

GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET MEETING

Tuesday, 24 May 2022

PRESENT: Councillor M Gannon

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

Also in attendance: Councillors S Green, JC Wallace and A
Wintcher

C1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor B Oliphant.

C2 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 26 April 2022 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

C3 **HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND**

Consideration has been given to proposals for the distribution of the Household Support Fund for the period 1st April 2022 to 30th September 2022.

The alternative option to that being recommended, but which was discounted, included placing more reliance on the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Sector to distribute the funds.

RESOLVED - That the proposed allocation of the funding as set out in the report be approved and including:

- support for low income families identified through free school meals and by direct referrals from professional partners
- a grant to the Jewish Community Council, recognising the Jewish community does not access free school meal provision
- support for older people identified through Council Tax Support, Housing Benefit and by direct referrals professional partners

- the creation of a Warm Space Network and Energy Road Shows
- claiming a 5% administration fee from which 2 full time equivalent (FTE) Grade D posts will be recruited to support the referral process.

The above decisions have been made for the following reasons:

- (A) Targeting the groups identified will meet our Thrive policy objectives.
- (B) Creating the Warm Space Network and supporting the Energy Roadshows will provide a legacy beyond the Household Support Fund.

C4 LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN: CAPITAL PROGRAMME YEAR END REPORT (MAY 2022)

Consideration has been given to an update on the Local Transport Plan (LTP) Capital Programme, which provides a summary of the progress that has been made in the 2021/22 financial year, as well as confirming programmes for integrated transport and maintenance schemes scheduled for 2022/23.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the proposed programme for 2022/23 as set out in Appendices D and E to the report be approved and it be noted that there may be a need to review the programme as the year progresses in line with available resources.
 - (ii) That the Service Director, Highways and Waste be authorised to award the relevant works under the terms of the Highways, Drainage and Street Lighting Maintenance Contract.
 - (iii) That the Service Director, Climate Change, Compliance, Planning and Transport be authorised to make changes to the approved programme, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, as and when the need arises.

The above decisions have been made to enable the design and implementation of transport schemes in support of the North East Transport Plan and the Council's policy objectives.

C5 APPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY GROUPS, OTHER BODIES OF THE COUNCIL, JOINT COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES

Consideration has been given to the nominations of the Labour and Liberal Democrat Groups to advisory groups, other bodies of the Council, joint committees and outside bodies.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the nominations of the Labour and Liberal Democrat Groups as set out in appendices 2 and 3 to the report be

approved subject to the following changes:

- Children’s Centres Advisory Board – Councillor L Moir in place of Councillor M Brain
 - Mountsett Crematorium Committee – Councillors Alex and Freda Geddes to fill the 2 vacancies
 - North East Health Scrutiny Joint Committee – Councillor W Dick in place of Councillor S Green
- (ii) That the Chief Executive be authorised to make any further necessary amendments to the lists of appointments that may be necessary following consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition.

The above decisions have been made for the following reasons:

- (A) To ensure that the views of the political groups are taken into account when the appointments are made.
- (B) To ensure that the most appropriate councillors are appointed to each body.

C6 ROUGH SLEEPING ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME (RSAP) FUNDING 2022-25

Consideration has been given to a decision taken under delegated powers, to submit the Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme (RSAP) funding bid, for the period 2022-2025, on the grounds of urgency, due to bid submission timescales.

RESOLVED - That the action taken by the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital and Strategic Director, Housing, Environment and Healthy Communities in submitting the Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme funding bid to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, as set out in the report, in accordance with Schedule 5, Part 2 General Delegations to Managers, Paragraph (4) (e) of the Council’s Constitution, be noted.

The above decision has been made to maximise the funding opportunities to support the delivery of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy.

C7 NOMINATION OF LOCAL AUTHORITY SCHOOL GOVERNORS

Consideration has been given to the nomination of Local Authority Governors to schools seeking to retain their Local Authority Governor in accordance with The School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations.

RESOLVED - That the nominations set out below be approved for a period of four years in accordance with the Schools’ Instrument of Government:

School	Nomination	Date from
Crookhill Community Primary School	Councillor F Geddes	06/11/22
Larkspur Community Primary School	Councillor Judith Gibson	08/11/22
Blaydon West Primary School	Councillor Lee-Ann Moir	22/06/22
Eslington Primary School	Councillor Angela Douglas	08/06/22

The above decisions have been made to ensure the School Governing Bodies have full membership.

C8 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 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

C9 ADDRESSING LOW PAY WITHIN THE WORKFORCE

Consideration has been given to an approach that would enable the Council to make a planned move towards addressing the issue of 'low pay' within its workforce.

The alternative options to that being recommended, but which were discounted are as set out in the report.

RESOLVED - That the Council be recommended to approve the implementation of Option 3 - Revise the current grading structure and alter the grade boundaries for grades A to E as set out in Appendix 4 to the report.

The above decision has been made to ensure the Council takes action to address low pay within its workforce and also makes a planned moved to stay ahead of potential increases in the National Living Wage.

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 May 2022

Chair.....