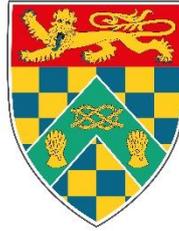


# Minutes

Cabinet

Tuesday, 18 May 2021



SOUTH  
KESTEVEN  
DISTRICT  
COUNCIL

Council Chamber, South Kesteven House,  
St. Peter's Hill, Grantham. NG31 6PZ

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**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 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

## Officers

Chief Executive (Karen Bradford)

Deputy Chief Executive (Alan Robinson)

Interim Director of Finance, Section 151 Officer (Richard Wyles)

Director of Housing and Property (Andrew Cotton)

Director of Growth and Culture (Nicola McCoy-Brown)

Monitoring Officer (Shahin Ismail)

Acting Principal Democratic Officer (Shelley Thirkell)

Democratic Officer (Naomi Page)

## 88. Register of attendance and apologies for absence

An apology for absence had been received from Councillor Dr Peter Moseley.

Following a register of attendance, it was confirmed that all other Cabinet Members were present.

The Leader welcomed Members to the meeting, which was the first Cabinet meeting to be held at the Council Offices in over a year. It was confirmed that all meetings would be held in the Council Chamber moving forward, with the exception of Full Council, until such a time when social distancing was not required.

Meetings of Full Council would be held at the Meres Leisure Centre, as the Council Chamber was not large enough to facilitate a Covid-secure meeting venue for all Councillors. Any members of the public wishing to attend meetings were encouraged to notify the Council in advance to support health and safety arrangements.

## **89. Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2021 were agreed as a correct record of the decisions taken.

## **90. Disclosure of Interests (if any)**

No interests were disclosed. The Leader asked for the Monitoring Officer to provide advice on the position to be taken for Cabinet Members who were also directors of LeisureSK Ltd, in relation to agenda item 4.

The Monitoring Officer advised that there would be no conflict of interests for any Cabinet Members who also held positions as directors of LeisureSK Ltd, a wholly Council-owned company. The position of director was a non-paid position and as such, was not a pecuniary interest and Members would be able to vote on item 4 (LeisureSK Ltd Management Fee).

## **91. LeisureSK Ltd Management Fee**

The Deputy Leader of the Council presented the report on the LeisureSK Ltd management fee. The establishment of LeisureSK Ltd was considered to have been a success, bringing a marked improvement to leisure services across the District. However, the challenges presented to the leisure industry, due to the pandemic and the subsequent restrictions put in place, meant that 1 in 3 authorities would need to revisit how they operated their leisure facilities.

Further activities had been reintroduced in the Council's leisure facilities since Monday 17 May 2021 and additional modelling was being undertaken to ensure that the provisions could be maintained moving forward. Cabinet Members highlighted the importance of continuing to lobby the Government for further financial support.

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

1. To accept the award of grant funding from Sport England in the sum of £320,597 in order to support the reopening of the leisure facilities.
2. That the additional funding should be provided to LeisureSK Ltd to fund the business rates liability of £148,000 for financial year 2021/22.
3. To increase the budget allocation of £500,000 by an additional £108,125 making a total maximum budget allocation of £608,125.
4. To delegate authority to the Director of Growth and Culture, in consultation with the S151 Officer to determine the final amount of management fee payment due to LeisureSK Ltd subject to a full reconciliation of the income and expenditure of the company.

## **92. Pilot of Private Rented Sector Insurance Scheme for Lincolnshire**

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning presented the report on the pilot of a Private Rented Sector Insurance Scheme. The trial scheme was being undertaken across Lincolnshire and would provide guarantors to cover losses from non-payment

of rent and property damage. This would allow the Council to use private sector rented accommodation to discharge its duties under homelessness legislation.

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

To approve the introduction of a pilot insurance-backed rent guarantee and property damage liability scheme using the product developed by Help2Rent on the following basis:

- a) For a pilot period of no more than 12 months during 2021/22;
- b) That no more than 50 client referrals are made with a maximum expenditure of £29,200; and
- c) That a detailed report on the outcomes and value-for-money of the scheme is submitted for Cabinet's consideration at the conclusion of the pilot to determine if the scheme is continued.

### **93. Procurement of Improvement Works to HRA Properties to include Off Gas Heating Solutions**

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning introduced the report to procure improvement works to HRA properties to include off gas heating solutions. He highlighted the importance of looking after the Council's existing housing stock and ensuring that tenants were provided for. Stock condition reports were being undertaken and would identify a programme of works to meet the needs of tenants and make full use of the Greener Homes grant funding.

Following a question from another Cabinet Member, it was confirmed that the improvement works under consideration were separate to the contract for plumbing and heating in Council properties. Officers were also asked if the Council could be confident that the works would be delivered. It was confirmed that the works had been planned with a focus on deliverability, as any unused Greener Homes grant funding would need to be returned. The Chief Executive added that a team was being developed to ensure delivery.

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

To approve the award of a contract to Phoenix Gas Services Ltd to undertake the installation of electrical heating and renewable technology to Council owned dwellings for a three year period (with a potential one year extension) to a maximum total value of £7,492,752.00.

### **94. Options for Legal Services**

The Leader of the Council presented the report on the options for Legal Services. The Legal Team had reduced in size over recent years, whilst requirements for legal support had increased. With an ambitious Corporate Plan in place, it was likely that the demand for legal services would remain high and the Council needed to ensure that this could be accommodated to support robust decision-making.

Members gave their experiences of the services provided by Legal Services Lincolnshire and shared confidence that the decision to join the Partnership would be a positive move to improve the legal services available.

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

To approve the recommendation to join the established and successful Lincolnshire Legal Services Partnership and retain the existing staff.

#### **95. Review of Data Protection Policies**

The Leader of the Council presented the report on the review of data protection policies. An action had been raised from a GPDR audit in August 2020, to review and update the policies. The policies had been reviewed to ensure that they met legislative and working requirements and the material and non-material changes were outlined to Members.

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

To approve the proposed updates and amendments to the existing Data Protection policies.

#### **96. Key and Non-Key Decisions taken under Delegated Powers**

Members noted the non-key decision that had been taken since the Cabinet last met on 16 March 2021.

#### **97. Representations and questions from Non-Cabinet Members**

There were none.

#### **98. Cabinet Forward Plan 1 June 2021 to 31 May 2022**

Cabinet noted the Forward Plan for the period 1 June 2021 to 31 May 2022.

#### **99. Close of the meeting**

The meeting closed at 14:38.