

Minutes

Cabinet

Tuesday, 1 December 2020



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

The Leader: Councillor Kelham Cooke, The Leader of the Council (Chairman)

The Deputy Leader: Councillor Barry Dobson, The Deputy Leader of the Council (Vice-Chairman)

Cabinet Members present

Councillor Annie Mason, Cabinet Member for Communities

Councillor Dr Peter Moseley, Cabinet Member for Commercial and Operations

Councillor Robert Reid, Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning

Councillor Adam Stokes, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources

Councillor Rosemary Trollope-Bellew, Cabinet Member for Culture and Visitor Economy

Non-Cabinet Members present

Councillor Bob Adams

Councillor Graham Jeal

Councillor Ian Selby

Councillor Mark Whittington

Councillor Ray Wooten

Officers

Chief Executive (Karen Bradford)

Assistant Chief Executive, Housing Delivery (Ken Lyon)

Interim Director of Finance (Richard Wyles)

Strategic Director Commercial and Operations (Gary Smith)

Director of Law and governance (Shahin Ismail)

Acting Principal Democratic Officer (Shelley Thirkell)

Democratic Officer (Lucy Bonshor)

27. Register of attendance and apologies for absence

All Cabinet Members were present.

28. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 2020 were agreed as a correct record of the decisions taken.

29. Disclosure of Interests (if any)

None disclosed.

30. Council Tax Base 2021/22

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources presented the report on the Council Tax base for 2021/22. The proposed base for South Kesteven for 2021/22 was 48,122.4 Band D equivalents, an increase of 0.4% on the previous financial year 2020/21. The figure was less than the Medium Term Plan financial plan projection of 1.5%; this was due to fewer properties and the number of residents claiming Council Tax support. The setting of the Council Tax base was a key part of the budget and was based on the number of properties as at September 2020. The collection rate as at 30 November 2020 was only 0.8% less than 30 November 2019 and had increased since the reintroduction of recovery and direct support for those experiencing hardship. The recommendation as contained within the report was proposed and seconded.

On being put to the vote, it was **AGREED**:

To recommend to Council the approval of the Council Tax base for the financial year 2021/22 equating to 48,122.4 in accordance with the relevant legislation. This will form the basis upon which the Council will estimate Council Tax income for the 2021/22 budget.

31. Review of the Licensing Act 2003 Policy Statement

The Cabinet Member for Commercial and Operations presented the report on the review of the Statement of Licensing Policy 2021 – 2026. The Council had a statutory duty to review their Statement of Licensing Policy every five years. The policy had been updated to take account of changes in statutory guidance as published in April 2018 in relation to the Licensing Act 2003, legislation and information about the district. The policy had been out to consultation and had been discussed at the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Significant changes to the document had been made due to recent legislation.

On being put to the vote, it was **AGREED**:

To note the feedback from the public consultation on the draft Statement of Licensing Policy 2021-2026 and to recommend to Council that the draft Statement of Licensing Policy 2021-2026 be adopted.

32. Food Waste Collection

On presenting the report, the Cabinet Member for Commercial and Operations spoke of the success of the food waste trial that had originally been funded by Lincolnshire County Council on behalf of the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership. Participation levels

in the scheme had exceeded expectations with 85% participation of those taking part in the trial. Recycling had increased and there had been a reduction in residual waste. Although funding for the trial had been withdrawn by Lincolnshire County Council in June 2020, a decision had been made by the Leader to continue the existing service until 31 March 2021.

The report recommended that the current food waste collection continued until March 2022 with the current households. The ambition of the Council was to widen the food waste collection and an in principle decision was being sought to expand the food waste collection, which would depend on the budget available, and the Government's aim of compulsory food waste collection.

On being put to the vote, it was **AGREED**:

1. To continue the existing food waste collection service until at least March 2022, utilising the food waste financial reserve to fund and subject to the annual budget approval process.
2. To support in principle the ambition to expand food waste collections throughout the District, accepting that this would be dependent on future funding and/or the Government's proposals to make the service a statutory requirement.

