

EXECUTIVE DECISION NOTICE**CABINET**

A record of the decisions made at the meeting of the Cabinet held on Wednesday, 5 June 2019, at 10.00 a.m.

Present

Councillors

Giles Archibald (Leader and Promoting South Lakeland Portfolio Holder) (Chairman)

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Robin Ashcroft | Economy, Culture and Leisure Portfolio Holder |
| Jonathan Brook | Deputy Leader and Housing and Innovation Portfolio Holder |
| Andrew Jarvis | Finance and Resources Portfolio Holder |
| Dyan Jones | Climate Emergency and Localism Portfolio Holder |
| Eric Morrell | Customer and Commercial Services and People Portfolio Holder |
| Suzie Pye | Health, Wellbeing and Financial Resilience Portfolio Holder |

Also in attendance at the meeting were Shadow Executive Members James Airey (Shadow Cabinet), Roger Bingham (Shadow Cabinet), Tom Harvey (Shadow Cabinet Leader), John Holmes (Shadow Cabinet Deputy Leader), Helen Irving (Shadow Cabinet), Janette Jenkinson (Shadow Cabinet), Kevin Lancaster (Shadow Cabinet) and Mark Wilson (Leader of the Labour Group).

Officers

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Simon Blyth | Strategy Specialist |
| Inge Booth | Legal, Governance and Democracy Specialist |
| Lawrence Conway | Chief Executive |
| John Davies | Case Management Officer |
| Linda Fisher | Legal, Governance and Democracy Interim Lead Specialist |
| Julie Jackson | Principal Housing Strategy Officer |
| Adam Moffatt | Case Management Officer |
| Fraser Robertson | Communications Specialist |
| Simon Rowley | Director of Customer and Commercial Services |
| Helen Smith | Finance Lead Specialist (Section 151 Officer) |
| David Sykes | Director of Strategy, Innovation and Resources |

CEX/1**CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Leader welcomed new Cabinet Members, Councillors Eric Morrell and Suzie Pye, to the meeting, and further welcomed Councillor Bingham back to the Shadow Bench.

The Leader introduced Linda Fisher, Legal, Governance and Democracy Interim Lead Specialist and Adam Moffatt, Case Management Officer.

CEX/2 CABINET EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

The Leader and Promoting South Lakeland Portfolio Holder referred to Executive Decision CEX/113 (Cumbria Wide Framework Agreement for Disabled Adaptations) of the meeting held on 24 April 2019 and to the useful discussion which had taken place. The Leader thanked Councillor Mark Wilson, Leader of the Labour Group, for the helpful comments which he had raised at the meeting with regard to the need for clarification on the process of applying for Disabled Facilities Grants.

RESOLVED – That the Chairman be authorised to sign, as a correct record, the Executive Decisions made by Cabinet on 24 April 2019.

CEX/3 DELEGATED EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

RESOLVED – That the Delegated Executive Decisions made by Portfolio Holders or Officers on 11 April 2019 be received.

CEX/4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED – That it be noted that no declarations of interest were raised.

CEX/5 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - EXCLUDED ITEMS

RESOLVED – That it be noted that there are no excluded items on the Agenda.

CEX/6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

RESOLVED – That it be noted that no questions, representations, deputations or petitions have been received in respect of this meeting.

CEX/7 FORWARD PLAN

Copies of the latest Forward Plan published on 28 May 2019 had been circulated prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED – That the contents of the Forward Plan published on 28 May 2019 be noted.

CEX/8 CABINET PORTFOLIOS AND SCHEME OF DELEGATION

Further to the announcement made by the Leader at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 21 May 2019, Members had been provided with copies of documents outlining the allocation of Portfolios to Cabinet Members and the Scheme of Delegation for the discharge of the Executive functions of the Council.

RESOLVED – That the allocation of Portfolios to Cabinet Members by the Leader be noted and the respective Cabinet Job Descriptions be signed by each Cabinet Member.

CEX/9**COUNCIL PLAN PERFORMANCE MONITORING QUARTER 4 2018/19****Summary**

The Leader and Promoting South Lakeland Portfolio Holder presented the fourth quarter Council Plan Performance Monitoring Report 2018/19 which set out the Council Plan Priorities and Measures of Success. The measures listed, details of which were set out within the report, were showing very good performance and demonstrated that South Lakeland was a very desirable place to live, work and explore.

