investment to deliver the Council's priority outcomes.
- (B) To assist with the medium- and longer-term financial sustainability of the Council.
- (C) To maximise resources available within the Council's capital programme to assist in the delivery of the five key priority areas which underpin the thrive agenda.
- (D) To assist the Council's response and recovery following the global pandemic.

C93

### **FEES AND CHARGES 2021/22**

Consideration has been given to fees and charges for 2021/22.

RESOLVED -

That the Council be recommended to approve the following:

- (i) The fees and charges for 2021/22 as set out in appendix 2 to the report.
- (ii) Authorisation for the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital to make any necessary adjustments to correct any errors in the schedule of Fees and Charges.

The above decisions have been made for the following reasons:

- (A) To ensure that Fees and Charges are set in accordance with Council priorities.
- (B) To support the delivery of the Council's budget and the strategic approach to making Gateshead a place where everyone thrives.

C94

### **BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX LEVEL 2021/22**

Consideration has been given to recommending to Council the proposed Budget and Council Tax Level for 2021/22 and the prudential indicators and Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement as set out in the report.

RESOLVED - That the following recommendations be made to the Council:

- (1) That Gateshead's Band D council tax for 2021/22 is increased by 4.99% (including a 3% adult social care Government Charge) to

£1,914.92.

- (2) The revenue estimates of £238.758 million for 2021/22 are approved.
- (3) The extension of a council tax hardship scheme into 2021/22 using £2.779 million of support grant as set out in the report.
- (4) The budgeted use of £29.106 million Earmarked Reserves in 2021/22 be approved (includes £26.564 million ringfenced covid support to retained business rates).
- (5) That the indicative schools funding presented in appendix 2 be agreed.
- (6) To note the conclusions of the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital in respect of the robustness of estimates and adequacy of reserves.
- (7) That the Prudential and Treasury Indicators set out in appendix 6 to this report be agreed.
- (8) That the method of calculating the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) for 2021/22 as set out in appendix 7 be approved.
- (9) That the initial proposed areas of priority investment and savings included in the budget in appendix 2 be agreed with further specific consultation and reporting to Cabinet to take place throughout the year as required.
- (10) That the outcome of initial budget consultation outlined in appendix 3 be noted.
- (11) That it be noted that at its meeting on 19 January 2021, Cabinet calculated the following amounts for the year 2021/22 in accordance with regulations made under Section 31B(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended by the Localism Act 2011:-
  - (a) **52,483.9** being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, as its Council Tax base for the year;
  - (b) **1,198.4** for Lamesley Parish being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 6 of the Regulations, as the amount of its Council Tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which special items relate.
- (12) That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2021/2 in accordance with Sections 31A,31B and 34 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by the Localism Act 2011 ('the Act'): -
  - (a) **£604,606,039** being the aggregate total of the expenditure amounts, which the Council estimates for the items, set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account the precept issued by Lamesley Parish Council
  - (b) **(£504,901,243)** being the aggregate total of the income amounts,

which the Council estimate for the items, set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act

- (c) **£100,514,796** being the amount by which the aggregate at (a) above exceeds the aggregate at (b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year including Lamesley Parish Council
- (d) **£1,915.1549** being the amount at (c) above, all divided by the amount at (11)(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year including Lamesley Parish Council
- (e) **£12,105.00** being the aggregate amount of all special items (Lamesley Parish Council) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act
- (f) **£1,914.9243** being the amount at (d) less the result given by dividing the amount at (e) above by the amount at (11)(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item (Lamesley Parish Council) relates
- (g) Part of the Council's area: Lamesley Parish  
**£1,925.0253** being the amounts given by adding to the amount at (f) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at (11)(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items (Lamesley Parish Council) relate.
- (h)

Valuation Band	Lamesley Parish £	All other parts of the Council's area £
A	6.73	1,276.62
B	7.86	1,489.38
C	8.98	1,702.15
D	10.10	1,914.92
E	12.34	2,340.46
F	14.59	2,766.00
G	16.83	3,191.54
H	20.20	3,829.84

