

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

Cabinet

Meeting held 23 May 2018

PRESENT: Councillors Olivia Blake (Chair), Lewis Dagnall, Jayne Dunn, Mary Lea and Jim Steinke

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from the Chair, Councillor Julie Dore and Councillors Jackie Drayton, Mazher Iqbal, Chris Peace and Jack Scott.

2. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

2.1 The Chair (Councillor Olivia Blake) reported that Appendix A to Item 12 'Contract to Provide Agency Services to Yorkshire Water (May 2018-March 2021)' was not available to the public and press because it contains exempt information described in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person. Accordingly, if the contents of the Appendix were to be discussed at the meeting, the public and press would be excluded from the meeting at that point in the proceedings.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the previous meeting of the Cabinet, held on 18 April 2018, were approved as a correct record.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

5.1 Public Question in respect of Review of Council Meetings

5.1.1 Nigel Slack referred to a report considered at the Cabinet Meeting on 16 May in respect of 'Changes to Full Council Meetings'. He asked a number of questions in respect of the following:-

The Cross Party Working Group

How many Members were on the Group?

What was the party political proportionality of the Group?

Did the Group endorse these changes unanimously?

If not, what was the ratio of support?

Public Participation

In the 2017/18 civic year, what were the average attendances in the Council

Meetings starting at 2pm? (April to September)

What were the average attendances in the Council Meetings starting at 5pm?
(September to March)

Will the Council be monitoring the attendance at Council Meetings from this point on for further comparison?

Consultation

Apart from the consultation carried out within political parties the report states a questionnaire was available to the public at the October 2017 meeting. How many public responses were received from this questionnaire and what were the results?

Recording and Webcasting

Mr Slack commented that the report mentioned this as an area for consideration, despite Mr Slack and others calling for this step to be taken since 2012. The report appeared to suggest that only “progressing audio/video recording of meetings and access to the recordings” is on the working group’s agenda.

Mr Slack therefore asked will this include live streaming of the meetings on the internet?

Fully indexed archive access?

Live interactive functions?

Which meetings will be considered?

5.1.2 The Deputy Chair (Councillor Olivia Blake) commented that a written response would be provided to Mr Slack’s question.

5.2 Public Question in respect of Pre-Election Rules on Publicity (PERP)

5.2.1 Nigel Slack commented that just prior to the local election on 3 May he drew to the attention of the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council the potential for a breach of PERP by two Councillors who chose to get involved in a Facebook argument over an issue on which they had been decision makers during the PERP period. Mr Slack stated that he would have hoped that, with their age and experience, they would have been more careful about their actions since, for Mr Slack, the comments appeared to be a clear attempt to disparage a Councillor’s reputation for political and therefore electoral advantage.

5.2.2 The issue for Mr Slack was whether they used technology provided by the Council for business matters, to make these comments on social media. That would constitute a breach of PERP. It was common to see Councillors on social media during Council Meetings and the origin of the technology they were using was unclear. What guidance was given to Councillors on the use of Council technology? How often was this refreshed? How was the use of Council technology monitored?

5.2.3 Councillor Olivia Blake reported that a written response would be provided to Mr Slack in respect of this question.

6. **ITEMS CALLED-IN FOR SCRUTINY**

6.1 There had been no decisions called-in for Scrutiny since the last meeting of the Cabinet.

7. RETIREMENT OF STAFF

7.1 The Executive Director, Resources submitted a report on Council staff retirements.

7.2 **RESOLVED:** That this Cabinet :-

(a) places on record its appreciation of the valuable services rendered to the City Council by the following staff in the Portfolios below:-

<u>Name</u>	<u>Post</u>	<u>Years' Service</u>
<u>People Services</u>		
Kay Ackom-Mensah	Teacher, St Wilfrid's Primary School	31
Linda Brewin	Senior Teaching Assistant (Special) Level 3, Talbot Specialist School	20
Vicki Grayson	Deputy Headteacher, Limpsfield Junior School	31
Judith Wade	Teacher, Intake Primary School	33

(b) extends to them its best wishes for the future and a long and happy retirement; and

(c) directs that an appropriate extract of this resolution under the Common Seal of the Council be forwarded to them.

8. PROJECT APOLLO - SUPPORTING NEET CARE LEAVERS (CONTRACT AWARD)

8.1 The Executive Director, People Services submitted a report seeking approval to accept and spend up to £1,083,550 of funding from the Children's Social Innovation Programme launched by the Department for Education (DfE) in 2014, which will provide a programme of support targeting Care Leavers Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET).

8.2 **RESOLVED:** That Cabinet:-

(a) approves acceptance of the DfE's grant offer of up to £1,083,550, to deliver the service initiative detailed in the report;

(b) approves the direct award of a contract to a company (a special purpose

vehicle (SPV)) established by Sheffield Futures with a potential value of £1,083,550 in outcomes payments in order to deliver the project;

- (c) delegates authority, to the extent not already delegated by the Leader's Scheme of Delegation, to the Director of Finance and Commercial Services, in consultation with the Director of Legal and Governance and the Executive Director, People Services to agree the terms of the contract; and
- (d) delegates authority, to the extent not already delegated by the Leader's Scheme of Delegations, to the Executive Director, People Services, to take such other steps deemed necessary to deliver the outcomes set out in this report.

8.3 Reasons for Decision

8.3.1 The Council has been successful in its bid for Innovation Funding and without this opportunity would not have the budget to deliver the proposed programme.

