

GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET MEETING

Tuesday, 22 June 2021

PRESENT: Councillor M Gannon

Councillors: C Donovan, M Brain, A Douglas, G Haley,
J McElroy and M McNestry

Also in attendance: Councillor JC Wallace

C15 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence have been received from Councillors J Adams, L Green and B Oliphant.

C16 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 25 May 2021 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

C17 **CONTRACT AWARD FOR DISTRICT ENERGY EXTENSIONS**

Consideration has been given to the award of contracts for the installation of the heat/power network assets and for energy supply and connection agreements to four Council buildings.

The alternative option to that being recommended, but which was discounted, included an open tender process for the heat/power network contract, rather than the Council's Dynamic Purchasing System process, which was followed.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the tender received from PPSL Ltd priced at £2.9m for the contract for Supply and Installation of Heat Network, Ducting for Private Wire and Fibre for East Extension of Gateshead District Energy Scheme be accepted, subject to no challenge being received during the statutory standstill period.
 - (ii) That Strategic Director, Economy, Innovation and Growth be authorised to agree and approve the final contract sum and the scope and terms of the contract with PPSL Ltd, following consultation with the Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance and the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital.
 - (iii) That the Council entering into Energy Supply and Connection Agreements with Gateshead Energy Company Ltd, for Park Road Depot, Shearlegs Road Depot, Gateshead Stadium,

Gateshead Academy of Sport with a total contract value of no greater than £1.8m (£0.9m connection cost, and £0.9m for energy supply) be approved.

- (iv) That the Strategic Director, Economy, Innovation and Growth be authorised to agree and approve the final contract values and terms with Gateshead Energy Company Ltd, following consultation with the Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance and the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital.

The above decisions have been made for the following reasons:

- (A) To support the Thrive Agenda.
- (B) To support the Council's Climate Emergency, and targets of net zero emissions by 2030.
- (C) To continue to generate savings for the Council to support Council finances.

C18

ZERO CARBON HEAT STRATEGY

Consideration has been given to recommending the Council to approve and adopt the proposed Zero Carbon Heat Strategy, which works towards reducing carbon emissions from Council homes and buildings to zero by 2030, in line with the Council's Climate Emergency declaration.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the Council be recommended to approve and adopt the Zero Carbon Heat Strategy and accept annual reports on progress within the reporting framework of the Climate Emergency Action Plan.
 - (ii) That the continued exploration and development of zero carbon heat actions and schemes, as set out in the appendices to the report be approved, which would then be brought forward for approval if proven viable.
 - (iii) That the ambitions contained within the Zero Carbon Heat Strategy be publicised directly and through partners, including Northern Gas Networks, North East LEP, and Department for Investment and Trade, in relation to the North East of England High Potential Opportunity for Heat Networks.

The above decisions have been made for the following reasons:

- (A) To support the Thrive Agenda.
- (B) To support the Council's Climate Emergency and targets to reduce Council carbon emissions to zero by 2030.
- (C) To reduce or avoid increases in energy costs and fuel poverty

for Gateshead residents.

C19 **TREASURY ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21**

Consideration has been given to recommending the Council to approve the Treasury Annual Report for 2020/21.

RESOLVED - That the Council be recommended to approve the Treasury Annual Report for 2020/21 as set out in appendices 2 to 4 to the report.

The above decision has been made to ensure that the Council fully complies with the requirements of Financial Regulations and good practice as recommended by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) in its Code of Practice on Treasury Management.

C20 **SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES AND VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE (VCSE) PARTNERS**

Consideration has been given to the award of grants to Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Partners to support older people at risk of hospitalisation, people with dementia and people with significant mental health issues, using funds received from the Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) under a section 75 Agreement.

The alternative option to that being recommended, but which was discounted, included community hub staff providing the services.

RESOLVED - That the award of the following grants be approved subject to appropriate monitoring arrangements being in place to measure performance and outcomes:

- (i) £87,500 to be spent by 31st March 2022 to create a Hospital to Home Service with £66,500 going to Age UK Gateshead who will do the 1-2-1 support work with the residents and £21,000 going to Citizens Advice Gateshead for social welfare and community care advice.
- (ii) £220,000 payable at the rate of £55,000 per annum for four years to create a dementia support service delivered by Age UK Gateshead.
- (iii) £12,500 to be spent by 31st March 2022 to support GPs to reach out to patients with significant mental health issues to encourage them to take up a health check and to be delivered by ReCoCo.

The above decisions have been made for the following reasons:

- (A) These services are complementary to the Community Hub services and there are benefits from co-location and cross

referral.

- (B) The VCSE are best placed to deliver these services.

C21

SURPLUS DECLARATION AND COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER OF THE TRAINING ROOM & BOWLING GREEN, SALTWELL PARK

Consideration has been given to declaring the training room and bowling green at Saltwell Park surplus to the Council's requirements and to the subsequent granting of a 25year lease of this property at nil rent to ReCoCo, in accordance with the Council's Community Asset Transfer policy.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the training room and bowling green at Saltwell Park be declared surplus to the Council's requirements.
 - (ii) That the Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance be authorised to grant a 25year lease of the above property at nil rent to ReCoCo in accordance with the Council's Community Asset Transfer policy.

The above decision has been made for the following reasons:

- (A) To manage resources and rationalise the Council's assets in line with the Corporate Asset Strategy and Management Plan.
- (B) To realise savings identified through rationalisation of the bowling green portfolio.

C22

NOMINATION OF A LOCAL AUTHORITY SCHOOL GOVERNOR

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

- RESOLVED -
- That Councillor M Hall be nominated as a local authority school governor for High Spen Primary School, for a period of four years, in accordance with the School's Instrument of Government, with effect from 20 November 2021.

The above decision has been made to ensure the School Governing Body has full membership.

C23

PETITIONS SCHEDULE

Consideration has been given to an update on petitions submitted to the Council and the action taken on them.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the petitions received and the action taken on them be noted.
 - (i) That it be further noted that the petition relating to the re-opening of Gateshead Leisure Centre (ref: 05/21) will remain

on the Petitions Schedule because at this time a full response to the issues raised has not been sent to the Lead Petitioner.

The above decision has been made to inform Cabinet of progress on petitions.

C24 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 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

C25 CLOSURE OF A PROMOTING INDEPENDENCE CENTRE

Consideration has been given to the closure of Shadon House Promoting Independence Centre in Autumn 2021.

RESOLVED - That the closure of Shadon House Promoting Independence Centre in Autumn 2021 be approved.

The above decision has been made for the following reasons:

- (A) To facilitate the transition into the new 60 bedded Intermediate Care Centre in Felling in late 2022, which will ensure all residents of Gateshead are provided with seamless short term Intermediate, Assessment and Nursing Care to meet their needs and to support them to continue living independently within their own homes.
- (B) To enable the delivery of the £0.3m budget saving in 2021/22.

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: 24 June 2021

Chair.....