The report also included the latest Strategic Risk Register. Out of a total number of 15 risks, six were currently above the Council's tolerance but were, however, being managed effectively.

In presenting the report, the Leader and Promoting South Lakeland Portfolio Holder informed Members that the report had also been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 26 April 2019. He confirmed the Council's commitment to deliver on its promises, being on track to deliver 1,000 affordable homes to rent by 2025, with the provision to date of 464 affordable homes to rent. He also reported that there had been the creation of new jobs and business start-ups. He also drew attention to the reduction in empty homes, the target of 70 per year having been exceeded in 2018/19. The Leader and Promoting South Lakeland Portfolio Holder emphasised how seriously the Council took the need to set an example and reduce its carbon footprint and the need to work collaboratively with other authorities to mitigate Climate Change, referring to a review of the Council's buildings and proposals for the installation of solar panels. In closing, he announced that both he and the Climate Emergency and Localism Portfolio Holder planned further meetings with the public on the issue of Climate Change and he encouraged Shadow Cabinet Members to take part.

The Deputy Leader and Housing and Innovation Portfolio Holder made reference to the Measures of Success in relation to Housing, namely with regard to the number of homeless households living in temporary accommodation to be no more than 20 at any one time, the target for which was currently under pressure. He informed Members that the reasons for this were identified within the draft South Lakeland District Council Homelessness Strategy 2019-2024 which was due to be considered later on in the meeting, however, indicated that the Council was carefully monitoring the situation and seeking to keep the figures within target. He added that significant pressures were being faced nationally in this regard.

Discussion took place on the Climate Change emergency and on the need to maintain a focus on reality, with the Council setting out clear objectives and promoting understanding. The Climate Emergency and Localism Portfolio Holder indicated that her aim in this regard was for more collaborative working and the encouragement of youth involvement.

The issue of contagious disease of trees, predominantly Ash dieback, was raised, and the potential catastrophic result on the visual appearance of South Lakeland and the nation as a whole. The Leader and Promoting South Lakeland Portfolio Holder undertook to raise the matter with officers. This further raised the question of the importation of firewood from Eastern Europe, as well as the sustainability of the use of wood pellets as biomass fuel.

Discussion turned to Government policy on the banning of gas appliances in new homes from 2025 in order to help tackle Climate Change. The Climate Emergency and Localism Portfolio Holder encouraged Shadow Cabinet Members to lobby Government regarding statutory expectations on developers in this regard. The Leader and Promoting South Lakeland Portfolio Holder suggested that arrangements be made for a meeting of all Members to discuss the topic.

A query was raised in relation to a request made at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 26 April 2019 for provision to Members of the Committee of details of in which sectors new jobs within the District had been created. It was confirmed that this information would be circulated to all Members in due course.

Information was sought around housing and homelessness, for example what constituted the terms “local” or “families or couples”, changes to the Town View Fields Hostel, the situation with regard to rough sleeping in South Lakeland and publicity around the Council’s “no second night out” policy. The Deputy Leader and Housing and Innovation Portfolio Holder suggested that he would be happy to meet up with Members to discuss and to work up a presentation for all Members, as well as to make arrangements for councillors to visit Town View Fields Hostel.

Decision

RESOLVED – That the following be noted:-

- (1) the Summary of Performance as detailed within the report; and***
- (2) the detailed risks information contained within Appendix 1 to the report.***

Reasons for Decision

The report links directly to the Council Plan commitment to ensure that the Council is equipped to provide the best, most cost-effective services. Details regarding performance monitoring are published in line with the Council’s Performance Management Framework.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None – The purpose of the report is to receive a performance update. Council must note successes, monitor progress and take action where appropriate.

CEX/10

DRAFT SOUTH LAKELAND DISTRICT COUNCIL HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY 2019 - 2024

Summary

The Deputy Leader and Housing and Innovation Portfolio Holder introduced the report, explaining that the 2002 Homelessness Act required local authorities to conduct a review of homelessness and following on from this to develop a homelessness strategy. The purpose of the strategy was the prevention of homelessness, to secure sufficient accommodation for people who were or may become homeless and to secure the provision of support for those who were or may become homeless so that they did not become homeless again.