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at (f) and (g) above

by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

- (13) That it be noted that for the year 2021/22, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria, and Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below: -

Valuation Band	Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria £	Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority £
A	95.89	57.09
B	111.88	66.61
C	127.86	76.12
D	143.84	85.64
E	175.80	104.67
F	207.77	123.70
G	239.73	142.73
H	287.68	171.28

- (14) That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (12)(h) and (13) above, the Council in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2021/22 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below: -

Valuation Band	Lamesley Parish £	All other parts of the Council's area £
A	1,436.33	1,429.60
B	1,675.73	1,667.87
C	1,915.11	1,906.13
D	2,154.50	2,144.40
E	2,633.27	2,620.93
F	3,112.06	3,097.47
G	3,590.83	3,574.00
H	4,309.00	4,288.80

- (15) That under section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011), the Council's relevant basic amount of

council tax for 2021/22 is not excessive in accordance with the principles determined under section 52ZC of the Act.

The above decisions have been made to fulfil the Council's statutory duty to set the Budget and Council Tax for 2021/22.

C95

## **GOVERNANCE OF HOUSING SERVICES**

Consideration has been given to the proposed arrangements for the governance of the Council's housing functions and responsibilities from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021.

The alternative option to those being recommended, but which was discounted, was to limit involvement in decision making to the Cabinet exclusively through the current executive and overview and scrutiny model.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the Council be recommended to approve the establishment of a new formal advisory committee, to be called the Strategic Housing Board, which will advise the Council or Cabinet on any matter relating to the discharge of their respective housing functions.
  - (ii) That the Council be recommended to approve a membership of the Strategic Housing Board comprising of 15 elected members, plus the respective Chairs of the Health and Wellbeing Board and Community Safety Partnership, 3 tenant representatives and 3 partner representatives.
  - (iii) That the Council be recommended to approve a change in the title of the Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee to the Housing, Environment and Healthy Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
  - (iv) That the Council be recommended to approve a change in the scope of responsibility of the Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee particularly to enable the inclusion of tenant observers and their scrutiny of services and buildings compliance.
  - (v) That the establishment of a new informal Housing Providers Partnership, and a new Private Landlords Forum, to enable the effective engagement and involvement of key stakeholders and partners be approved.

The above decisions have been made for the following reasons:

- (A) To ensure the effective governance and democratic accountability of key strategic and operational housing functions, services and priorities for the Council.
- (B) To ensure compliance with the Regulator of Social Housing's requirements for tenant involvement and engagement.
- (C) To enable the engagement of key stakeholders and partners in



wider housing strategy and policy discussion.

C96

## **GATESHEAD CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT**

Consideration has been given to an update of activity in response to the Climate Emergency Declaration made by Council on 23 May 2019.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the findings of the independent environmental audit of the Council's activities, including the Council being awarded the silver level accreditation using the Investors in the Environment assessment framework be noted.
  - (ii) That the Council be recommended to approve the Environmental Policy as set out in appendix 5 to the report.
  - (iii) That the publication of the Audit report and a Council Action Plan setting out the actions necessary for the Council to meet zero carbon be approved.
  - (iv) That the development of a programme of community and business engagement that may be implemented when conditions allow be approved.

The above decisions have been made for the following reasons:

- (A) To recognise the significant progress made by the Council in minimising its carbon emissions and environmental impact, and the opportunities for further improvement.
- (B) To establish an up-to-date and comprehensive environmental policy that reflects the Council's ecological and climate change ambitions, and guides the actions taken in response to the Climate Emergency.
- (C) To provide transparency to the public on the Council's actions being taken to meet zero carbon.
- (D) To support engagement with our partners and the wider community that will ensure a Gateshead-wide approach is taken.

