

CABINET

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 28 JUNE 2017

I N D E X

Page No	Minute No	Heading
1	107	Apologies for Absence
1	108	Declarations of Interests
1	109	Minutes of Last Meeting
2	110	Voluntary & Community Organisations – Derbyshire Law Centre
3	111	Scrutiny Review on the A61 Corridor
3	112	Scrutiny Review on The Impact of Town Centre Environments on Community Safety
4	113	Safeguarding Adults Policy
4	114	Urgent Business (Public Session)
4	115	Grenfell Tower Tragedy
6	116	Exclusion of Public
6	117	Health & Wellbeing and Morale Scrutiny Review
7	118	Regeneration Update – Rykneld Homes Ltd
7	119	Management of Corporate Debt – Write Off of Outstanding Amounts
8	120	Urgent Business (Private Session)

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MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 28 JUNE 2017

Present:

Councillor G Baxter MBE Leader (in the Chair)

Councillor J Austen

“ M Gordon

“ Mrs E A Hill

Councillor P R Kerry

“ J Lilley

Also Present:

D Swaine	- Chief Executive
S Lee	- Strategic Partnership Co-ordinator
L Hickin	- Assistant Director – Leisure
A Westray-Chapman	- Assistant Director – Economic Growth
A Wylie	- Team Manager (Contentious) Solicitor
S Barker	- Assistant Director – HR & Payroll
B Mason	- Executive Director – Operations
N Clark	- Director of Property Services & Development – Rykneld Homes
S Brunt	- Assistant Director – Streetscene
L Shaw	- Managing Director – Rykneld Homes
S Cottam	- Senior Governance Officer (Acting)

107 Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence had been received from Councillor N Barker.

108 Declarations of Interests

Members were requested to declare the existence and nature of any disclosable pecuniary interests and/or other interests, not already on their register of interests, in any item on the agenda and withdraw from the meeting at the appropriate time.

Councillor Mrs E A Hill declared a non-significant other interest in Item 11 – Regeneration Update – arising from her membership of Rykneld Homes Board.

Councillor M Gordon declared a non-significant other interest in Item 4 – Voluntary and Community Organisations – Derbyshire Law Centre – arising from his membership of the Derbyshire Law Centre.

As these interests were non-significant Councillors Mrs E A Hill and M Gordon could remain in the meeting for these items.

109 Minutes of Last Meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 7 June 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

110 Voluntary and Community Organisations – Derbyshire Law Centre

Cabinet considered a presentation from the Derbyshire Law Centre as part of a suite of presentations from the Voluntary Sector Organisations funded by the Council in 2016/17. Tony McIlveen and Lisa Haythorne of Derbyshire Law Centre attended the meeting to give the presentation.

Cabinet were advised that the Derbyshire Law Centre provided free legal advice and representation to individuals and families on low and unstable incomes across North East Derbyshire. The Law Centre also specialised in social welfare law, community care, debt, discrimination, employment, housing, homelessness, immigration and mortgage rescue.

The Derbyshire Law Centre had 16 services and projects and accepted and referred from/to advice, public and voluntary sector agencies.

The Derbyshire Law Centre had levered in additional monies for the benefit of North East Derbyshire residents, for example, Legal Aid, Big Lottery Fund, Derbyshire Resettlement Advice Service, EMMA (East Midlands Money Advice), Opportunity and Change, Money Sorted in D2N2, Access to Justice Foundation, Building Better Opportunities (SYHA) and Living Rights. The additional monies amounted to £331,400.

Cabinet were also advised that the Derbyshire Law Centre's main office was at No 1 Rose Hill East in Chesterfield, but had various branch offices in Bolsover, Buxton, Chesterfield, Eckington, Ilkeston, Matlock, Ripley and Staveley. The Derbyshire Law Centre would also arrange home visits for clients or at their preferred location, for example, hospitals. The Law Centre delivered a daily generic telephone advice service and specialist advice service in Community Care, Debt, Employment, Housing and Immigration.

The Derbyshire Law Centre thanked North East Derbyshire for its continuing support.

The Chair, on behalf of the Council, thanked the Derbyshire Law Centre for their work on behalf of the residents of North East Derbyshire and for attending the Cabinet meeting to provide the presentation.

RESOLVED – That the presentation be received by Cabinet and any comments from Members arising from the presentation be included in future commissioning considerations.

REASON FOR DECISION – To ensure that the Council maximises efficiencies and outcomes through commissioning voluntary sector organisations to help achieve Corporate Priorities.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED & REJECTED - The options for Cabinet's consideration were detailed in paragraph 4.1 of the report. There were no alternative options considered and rejected.

(Partnerships Team)

Matters referred from Scrutiny**111 Scrutiny Review on the A61 Corridor**

Cabinet considered the Lead Officer response, in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder with Responsibility for Economy, Finance and Regeneration, into the Scrutiny Review on the A61 Corridor.

