

Cabinet

Minutes of meeting held in Ditchling Room at Southover House, Southover Road, Lewes, BN7 1AB on 10 June 2019 at 2.30 pm

Present:

Councillor Isabelle Linington (Chair)

Councillors Joe Miller (Deputy-Chair), Liz Boorman, Phil Davis, Tom Jones and Jim Lord

Officers in attendance:

Robert Cottrill (Chief Executive), Ian Fitzpatrick (Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Regeneration and Planning), Homira Javadi (Chief Finance Officer), Becky Cooke (Assistant Director for Human Resources and Transformation), Peter Finnis (Assistant Director for Corporate Governance), Catherine Knight (Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services), Jo Harper (Head of Business Planning and Performance), Beverley Lucas (Regeneration Specialist – North Street Quarter), Bryn Mabey (Customer, Communications and Engagement Lead), Millie McDevitt (Performance and Programmes Lead), Mark Reynard (Head of Legal Services), Angy Weaver (Senior Specialist Advisor - Thriving Communities) and Simon Russell (Committee and Civic Services Manager)

Also in attendance:

Councillors Johnny Denis (Chair of Scrutiny Committee), Zoe Nicholson (Leader of the Green Group), Roy Burman and Roy Clay (Chair of Devolution Committee)

Mr John Langley (Tenants' Representative) and Ms Debbie Twitchen (Tenants' Representative)

1 Minutes of the meeting held on 27 March 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 March 2019 were submitted and approved and the Chair was authorised to sign them as a correct record.

2 Apologies for absence

Apologies were reported from Councillor Maskell and visiting member Councillor Gauntlett.

3 Declarations of interest

None were declared.

4 Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) Policy 2019/2020

The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Service Delivery asking them to review the revised Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) Policy for Lewes District Council.

It was clarified that the Central Government allocated funding of DHP had been fully utilised in previous years. The funding allocation was 2019/20 was £209,143.

The recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 7 February 2019 were appended to the report and detailed at section 4.1 of the report.

The Cabinet were unanimous in supporting the adoption of the policy, subject to the removal of bullet point 5 of section 4.1 of the policy, as recommended by the Scrutiny Committee.

In response to a question from Debbie Twitchen, Tenants' Representative in relation to which food banks were consulted through this process, it was clarified that only those that were involved with appeals for DHP had been consulted.

Resolved (Key decision):

To adopt the revised policy for Lewes District Council, subject to the removal of bullet point 5 at section 4.1 of the policy, as recommended by the Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 7 February 2019.

Reason for decision:

To ensure that the Discretionary Housing Payment scheme is administered consistently across the District.

5 Exclusion of the public**Resolved:**

That the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting as otherwise there was a likelihood of disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. The relevant paragraph of schedule 12A and a description of the exempt information is shown below. (The requisite notice having been given under regulation 5 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.)

6 North Street Quarter - scheme delivery

The Cabinet considered the exempt report of the Director of Regeneration and Planning regarding the delivery of the North Street Quarter scheme.

Following discussions, it was agreed to add an additional resolution and this was reflected in the open summary of the decisions below.

Resolved (Key decision):

(1) To note progress in respect of the Land Collaboration Agreement (LCA) between the two landowners - Lewes District Council and North Street Quarter (NSQ) Ltd. and programme for NSQ Ltd's appointment of a Developer.

(2) To delegate authority to the Director of Regeneration and Planning, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member for Strategic Development, Chief Finance Officer and Assistant Director – Legal & Democratic Services, to acquire various third party interests at the NSQ site.

(3) To delegate authority to the Director of Regeneration and Planning, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member for Strategic Development, Chief Finance Officer and the Assistant Director – Legal & Democratic Services to enter into a pre-emption agreement to acquire the affordable housing element of the North Street Quarter project. This acquisition would be in addition to the previous authority granted by Cabinet to acquire the Health Hub and Car Park from the scheme.

(4) To allocate funding towards the costs of discharging the pre-commencement planning conditions for Phases 2 and 3 of the scheme.

Reasons for decisions:

To progress delivery of the strategically significant North Street Quarter (NSQ) development, to secure site assembly in respect of the scheme that been granted planning permission and to ensure that the Reserved Matters planning permission can be implemented within two years from the date of the decision.

Notes: (1) The report remained exempt. (2) Exempt information reasons 3 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

The meeting ended at 2.56 pm

Councillor Isabelle Linington (Chair)