C97

## **APPRENTICESHIP LEVY**

Consideration has been given to establishing a Gateshead Apprenticeship levy fund and transferring money from the Council's apprenticeship levy fund to local employers to support them to increase the uptake of apprenticeships and to an amendment to the Council's Constitution to grant the Strategic Director Resources and Digital delegated authority to award funds from the Council's apprenticeship levy pot to individual businesses in Gateshead.

The alternative option to that being recommended, but which was discounted, was for all requests to transfer the levy to other organisations to be approved by Cabinet.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the proposal to make available on an annual basis up to 25% (approximately £165k) from Gateshead Council's levy pot for the development of a Gateshead apprenticeship levy fund so that money from this fund can be transferred to local businesses be approved.
  - (ii) That the Council be recommended to approve the proposed delegation to the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital to enable funds to be awarded from the Council's apprenticeship levy pot to individual local businesses and to agree an amendment to Part 3, Schedule 5, of the Council's Constitution (Delegations to the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital) accordingly.

The above decisions have been made to ensure that money can be transferred to other businesses in the borough to support them with the cost of apprenticeship training and assessment and increase the number of local people in sustainable employment.

C98

## **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) ASSET MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

Consideration has been given to progress in developing a new Housing Revenue Account (HRA) asset management strategy.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That progress in developing a new Housing Revenue Account (HRA) asset management strategy and the timeline for its final drafting and subsequent consideration for approval later in the year be noted.
  - (ii) That a programme of consultation and awareness raising activities with members, tenants and leaseholders as to the emerging strategy and the resultant potential future investment priorities for the Council's housing stock be approved.
  - (iii) That the commencement of a detailed appraisal of options for the future investment and management of identified currently uneconomic and low demand homes be approved.

The above decisions have been made for the following reasons:

- (A) To set a Housing Revenue Account that is not in debit as required under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (Part VI) and is able to meet its short- and long-term investment requirements.
- (B) To realise the Council's policies and objectives in relation to the Housing Strategy in order to maintain and enhance Council Housing provision in Gateshead.
- (C) To assist in the delivery of the Council's vision for Gateshead as set out in Making Gateshead a Place where Everyone

Thrives.

C99 **GATESHEAD LOCAL PLAN - PLANNING OBLIGATIONS SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT (SPD) - SECOND REVIEW**

Consideration has been given to the Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document, second review, for adoption and which follows the adoption of Making Spaces for Growing Places Local Plan document by full Council on 21 January 2021.

RESOLVED - That the Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document Second Review as set out in appendix 2 to the report be approved for adoption.

The above decision has been made to effectively deliver the Local Plan.

C100 **PROPOSED LEASE OF THE FORMER LLOYDS BANK, 19-21 DERWENT STREET, CHOPWELL**

Consideration has been given to a lease of the property known as the former Lloyds Bank, 19-21, Derwent Street, Chopwell.

The alternative option to that being recommended, but which was discounted, was to retain the property.

RESOLVED - That the Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance be authorised to grant a 35-year lease at a nil rent pursuant to the Council's Community Asset Transfer policy to the Chopwell Generation Community Interest Organisation.

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.

C101 **PRIMARY COMMUNITY CONTROLLED SCHOOL ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS AND CO-ORDINATED ADMISSION SCHEMES FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS FOR 2022/23**

Consideration has been given to the Gateshead school admissions arrangements and the co-ordinated schemes for primary and secondary schools for 2022/23.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the Community and Voluntary Controlled Primary Admissions Policy, set out in appendix 2 to the report, be adopted for September 2022.
  - (ii) That Community Secondary School Admissions Policy, set out in appendix 2 to the report be adopted for September 2022.
  - (iii) That the approved admissions policies for September 2021 are used, as a basis for consultation, if necessary, with schools and others for formulating the relevant

admissions policies from September 2021/22 onwards.

- (iv) That the approved two co-ordinated admission schemes for secondary, infant junior and primary schools, set out in appendix 3 to the report, be adopted for September 2022.
- (v) That it be noted that the planned admission numbers, set out in appendix 3 to the report, for all community primary schools will need to be adopted by the governing bodies of each school.

The above decisions have been made to enable the Council to comply with statutory legislation as it relates to school admission policies, admission arrangements and co-ordinated admission arrangements.

## C102 **NOMINATION OF LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNORS**

Consideration has been given to the nomination of a local authority school governor.

RESOLVED - That the nominations as set out below be approved for a period of four years from the date indicated in accordance with the Schools' Instrument of Government:

<b>School</b>	<b>Nomination</b>	<b>Date from</b>
Parkhead Community Primary	Cllr J Simpson	16 April 2021
The Dryden Hill Top Federation	Cllr D Bradford	19 June 2021
St Joseph's Federation	Mrs J Carruthers	9 March 2021
Bede Community Primary	Mrs S Hingley	16 March 2021

The above decision has been made to ensure School Governing Bodies have full membership.

## C103 **SCHOOLS FORUM CONSTITUTION**

Consideration has been given to a new constitution for the Schools Forum under the Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012.

RESOLVED - That the new constitution for the Schools Forum from 1 March 2021 as set out in the report be approved.

The above decision has been made for the following reasons:

- (A) To ensure that the Council complies with its statutory requirement to constitute the Schools Forum.
- (B) To ensure that Schools Forum has a balanced representation and that all sectors and phases of schools are represented.
- (C) To enable recruitment of members into the vacant positions.

C104 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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

C105 **NHS ENGLAND CAPITAL GRANT TO FACILITATE HOSPITAL DISCHARGE**

Consideration has been given to the acceptance of NHS grant funding to enable the purchase and adaptation of a residential property to support a hospital discharge.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the acceptance of the grant from NHS England to facilitate the purchase and adaptation of the property as set out in the report be approved.
  - (ii) That the Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance be authorised to undertake any final negotiation and approval of the final terms and conditions of the grant funding agreement.

The above decisions have been made for the following reasons:

- (A) To enable the Council to provide a statutory duty of care for residents in need of support.
- (B) To support the delivery of an accessible and adaptable home.
- (C) To deliver the objectives of the Housing Strategy 2019-30, including to improve the quality, condition and management of housing so that all residents benefit from safe, healthy, energy efficient and well-managed homes and neighbourhoods, to meet identified housing need and supported housing requirements in Gateshead.

C106 **DISPOSAL OF LAND AT CHARLTON WALK, TEAMS**

Consideration has been given to the disposal of land at Charlton Walk, Teams, direct to St Chads Community Project at less than the best consideration that can reasonably be obtained, for residential development.

RESOLVED - That the sale of the subject land to St Chads Community Project, at less than best consideration that can reasonably be obtained, in accordance with the provisions of the General Disposal Consent (England) 2003, as set out in the report be approved.

The above decision has been made for the following reasons:

- (A) To facilitate a community led housing regeneration scheme.

- (B) To enable the provision of new residential dwellings at an affordable rent tenure to which the Council will have initial and subsequent nomination rights.

(Councillor J Adams declared a personal and non pecuniary interest in the above matter because he is a member of the St Chad's Management Committee and took no part in the discussion or voting there on).

C107 **DISPOSAL OF LAND AT PORTLAND STREET, PELAW**

Consideration has been given to the disposal of land at Portland Street, Pelaw to the charity, Fighting All Cancers Together (FACT) at less than best financial consideration.

RESOLVED - That the sale of the subject site to FACT, at less than the best consideration that can reasonably be obtained, in accordance with the provisions of the General Disposal Consent (England) 2003, as set out in the report be approved subject to the receipt of planning permission.

The above decision has been made for the following reasons:

- (A) To help bring a vacant site back into use.
- (B) To enable the Council to maximise its land holdings to provide support for vulnerable individuals from across the Borough.

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: 26 February 2021

**Chair.....**