South Lakeland District Council had been working in partnership with a range of partners from the voluntary and statutory sectors to develop a Homelessness Strategy for the period 2019 - 2024. As a first step, the Council had conducted a Review of homelessness in 2018, the findings of which had been considered by the South Lakeland Strategic Homelessness Group and details of which were set out at Appendix 2 of the Strategy. The Strategic Homelessness Group was a multi-agency group chaired by the Portfolio Holder for Housing, People and Innovation. A workshop had held on 4 December 2018 with relevant stakeholders to discuss the priorities arising from the Review and agree actions that could be taken forward into the Homelessness Strategy 2019 - 2024. The key actions had been replicated within the Strategy's Action Plan, at Appendix 1 to the Strategy, and the feedback from this Workshop was detailed within Appendix 3 of the draft Strategy. This work had helped to shape the priorities in the new Strategy which were, in no particular order:-

- homelessness prevention;
- increasing the supply of settled accommodation;
- ensuring appropriate support was available; and
- tackling complex needs.

The priorities were framed within the overarching priority of partnership working, as it was recognised that homelessness was not an issue that could be addressed by a single organisation. However, the Council could work together with other statutory and third sector organisations to help achieve these priorities. The Strategic Homelessness Group provided a mechanism to embed partnership working with other partners, such as Cumbria County Council, who had a duty to assist in the development of the Homelessness Strategy and were represented on the Group. Developing commitment to collaboration should be strengthened by the recent adoption of the Cumbria Public Health Strategy which recognised the contribution that access to housing and preventing homelessness had in promoting health.

The draft South Lakeland District Council Homelessness Strategy 2019 – 2024 had subsequently been developed and was attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

The Action Plan needed to be updated on an annual basis and would be reported to the Housing Advisory Group and Strategic Homelessness Group as stipulated in the Strategy, before being signed off by the Director of Customer and Commercial Services. Updated Action Plans needed then to be sent to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Details in relation to consultation which had been carried out were included within the report. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee had recommended the document for approval to Cabinet at its meeting on 26 April 2019 (O&S/73 (2018/19) refers), also raising a couple of minor amendments which had subsequently been made to the glossary.

In closing, the Housing and Innovation Portfolio Holder expressed thanks to the Principal Housing Strategy Officer and Team for their work in preparing the Strategy. The Leader and Promoting South Lakeland Portfolio Holder in turn thanked the Deputy Leader and Housing and Innovation Portfolio Holder for a complete and well thought out report.

Members welcomed the high calibre report, further commending the author, the Principal Housing Strategy Officer.

Discussion took place on the need for appropriate liaison between authorities with regard to hospital and prison leavers and for the provision of clear pathways with regard to urgent requirements for housing the vulnerable. Also raised was the question of where the Housing Authority was not also the Planning Authority. Attention was drawn to the second action on page 103 at Appendix 3 to the report (Feedback from Workshop Discussions held on 4 December 2018) and to the second action point which, it was felt, required clarification. Members talked about the issue of restrictive covenants being a barrier to first home buyers and the potential for the development of policy whereby appropriate insurance might be provided by the Council to mortgagors.

The Deputy Leader and Housing and Innovation Portfolio Holder agreed that there needed to be a focus on publicising pathways for people to follow and that more work could be carried out in the area of housing provision following discharge from hospitals and prisons. He informed Members that he was open to suggestions on how to improve the housing market and methods of intervention to encourage lenders to lend and innovative ways by which to encourage house ownership. He reminded Members that the Council had a statutory duty to deal with vulnerable people, details of which were explained by the Principal Housing Strategy Officer. The Leader and Promoting South Lakeland Portfolio Holder pointed out that a Member training session on Housing and Homelessness was scheduled to be held at 11.00 a.m. on 11 June 2019 and suggested that the relevant details might be included as part of the handout.

