

Minutes of the Cabinet

19 April 2022

-: Present :-

Councillor Steve Darling (Chairman)

Councillors Carter, Cowell, Law, Long and Morey

(Also in attendance: Councillors Barrand, Brown, Bye, Chris Lewis and David Thomas)

330. Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Stockman.

331. Communications

The Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Tourism and Housing, Councillor Long, updated members on Torbay's allocation of the Government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund and how it would be allocated over the next three years, including supporting regeneration and skills. Councillor Long advised how Torbay's allocation was lower when compared to Plymouth and Cornwall.

The Cabinet Member for Corporate and Community Services (Councillor Carter) advised that she had attended a welcome drop-in session organised by the Council for Ukrainian refugees. Councillor Carter expressed thanks to those who organised the session, which provided help and signposting and made those attending feel welcomed to Torbay.

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services (Councillor Law) updated members on the Holiday Activities and Food Programme and provided reassurance that, despite the arrival of travellers at Clennon Valley, the programme was continuing to run and places were available for young people to attend.

The Leader of the Council (Councillor Steve Darling) updated members on a visit to Brixham Fish Market with Councillor Long following an invitation from Brixham Trawler Agents. Councillor Darling advised that the market was very busy, with a large volume of the catch being transported by land, resulting in a high volume of traffic. Addressing the pressures demonstrated in Brixham would be considered as part of the next Levelling Up Bid to the Government. He added that South Devon College were considering apprenticeships within the fishing industry which would get young people interested in the trade.

332. Matters for Consideration

The Cabinet considered the following matters, full details of which (including the Cabinet's decisions) are set out in the Record of Decisions appended to these Minutes.

333. Future use of Parkfield House and Grounds for Community Development

334. Multiple Complex Needs Alliance - Contract Award Decision

335. Contract for Revenue and Benefits IT System

336. Award of Contract for Live Streaming and Hybrid Meetings

Chairman

Record of Decisions

Future use of Parkfield House & Grounds for Community Development

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 19 April 2022

Decision

1. That an in-principle decision to dispose of Parkfield House by way of a leasehold disposal or community asset transfer on terms to be agreed, be approved;
2. That the Director of Place, in consultation with Parkfield House Project Board be authorised to seek Expressions of Interest from Community Partners to ascertain interest from the community in taking on the site by way of a leasehold disposal or community asset transfer. The Parkfield House Framework, attached as Appendix 1 to the submitted report, will be used to shape and inform the Expressions of Interest and the Director of Place will seek detailed business cases from those Community Partners who are shortlisted; and
3. On receipt and review of the detailed business cases from Community Partners the Director of Place, in consultation with Parkfield House Project Board, will make recommendations regarding disposal of the asset, which will be subject to final approval by Cabinet. It is anticipated that a recommendation can be made to Cabinet in November 2022 for disposal of the asset to a preferred partner(s).

Reason for the Decision

One of the principles of Torbay Council Asset Management Strategy 2022 – 2027 is to work collaboratively and promote joint working with Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector organisations to identify wider opportunities to benefit the community. A change of use of Parkfield and some of the wider grounds demonstrates the Council's commitment to using appropriate assets to form long term partnerships with suitable voluntary, community and sports organisations.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on, 3 May 2022 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

The Cabinet's approval was sought for an in-principle decision to dispose of land and buildings at Parkfield, Esplanade Road, Paignton; their being surplus to the Council's requirements and a valuable community asset which could be brought back into use for the benefit of Torbay residents.

The Council wishes to explore a future use of the site with a partner or group of partners in the non-profit sector, who will develop the site to achieve an agreed set of strategic outcomes. This disposal could be by way of a long leasehold arrangement of a minimum 25 years or by way of a Community Asset Transfer. In either case, the Council would retain ownership of the site, but management and development responsibility would be handed over to the recipient organisations; with the Council maintaining some oversight.

The submitted report set out details of the Parkfield Project Board working collaboratively with community partners to inform their expressions of interest and form business cases. It was anticipated the Board would make recommendations to the Cabinet for disposal in November 2022. The membership of the Parkfield Project Board would be discussed at its next meeting to consider including community and ward councillor representation from Paignton.

At the meeting, Councillor Long proposed a motion and Councillor Cowell seconded a motion, that was agreed unanimously by the Cabinet, as set out above.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

None.

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Does the call-in procedure apply?

Yes

Declarations of interest (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

None.