8.3.2 Acceptance and expenditure of the funding for the purposes set out in this report will achieve the following outcomes:

Non- Financial Outcomes

Achieving improved educational outcomes and stability in employment will enable care leavers to participate in and make a contribution to society, improve their financial outlook and enhance their health and wellbeing prospects. In order to measure success we are baselining the cohort and will monitor impact throughout the life cycle and on completion as follows:-

- Increasing suitable & sustainable accommodation (Measure: tenancy breakdowns, numbers in adequate/acceptable accommodation, numbers presenting as homeless);
- Improving access to training, education & employment (Measures: EET - qualifications achieved, progression to further and higher education, entry and sustainment into employment);
- Increased financial stability (Measure: not in debt; reduction in emergency payments);
- Improved mental health & well-being (Measure: access to specialist support e.g. substance misuse; reduction in risk-taking behaviour e.g. Child Sexual Exploitation, criminality, sexual health; use of SDQ/Youth Star – improved results);
- Improved resilience & confidence (Measure: Youth Star – improved results);
- Raised care leaver aspirations (Measure: self-reporting).

Financial Outcomes

According to the National Audit Office, the lifetime cost of the current cohort of 19-year-old care leavers being NEET would be around £240 million or £150 million more than if they had the same NEET rate as other 19-year-olds.

In order to measure financial benefits we will review our current and previous cohorts of care leavers to compare their outcomes. Utilising the New Economy Unit Cost Database we will calculate savings using the following indicators: -

- Job Seeker's Allowance
- Not in Employment Education or Training (NEET)
- NVQ Level 2 Qualification
- City & Guilds Level 2 Qualification
- BTEC Level 2 Qualification
- Apprenticeship Level 2 Qualification
- NVQ Level 3 Qualification
- City & Guilds Level 3 Qualification
- BTEC Level 3 Qualification
- Apprenticeship Level 3 Qualification
- Graduate Level 4+ Qualification

8.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

8.4.1 There was an option not to seek funding to engage in the programme. The decision to opt into the programme is based on our assessment that the additional resources provided and the innovative practice involved will deliver improved outcomes over and above what would have been achieved if not engaged in the programme.

8.4.2 The initial innovation fund call for proposals instigated by DfE was open for any interested party to apply and submit an expression of interest to DfE. Sheffield Futures did express an interest and developed proposed solutions to the identified needs of the care leavers cohort and in securing investors into the project. In doing so they have developed a service offer unique to them. In the circumstances, an alternative procurement route was not considered appropriate or practical.

9. MONTH 12 CAPITAL APPROVALS

9.1 The Executive Director, Resources submitted a report providing details of proposed changes to the Capital Programme as brought forward in Month 12 2017/18 and budget adjustments required as part of the year end close down process.

9.2 **RESOLVED:** That Cabinet:-

- (a) approves the proposed additions and variations to the Capital Programme listed in Appendix 1 of the report, including the procurement strategies and delegates authority to the Director of Finance and Commercial Services or nominated Officer, as appropriate, to award the necessary contracts;
- (b) authorises grants to be provided to third parties as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report;
- (c) authorises the acceptance of the grants as detailed in Appendix 2a of the report; and
- (d) approves the budget adjustments required as part of the financial year end close down procedure as detailed in Appendix 3 of the report
 - Slippage of expenditure from 17-18 to 18/19 £27.2m
 - Accelerated expenditure from 18/19 to 17/18 of £5.6m
 - Overspends – net additions to the programme £1.4m
 - Underspends - £3.7m.

9.3 **Reasons for Decision**

- 9.3.1 The proposed changes to the Capital Programme will improve the services to the people of Sheffield.
- 9.3.2 To formally record changes to the Capital Programme and gain Member approval for changes in line with Financial Regulations and to reset the Capital Programme in line with latest information.
- 9.3.3 Obtain the relevant delegations to allow projects to proceed.

9.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

- 9.4.1 A number of alternative courses of action are considered as part of the process undertaken by Officers before decisions are recommended to Members. The recommendations made to Members represent what Officers believe to be the best options available to the Council, in line with Council priorities, given the constraints on funding and the use to which funding is put within the Revenue Budget and the Capital Programme.

10. **CONTRACT TO PROVIDE AGENCY SERVICES TO YORKSHIRE WATER**

- 10.1 The Executive Director, Place submitted a report seeking approval to enter into a new three year contract with Yorkshire Water to collect water rates from Council housing tenants as an agent of Yorkshire Water.
- 10.2 **RESOLVED:** That Cabinet:-
 - (a) agrees that the Council enter into a three year collection contract with Yorkshire Water to collect water rates from Council housing tenants on the terms and for the reasons outlined in the report; and

- (b) delegates authority to the Executive Director, Place, in consultation with the Director of Legal and Governance, to finalise terms and complete all necessary documentation.

10.3 Reasons for Decision

- 10.3.1 The preferred option continues to provide a valued service to tenants via existing long standing operational arrangements and maintains an income stream to the Council.

10.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

- 10.4.1 The Council could notify that it no longer wishes to act as an agent for Yorkshire Water. This would, however, result in;
- A reduction in service for tenants who would have to make payments direct to Yorkshire Water and would also not have support to apply for water support grants.
 - Yorkshire Water would require time to develop alternative arrangements to collect outstanding water rates
 - A reduction in income to the Council.

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