The purpose of the report was to detail the Lead Officer's response to the findings of the Scrutiny report. The Review detailed the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the Committee.

The Lead Officer's response to the Review was in the form of an Action Plan which detailed proposals of how officers' intended to address each of the recommendations made by the Panel if Cabinet confirmed acceptance of the Scrutiny recommendations.

RESOLVED – That Cabinet confirm acceptance of the Scrutiny Review recommendations and approve the actions identified in the Action Plan attached as Appendix 2 to the report.

REASON FOR DECISION – To assist the Council in securing transport improvements to support major housing and employment growth along the A61 Corridor.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED & REJECTED - There were no alternative options considered and rejected.

(Assistant Director – Economic Growth)

112 Scrutiny Review on The Impact of Town Centre Environments on Community Safety

Cabinet considered the Lead Officer response, in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder with Responsibility for Community Safety, Equality & Diversity and Health, into the Scrutiny Review on The Impact of Town Centre Environments on Community Safety.

The purpose of the report was to detail the Lead Officer's response to the findings in the Scrutiny report. The Review detailed the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the Panel as set out in the appendix to the report.

The Lead Officer's response to the Review was contained in the Action Plan which detailed proposals of how officers' intended to address the recommendations made by the Scrutiny Panel.

RESOLVED – That Cabinet confirm acceptance of the Review recommendations and approves the Action Plan attached as Appendix 2 to the report.

REASON FOR DECISION – To assist the Council in improving the Impact of Town Centre Environments on Community Safety.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED & REJECTED - There were no alternative options considered and rejected.

(Assistant Director - Streetscene)

Non Key Decisions

113 Safeguarding Adults Policy

Cabinet considered a report of Councillor J Lilley, Portfolio Holder with Responsibility for Community Safety, Equality & Diversity and Health, which sought Members approval on changes to the Safeguarding Adults Policy.

Following changes to Derbyshire County Council's Safeguarding Procedures, changes to legislation and guidance, a revised Policy (Safeguarding Adults Policy) taking account of these changes was contained in an appendix to the report. The revised Policy was intended to replace the current Safeguarding Adult Policy (2013).

The revised Policy had been reviewed by Scrutiny Members and approved by Derbyshire County Council Safeguarding experts.

Since the last update report Safeguarding Link Officers had been amended, this reflected changes in duties and focus of the various officers.

A joint Corporate Safeguarding Officer Group incorporating Bolsover, North East Derbyshire and Rykneld Homes met on a bi-monthly basis to ensure that activities around safeguarding was co-ordinated and learning was shared. As part of the current process of publicising these policies, information was available via NEDi and a dedicated safeguarding page was available. The Policy would also be published on the Council's website. However, upon the adoption of the new Policy by Members further comprehensive guidance and referral forms would be made available on NEDi.

RESOLVED – That Cabinet note and approve the Safeguarding Adults Policy.

REASON FOR DECISION – The Safeguarding Adults Policy needs to be updated in light of changes introduced by Derbyshire County Council and to reflect changes in good practice.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED & REJECTED - The options for Cabinet's consideration were detailed in paragraph 4.1 of the report. There were no alternative options considered and rejected.

(Assistant Director - Leisure)

114 Urgent Business (Public Session)**115 Grenfell Tower Tragedy**

The Leader consented to Rykneld Homes updating Cabinet on the recent Grenfell Tower tragedy in London.

REASON FOR URGENCY – Following the recent events in London it was important for Rykneld Homes to provide details to Cabinet of the actions undertaken by the Senior Management Team in response to the incident.

Significant attention had been given to the external cladding installed at Grenfell Tower. Rykneld Homes had received confirmation from the Departments for Local Government (DCLG) that the system used consisted of an aluminium composite material (ACM). Rykneld Homes had not used this system for any projects.

Rykneld Homes, in partnership with the District Council, had completed five programmes of work to install EWI cladding to properties. A schedule was provided to Members of Cabinet which provided details of each scheme and the number and location of the works. Included were details of the specification, product certification and fire ratings classification. A statement from each product manufacturer was also included.

All the information had been reviewed and it was clear that the products detailed in the schedule had used appropriate specifications and all the documentary evidence supported this position.

With regards to Stonelow Green flats at Dronfield, these properties consisted of five block of flats containing four storeys in each block. These were the highest blocks of flats in the District. In 2013 a comprehensive programme of work to improve the fire precautions in the building were undertaken. This included compartmentalisation of the staircases, additional fire escape doors and smoke ventilation.

In 2014/15 comprehensive refurbishment of the blocks was undertaken, including flat pitched roof conversions, replacement windows, EWI, kitchens and bathrooms etc. Due to the cladding of the blocks Rykneld had received two enquiries from concerned customers, both of which the Director of Property Services and Development had responded to.