Published

22 April 2022

Signed: _____
Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet

Date: 22 April 2022

Record of Decisions

Multiple Complex Needs Alliance - Contract Award Decision

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 19 April 2022

Decision

1. That the awarding of places on the Multiple Complex Needs (MCN) Alliance and subsequent award of service contracts for the entire duration of the initial term of the Alliance, be approved;
2. That the lot-specific recommendations contained in Exempt Appendix 1 to the submitted report, be approved; and
3. That the recommendation as set out in paragraph 13.4 of Exempt Appendix 2 to the submitted report be approved and accordingly the Chief Executive be authorised to make the associated changes to this service provision.

Reason for the Decision

The Alliance model delivers an integrated understanding of people's needs and response to these needs. At a delivery level the Alliance enables people to access support more easily, have a better experience and achieve better outcomes than commissioning services individually.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 3 May 2022, unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

The Multiple Complex Needs (MCN) Alliance is a local authority commissioning programme seeking to improve the system response and outcomes for people needing support with drug and alcohol issues, domestic violence, and homelessness. An open procurement had been completed for three separate Lots to work under an Alliance Agreement. This Alliance Agreement involved working to a shared budget envelope, with a focus on partnership working. It commits providers to work towards a financial painshare/gainshare model.

Cabinet's approval was sought in respect of the future operation of the Alliance.

At the meeting, Councillor Long proposed and Councillor Cowell seconded a motion, that was agreed unanimously by the Cabinet, as set out above.

During the debate, Councillor Steve Darling and Councillor Cowell seconded a motion to exclude the press and public from the meeting (on the grounds that exempt information (as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) was likely to be disclosed), which was agreed by unanimously by the Cabinet. Following the exempt element of the debate, the meeting reverted back to public session and

the press and public were invited back to the meeting.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

From an overall Alliance standpoint, two options had been considered. The recommended option was to continue with the Multiple Complex Needs Alliance.

The alternative option would have been to abandon the Alliance procurement and not award. Realistically, this would have resulted in a decision to abandon the Multiple Complex Needs Alliance delivery model.

Further options in relation to the Homeless Hostel specifically were detailed in Exempt Appendix 2 to the submitted report.

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Does the call-in procedure apply?

Yes

Declarations of interest (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

None.

Published

22 April 2022

Signed: _____
Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet

Date: 22 April 2022

Record of Decisions

New Contract for Revenue and Benefits IT System

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 19 April 2022

Decision

1. That the contract renewal for the Revenue and Benefits IT System on a 5+1+1 year contract term and for the value as set out in the Exempt Appendix to the submitted report be approved.
2. That the contract funding from existing budgets in Community and Customer Services and IT Services be noted.

Reason for the Decision

The Council requires an IT system to manage the revenues and benefits functions that offers streamlined processes from front-line customer contact and service delivery through to back-office administration.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 3 May 2022, unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

Cabinet's approval was sought to award a contract for the provision of an IT system that supports the Council's Revenue and Benefit function.

At the meeting, Councillor Carter proposed and Councillor Cowell seconded a motion that was agreed unanimously by the Cabinet, as set out above.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

Alternative options were set out in the Exempt Appendix to the submitted report.

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Does the call-in procedure apply?

Yes

Declarations of interest (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

None.

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22 April 2022

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Record of Decisions

Award of Contract for Live Streaming and Hybrid Meetings

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 19 April 2022

Decision

That the preferred supplier be awarded a contract for live streaming and hybrid meetings from 1 May 2022 until 31 July 2023.

Reason for the Decision

The decision would enable the Council to undertake live streaming and provide hybrid facilities for some of its key meetings through this contract and to help determine a long term solution.

Implementation

The decision in respect of the award of contract for live streaming and hybrid meetings will come into force immediately as the decision maker has decided that any delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would prejudice the Public' and Council's interest. The Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator was consulted on 1 April 2022.

Information

As part of the budget setting process for 2022/23 the Council approved a budget to live stream our Council meetings at the Riviera International Conference Centre and use hybrid functionality for our Cabinet and Planning Committee meetings. For a full evaluation to be undertaken and ensure a suitable permanent solution is identified, taking into account the latest technology, the submitted report proposed to put in arrangements up until July 2023 so as to trial the same to enable long term arrangements to be made thereafter.

At the meeting, Councillor Carter proposed and Councillor Morey seconded a motion, that was agreed unanimously by the Cabinet, as set out above.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

An alternative option would be to go out to the market for a solution, this was discounted as the process requires a minimum of four months and the Council wants to start trialling the arrangements from May, before agreeing the long term future requirements and specification.

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Does the call-in procedure apply?

No

Declarations of interest (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the

Standards Committee)

None.

Published

22 April 2022

Signed: _____ Date: 22 April 2022
Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet