

CABINET
Thursday 25 March 2021

AGENDA

Viewing this meeting on YouTube

The meeting of the Cabinet on 25th March 2021 may be viewed on YouTube by clicking on, and opening, the link below:

<https://youtu.be/v6C4PpJcyus>

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Declarations of Interest

To receive declarations of interest from Members including the terms(s) of the Grant of Dispensation (if any) by the Audit Board or the Strategic Director (Internal Services).

3. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on 28 January 2021 (Pages 1 - 6)

To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 28 January 2021 as an accurate record.

4. Urgent Items

The Chairman will announce his decision as to whether there are any urgent items and their position on the agenda.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PUBLIC

5. To receive the minutes of the Cabinet Advisory Panel held on 22nd March 2021

To follow

6. References from Committees

None at this stage.

A - Strategies, Policies, Key Decisions, Consultations

7. Draft Anti-Social Behaviour Policy (Pages 7 - 58)

Summary:

To consider a revised and updated draft Anti-Social Behaviour Policy

following a review of the current policy introduced in 2015.

Recommendations:

1. That the draft Anti-Social Behaviour Policy, attached at Appendix A to the report, be approved; and
 2. That the Strategic Director (External Services) be granted delegated authority to approve any in-year amendments to the Policy, as required.
8. **Draft Private Sector Housing Enforcement and Licensing Policy (Pages 59 - 160)**

Summary:

To consider proposed changes to the Private Sector Housing Enforcement and Licensing Policy, which reflect operational and legislative changes, and to adopt a revised draft policy.

Recommendations:

1. That the draft Private Sector Housing Enforcement and Licensing Policy, attached at Appendix A to the report, be approved; and
 2. That the Strategic Director (External Services) be granted delegated authority to approve any in-year amendments to the Policy as required.
9. **External Wall Insulation Works (Pages 161 - 162)**

Summary:

Following a successful bid to the Department of Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy for funding to deliver energy efficient External Wall Insulation to housing properties, the Housing Team now need to procure a contractor to deliver the works.

Recommendation:

That, for the reasons detailed in para.3.10 of the report, Contract Standing Order 7.5 be waived and the contract for the External Wall Insulation Works to solid walled Council housing stock properties, be awarded to a former incumbent contractor on previously competitively tendered schedule of rates and contract terms and conditions.

10. **Sheltered Housing Alarm Installation (Pages 163 - 164)**

Summary:

Following changes in fire safety guidance and recent inspections of the Council's 12 sheltered housing schemes, there is a need to upgrade the fire alarm systems to the latest specification and provide increased safety for residents.

Recommendation:

That, subject to compliance with Contract Standing Orders, the Strategic Director (External Services) be authorised to enter into a contract with the successful tenderer to deliver fire alarm replacement works in the Council's sheltered housing schemes.

11. **Government Consultation on Changes to the National Planning Policy Framework and New National Model Design Code (Pages 165 - 308)**

Summary:

To consider the Council's response to the Government Consultation on changes to the National Planning Policy Framework and New National Model Design Code.

Recommendation:

That the responses to the questions, set out in Appendix C to the report, form the Council's response to the Government's Consultation on the Changes to National Planning Policy and the new National Model Design Code.

B - Non-Key Decisions, Monitoring Reports

12. **Strategic Asset Management Plan 2021-2024 (Pages 309 - 360)**

Summary:

To adopt the Strategic Asset Management Plan 2021-2024 and to seek delegated authority for in-year adjustments to the Plan.

Recommendations:

1. That the Strategic Asset Management Plan 2021-2024, at Appendix A to the report, be adopted; and
2. That the Director for Growth and Community be granted delegated authority to make in-year amendments to the adopted Strategic Asset Management Plan 2021-2024.

13. **New Town Centre Parking (Pages 361 - 364)**

Summary:

This report informs Members of the creation of new parking spaces in Dartford town centre and proposes charging regimes for Mansion House Gardens Car Park (off-street) and Overy Liberty, Market Street and Lowfield Street (on-street) parking.

Recommendations:

1. That the delivery of fifty three (53) new parking spaces in Dartford town centre be noted;
2. That, subject to completion of a Parking Places Order, the creation of the Mansion House Gardens pay and display car park, be noted and the charges, as set out in Appendix A to the report, be agreed;
3. That the parking charges for Overy Liberty, Market Street and Lowfield Street (on-street) parking, as set out in Appendix A to the report, be agreed;
4. That the resumption of the charging and enforcement regime for all on-street spaces on 1 April be agreed; and
5. That the decision to reinstate charges in the Council's car parks be delegated to the Director of Housing and Public Protection, in consultation with the Chairman of Cabinet.

14. **Risk Based Verification of Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction (Pages 365 - 368)**

Summary:

To inform the Cabinet of the change to the processing of Housing Benefit/Council Tax reduction claims and to recommend accordingly.

Recommendations:

1. That, for the reasons outlined in the report, the Risk Based Verification Policy be revoked; and
2. That Housing Benefit/Council Tax Reduction claims received after 31 March 2021, be processed in accordance with Regulation 86 of the Housing Benefit Regulations and/or Rule 48 of the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

C - Items for Information, Noting, Endorsing

15. Council Tax Hardship Relief Support Scheme 2021 (Pages 369 - 372)

Summary:

This report sets out a scheme, funded by Kent County Council, to provide additional council tax relief for low-income households and for households suffering financial hardship as a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Recommendation:

That the additional funding to be provided by Kent County Council for the purpose of providing council tax relief, as detailed in paragraphs 3.3 and 3.4 of the report, be noted.