To provide further assurance to customers in these blocks a meeting was to be arranged for the week commencing 3 July 2017 where all tenants of these flats would be invited to meet with members of the Senior Management Team to discuss any concerns that they may have. Rykneld Homes would be seeking attendance by the Derbyshire Fire & Rescue at this event to provide further reassurance.

Cabinet were advised that all blocks of flats had fire risk assessments in place. These were re-surveyed on a regular basis, approximately every 12 months, by the Health and Safety Team. A total of 35 different potential risks were considered when undertaking the survey of each block of flats. The annual programme of higher risk assessments would commence in August and any improvements or changes recommended as a result of the Grenfell incident would be incorporated in to the next set of fire risk assessments.

A monthly inspection of each block of flats was carried out by the Neighbourhood Patch Team where the flats were located. The inspection procedure consisted of reviewing 10 aspects of fire safety within each block, including general house-keeping, presence of warning signs, evidence of customers smoking in communal areas etc. Findings from the inspections were documented and actions to remedy

any areas of concern were undertaken. All inspection reports completed in May 2017 were being reviewed by the Neighbourhood Service Managers following the Grenfell Tower incident. Any additional actions from this review would be undertaken in June 2017.

Cabinet were advised that all individual enquiries from customers relating to Grenfell Tower had been responded to by a member of the Senior Management Team. All requests for information from the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) relating to blocks of flats in the District had been responded to within the requested timescales.

A review of the fire safety information provided to customers had been undertaken. Liaison with Derbyshire Fire & Rescue would include a review of fire safety advice and communications provided to customers.

(Rykneld Homes Ltd)

116 Exclusion of Public

RESOLVED - That the public be excluded from the meeting during the discussion of the following items of business to avoid the disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 & 3, Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information)(Variation) Order 2006). [The category of exempt information is stated after each Minute].

Matters Referred from Scrutiny

117 Health & Wellbeing and Morale Scrutiny Review

Cabinet considered the Lead Officer response, in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder with Responsibility for Human Resources, Training and Member Development, into the Scrutiny Review on Health & Wellbeing and Morale.

The purpose of the report was to detail the Lead Officer's response to the findings on the Scrutiny reports on Health & Wellbeing and Morale. The Review detailed the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the Panel.

The Lead Officer's response to the review was contained in the Action Plan which detailed proposal of how officers' intended to address the recommendations made by the Scrutiny Panel, if Cabinet confirmed the acceptance of the Scrutiny recommendations.

RESOLVED – That Cabinet confirm acceptance of the Review recommendations and approves the Action Plan attached as Appendix 2 to the report.

REASONS FOR DECISION – To assist the Council in improving the Health & Wellbeing and Morale within the Council.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED & REJECTED - There were no alternative options considered and rejected.

(Assistant Director – HR & Payroll)
(Paragraph 1)

Non Key Decisions**118 Regeneration Update – Rykneld Homes Ltd**

Cabinet considered a report of Councillor Mrs E A Hill, Portfolio Holder with Responsibility for Housing Strategy and Social Inclusion, which provided Members with an update on the current Regeneration Schemes which were being progressed by Rykneld Homes Ltd (RHL) in partnership with North East Derbyshire District Council (NEDDC).

RESOLVED – That Cabinet approves the recommendations as set out in the report and requests a further Regeneration Update report in three months' time, unless any major changes arise to the Regeneration Programme.

REASON FOR DECISION – The report provided an update on current Regeneration Schemes being undertaken by Rykneld Homes Limited with the Council. A further Regeneration Update report will be provided to Cabinet in three months' time unless any major changes arise to the Regeneration Schemes.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED & REJECTED - The options for Cabinet's consideration were detailed in paragraph 4.1 of the report. There were no alternative options considered and rejected.

(Director of Property Services & Development)
(Paragraph 3)

Key Decisions**119 Management of Corporate Debt – Write-Off of Outstanding Amounts**

Cabinet considered a report of Councillor P R Kerry, Portfolio Holder with Responsibility for Economy, Finance and Regeneration, which sought Members approval to the proposed write off of debts in respect of the Collection Fund Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Housing Benefit Account as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

RESOLVED – That Cabinet approves the recommendation as set out in the report and requests that future reports be brought to Cabinet on a six monthly basis.

REASON FOR DECISION – Given that all available options to recover the debts outlined in the report had been explored it was important that the Council recognised the position and approved the write-off amounts.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED & REJECTED - The options for Cabinet's consideration were detailed throughout the body of the report. There were no alternative options considered and rejected.

(Executive Director - Operations)
(Paragraphs 1 and 3)

120 Urgent Business (Private Session)

There was no urgent business to be considered in the private session at this meeting of Cabinet.

CAB MINS (0628) 2017/AJD