

CABINET

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 3 OCTOBER 2018

I N D E X

Page No	Minute No	Heading
1	257	Apologies for Absence
1	258	Declarations of Interests
1	259	Minutes of Last Meeting
2	260	Voluntary and Community Organisations – Links CVS
3	261	Urgent Business (Public Session)
3	262	Exclusion of Public
3	263	Change or Order of Agenda Items
3	264	Empty Property Trial
4	265	Hallowes Court, Dronfield – Proposed Purchase of 79 Housing Units
5	266	Urgent Business (Private Session)

CABINET

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 3 OCTOBER 2018

Present:

Councillor G Baxter MBE Leader (in the Chair)

Councillor N Barker
“ M Gordon

Councillor P R Kerry
“ J Lilley

Also Present:

D Swaine - Joint Chief Executive Officer
L Hickin - Joint Strategic Director – People
K Hanson - Joint Strategic Director – Place
S Sternberg - Joint Head of Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer
S Lee - Strategic Partnership Co-Ordinator (for Minute No's 257 to 260 only)
D Cairns - Senior Governance Officer

257 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E A Hill and R Smith.

258 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 N Barker declared a non-significant other interest in Item No 4 – Voluntary and Community Organisations – Links CVS – arising from his membership of the Links CVS Board. As his interest was non-significant Councillor N Barker remained in the meeting for consideration of this item.

Councillor N Barker also declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in Item No 7 – Hallows Court, Dronfield – Proposed Purchase of 79 Housing Units – arising from his membership of the Rykneld Homes Ltd Board. As a disclosable pecuniary interest, Councillor N Barker left the room for this item and did not take part in the consideration or the vote.

259 Minutes of Last Meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 5 September 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

260 Voluntary and Community Organisations – Links CVS

Cabinet considered a presentation from Links CVS as part of a suite of presentations from the Voluntary Sector Organisations funded by the Council in 2017/18.

James Lee attended the meeting to give the presentation. Cabinet were advised over the past year that Links CVS had supported over 275 community organisations in Derbyshire and the majority of the support provided was linked to accessing funding.

Links CVS offer funding seminars with organisations from different backgrounds as well as funders to explore opportunities and potential partnership working, promoting collaboration rather than competition. The Organisation's Advice Manager offered visits to groups and training on how to conduct meetings as well as submitting funding bids.

Links CVS received predominantly very positive feedback, with comments on how valuable the service is to community organisations.

Cabinet were advised that Links CVS had supported over 1300 residents in North East Derbyshire indirectly through the 86 groups that it assisted. In addition to access to funding, Links CVS top issues also included policy development, such as health and safety, equalities and GDPR.

The types of groups supported by Links CVS included tenant and resident groups, physical/learning/sensory disability groups, homelessness, mental health and older people.

Two case studies demonstrating the support and outcomes of the assistance of Links CVS were outlined.

Cabinet queried the impact of Universal Credit on the workload of Links CVS and their clients. It was noted that whilst Links CVS do not deal with customers directly the service users of the groups supported by CVS were known to be significantly affected by the Universal Credit rollout.

The impact of the potential cuts to voluntary and community sector groups by the Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) was also discussed. It was confirmed that there would be no cuts to these services in the current financial year, however, there remained ongoing uncertainty with the future of this funding stream as the CCGs had identified a significant level of budget savings that needed to be achieved, however, there was substantial political pressure both regionally and nationally to reconsider the issue.

Cabinet enquired about the capacity of Links CVS to support its clients in the challenging economic climate. Cabinet was advised that wherever possible clients were encouraged to contact them through online enquiry forms and by email or telephone which reduces the workload of the funding advisors.

The Leader on behalf of the Cabinet thanked Links CVS for their hard work and dedication to the residents of North East Derbyshire.

RESOLVED – That the presentation be received by Cabinet and that the comments from Members arising from the presentation be included on 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.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED – The purpose of the report was to provide information on the voluntary sector services commissioned by the Council therefore no alternative options were considered.

(Partnerships Team)

261 Urgent Business (Public Session)

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

262 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 Paragraph 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].

263 Change of Order of the Agenda

The Leader, with the consent of the other Members of Cabinet, agreed that the order of the agenda be changed as set out within these Minutes.

RESOLVED – That the order of the agenda be amended to that as set out within these Minutes.

Key Decisions

264 Empty Property Trial

Cabinet considered a report of Councillor E A Hill, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing Strategy, which sought approval to participate in an empty property trial to bring a number of empty properties back into economic use.

The trial was to support the Council's Corporate Plan objective of Unlocking our Growth Potential and the target to bring empty properties back into use.

RESOLVED – That Cabinet:-

- (1) Notes the content of the report.
- (2) Agrees to participate in the trial subject to contract finalisation.

- (3) Gives delegated power to the Joint Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader, to enter into a contract with the utility company as set out in the report.

REASON FOR DECISION – To support the Council Plan target of bringing empty properties back into use.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED – The alternative option not to enter into the trial was rejected as this trial was considered to be a good opportunity to secure the delivery of empty properties being brought back into use.

(Joint Housing Strategy & Growth Manager)
(Paragraph 3)

265 Hallowes Court, Dronfield – Proposed Purchase of 79 Housing Units

Cabinet considered a report of Councillor P R Kerry, Portfolio Holder for Finance, which updated Members regarding the conclusion of the negotiations with Equity Housing to purchase the housing units at Hallowes Court, Dronfield and sought approval for the drawdown of £3.1m General Fund Prudential Borrowing to be used as a loan to Rykneld Homes Ltd (RHL) for the purchase and part refurbishment of the housing units at Hallowes Court Complex.

RESOLVED – That Cabinet:-

- (1) Notes the details of the completed negotiations between Rykneld Homes Ltd and Equity Housing with a view to purchasing 79 housing units at Hallowes Court, Dronfield.
- (2) Agrees a loan to Rykneld Homes Ltd of up to £3.1m in line with previous Council decision to approve General Fund Prudential Borrowing for the purchase and part refurbishment of the 79 housing units at Hallowes Court, Dronfield.
- (3) Receives a further update report on the purchase and refurbishment of Hallowes Court in December 2018.

REASON FOR DECISION – The proposed purchase represented an opportunity to increase the number and type of homes available to rent in the District and in particular Dronfield where there is a shortage of affordable housing.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED – The alternative option to reject the proposed purchase and borrowing request was rejected as the authorised negotiations had resulted in an improved business case for the proposal.

(Director of Property Services & Development, Rykneld Homes)
(Paragraph 3)

266 Urgent Business (Private Session)

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



CAB MINS (1003) 2018/AJD