Members having raised issues around community support and the need for children to be educated in life skills, the Deputy Leader and Housing and Innovation Portfolio Holder agreed that statutory support was not always available and with the need for education for young people to enable them to fend for themselves, however, pointed out that school agendas were already full to capacity. He asked Members, therefore, to prevail on Government to change the national curriculum to include such themes. He also agreed with the need for encouragement of strong communities.

Also raised was the detrimental impact of Universal Credit and changes to the welfare system which, it was felt, was not assisting the homelessness situation throughout the country.

The Leader and Promoting South Lakeland Portfolio Holder referred to the Council budget and to capital funding which had been allocated to the provision of homelessness facilities. Homelessness was a critical function for the Authority and he highlighted the work being carried out by the Council around the provision of affordable homes to rent which might assist in alleviating the problem.

Decision

RESOLVED – That the draft South Lakeland District Council Homelessness Strategy 2019-2024 be approved.

Reasons for Decision

The South Lakeland District Council Homelessness Strategy assists in the delivery of the Council Plan priority for “Housing” “providing homes to meet need.” The Council and its partners will work together to significantly reduce the risk of homelessness.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Cabinet could decide not to approve the draft South Lakeland District Council Homelessness Strategy 2019-2024. However, this was not recommended as the Council has to have a Homelessness Strategy and update this every five years in accordance with the Homelessness Act 2002 and would not be complying with this legislation.

CEX/11

SOUTH CUMBRIA COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2019 - 20**Summary**

The Health, Wellbeing and Financial Resilience Portfolio Holder presented the new South Cumbria Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Plan 2019/20 which recognised and sought to continue the effective collaboration in place between South Lakeland District Council, Barrow Borough Council, Cumbria Police and partner agencies, including Safer Cumbria. The Plan had been approved at a meeting of South Cumbria CSP on 9 April 2019 and formed part of South Lakeland District Council's Budget and Policy Framework. It aimed to reduce crime and enable local communities to remain safe and reassured, without fear, or threat, of crime. The CSP had agreed five priorities – protecting vulnerable people; domestic abuse; substance abuse and drug supply; violent crime and anti-social behaviour, key deliverables for which had been agreed for completion throughout the year.

In presenting the report, the Health, Wellbeing and Financial Resilience Portfolio Holder referred to the Applied Theatre in Cumbria partnership project whereby a small group of actors had put on performances in schools in South Lakeland tackling the challenging issue of drugs. She stressed the fact that the key message was the need for education and prevention as a vital role in tackling crime. She embraced cross-party dialogue on the subject.

Concern was expressed regarding the absence of some statistics and the rising number of incidences relating to violent crime and sex offences, including child sexual exploitation, and attention drawn to the new issue of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) generating an increase in visits to general practitioners by individuals. Members were informed of two further recent drug-related deaths in South Lakeland and an incident of radicalisation. The need to be alert, how to report incidents and to look after victims was stressed.

The Health, Wellbeing and Financial Resilience Portfolio Holder explained that there had been a tightening up in the manner of recording incidences, however, acknowledged that fact that there were problems which needed addressing. She responded to the issue of the additional burden on general practitioners in relation to adverse childhood experiences, suggesting the need for other agencies to become involved and informed Members of her intention to explore the area of health in her new role.

Members expressed support for the work of the Community Safety Partnership and welcomed continued dialogue.

The Leader and Promoting South Lakeland Portfolio Holder commended the vital work being carried out by the Community Safety Partnership and drew Members' attention to "The Well", an organisation in Barrow providing support to people recovering from drug and alcohol addiction and to the potential for its expansion into South Lakeland.

Decision

RESOLVED – That the South Cumbria Community Safety Partnership Plan (2019/20) be recommended to Council for approval as part of the Budget and Policy Framework.

Reasons for Decision

The decision assists in the Council Plan priority of reducing disadvantage by “working with partners to reduce domestic violence, alcohol related crime, substance misuse, child sexual exploitation and antisocial behaviour” and the wider objective of “working together to make South Lakeland the best place to live, work and explore.”

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Community Safety Partnerships have a statutory responsibility to produce a Partnership Plan.

CEX/12

CABINET APPOINTMENTS/REPRESENTATIONS ON OUTSIDE BODIES 2019/20

Summary

Consideration was given to proposed nominations for the appointments of representatives to serve on outside bodies for the forthcoming year 2019/20.