33. Public Realm Improvements, St Peter's Hill, Grantham

The Leader of the Council presented the report on the project to deliver and install a statue of the late Baroness Margaret Thatcher on St Peter's Hill, Grantham, as the Country's first female Prime Minister who was born in Grantham. The statue had been commissioned and funded by The Public Memorials Appeal and planning permission to erect the statue had been granted.

The Leader of the Council referred to the economic impact that Covid-19 had had on businesses and tourist attractions. The unveiling of the statue event would draw many visitors to the area and would help to boost the local economy and benefit the local shops and businesses.

The Leader stated that an event of this type had significant cost implications and it was proposed that the cost of the event would be undertaken by a comprehensive fund raising campaign. The expectation was that the cost of the event would be fully met through voluntary donations and not at the expense of the public purse.

The report recommended that an experienced event company be appointed to make sure that the event was carried out safely and effectively. To maximise opportunities to promote South Kesteven, and to keep both residents and businesses safe.

Reference was made to the debate about the legacy of Baroness Thatcher, which had been highlighted in the press and social media. It was stated that the event provided an opportunity for the community of Grantham to celebrate its heritage and

promote the district of South Kesteven both nationally and internationally. A significant national figure would be undertaking the unveiling.

The Leader reiterated his belief that the full funding of the event would be met by fund raising and donations with the potential to provide a legacy to look after the statue and make contributions to Grantham Museum and the exhibits on display.

Cabinet Members supported the proposal, but acknowledged that she was seen by some as a divisive figure. However, it was a fact that she was the first female Prime Minister who was born in Grantham. This heritage should be celebrated and promoted to enhance visitor economy to the area. It was suggested that the local retailers and businesses should be contacted by the external event company so that everyone could be involved in the event and encourage visitors to the area.

Further support was given to the proposal by a non-Cabinet Member who quoted the increase in police officers during Baroness Thatcher's term of office. One non-Cabinet Member was against having the statue and he urged the Leader to hold a referendum with the residents of Grantham to see if they supported having a statue on St Peter's Hill.

On being put to the vote, it was **AGREED**:

1. To approve the installation of the statue on St Peter's Hill Green, in accordance with the agreed planning permission.
2. To approve a budget allocation from the Local Priorities Reserve and authorise expenditure of up to £100k to underwrite the statue-unveiling event and any consequential works. Any fundraising from the public, businesses and others will go towards funding this budget allocation.
3. To approve the engagement of an external organisation, as part of the above allocation, to coordinate the unveiling, including event management, communications and fundraising campaign.
4. To delegate to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and the Monitoring Officer, the authority to enter into a deed of gift agreement with The Public Memorials Appeal to transfer the ownership of the statue to the Council from the point of installation.

34. Matters Referred to Cabinet by the Council or Overview and Scrutiny Committees

No matters had been referred to Cabinet.

35. Key and Non Key Decisions taken under Delegated Powers

The Leader presented the report on Key and Non Key decisions that had been taken since the last meeting of the Cabinet. It was noted that the figure shown at paragraph 6.1 of Appendix 1 should read £80,000 and not £82,000 as shown in the report.

Cabinet noted the contents of the report.

36. Representations and questions from Non Cabinet Members

None received.

37. Cabinet Forward Plan 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021

Cabinet noted the Forward Plan for the period 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021.

Exclusion of Press and Public

It was proposed, seconded and agreed to exclude the press and public from the meeting, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 during consideration of the following item of business because of the likelihood that otherwise exempt information, as described in paragraph 3 of the Act would be disclosed to them.

38. Acquisition of Land in South Kesteven

To approve the recommendations as set out within exempt report of the Leader of the Council.

The report and associated appendices contain exempt information under Section 100(a)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

39. Close of meeting

The meeting closed at 14:56.