In presenting the report, the Leader and Promoting South Lakeland Portfolio Holder explained that the list of outside bodies to be appointed to by Cabinet was not complete and advised that Members would be asked to consider further appointments at a future meeting of the Cabinet, for example to the Sedbergh Economic Partnership. He also drew attention to the proposal to appoint to the George Moore Education Trust, a new outside body for 2019/20.

A query was raised in relation to a request made at the Annual Council Meeting on 21 May 2019 for provision to Members of a full list of the outside bodies appointed to by Council and the percentage of annual reports received from those Members appointed in 2018/19. It was confirmed that this information was being prepared and that it would be circulated to all Members in due course.

Information was sought with regard to the Cumbria Armed Forces Community Covenant which had been sign up to on behalf of South Lakeland District Council in 2013 and the Chief Executive undertook to investigate the matter.

Decision

RESOLVED – That the following appointments of representatives to serve on outside bodies for 2019/20 (or for terms as otherwise stated) be made:-

| Organisation | Representative | Notes |
|--|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Appleby Fair Multi-Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group | Suzie Pye | |
| Arnsdale/Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Executive Committee | Helen Chaffey | |
| Bowness and Windermere Forward Board | Dyan Jones | |
| Citizens' Advice Bureau Trustee Board | Suzie Pye | Observer only |
| Community Safety Partnership Council of Grizedale Arts | Suzie Pye Robin Ashcroft | Observer only |

05.06.2019

Cabinet Executive Decisions

| Organisation | Representative | Notes |
|---|-----------------------|---|
| County Council Local Committee for South Lakeland | Giles Archibald | |
| County Council Local Committee for South Lakeland | Jonathan Brook | |
| Cumbria Community Foundation | Robin Ashcroft | |
| Cumbria Housing Group | Jonathan Brook | |
| Cumbria Joint Districts Board | Giles Archibald | |
| Cumbria Leadership Board | Giles Archibald | |
| Cumbria Pensions Forum | Giles Archibald | |
| Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership | Eric Morrell | |
| Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership | Dyan Jones | Substitute |
| Cumbria Tourism | Robin Ashcroft | |
| Duddon Estuary Partnership Consultative Committee | Tracy Coward | |
| Duddon Estuary Partnership Consultative Committee | Gill Gardner | |
| Furness Economic Development Forum | Robin Ashcroft | |
| Gateway Group | Suzie Pye | |
| George Moore Education Trust | Robin Ashcroft | Trustee Role |
| Kendal BID | Robin Ashcroft | Period of Office is two years |
| Kendal Brewery Arts Centre | Robin Ashcroft | |
| Kendal Futures Board | Robin Ashcroft | |
| Lakes Line Rail User Group | Dyan Jones | |
| Lancaster Canal Regeneration Partnership | Chris Hogg | |
| Lancaster Canal Regeneration Partnership | Douglas Rathbone | |
| Local Enterprise Partnership | Giles Archibald | Observer only (to 2021) |
| Morecambe Bay Partnership | Robin Ashcroft | |
| North West Housing Forum | Jonathan Brook | |
| Parking and Traffic Regulation | Eric Morrell | |
| Outside London Joint Committee | | |
| Public Health Alliance | Suzie Pye | |
| Reserve Forces and Cadets Association | Roger Bingham | Three year appointment to 2020 |
| Safer Cumbria | Suzie Pye | |
| South Lakes Business against Crime Partnership | Pete McSweeney | |
| South Lakes Housing | Rupert Audland | To end of term on South Lakeland District Council |
| South Lakes Housing | John Holmes | To end of term on South Lakeland District Council |
| SPARSE Rural | Peter Thornton | |
| SPARSE Rural | Jonathan Brook | |
| Ulverston BID | Janette Jenkinson | Observer only |

Reasons for Decision

Appointments to Outside Bodies assist in the delivery of the Council Plan through partnership working: “working across boundaries, with a range of other local authorities, organisations and businesses.”

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Not to make appointments, which could affect the Council’s ability to influence partners on important strategic issues.

The meeting ended at 11.25 a.m.