

# Minutes

Cabinet

Tuesday, 13 July 2021



SOUTH  
KESTEVEN  
DISTRICT  
COUNCIL

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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 People and Safer Communities  
Councillor Dr Peter Moseley, Cabinet Member for Commercial and Operations  
Councillor Robert Reid, Cabinet Member for Housing and Property  
Councillor Nick Robins, Cabinet Member for Planning and Planning Policy  
Councillor Adam Stokes, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources  
Councillor Rosemary Trollope-Bellew, Cabinet Member for Culture and Visitor Economy  
Councillor Linda Wootten, Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance

## **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)  
Director of Commercial and Operations (Gary Smith)  
Assistant Chief Executive (Ken Lyon)  
Head of Democratic Services (Graham Watts)  
Local Governance Association Graduate (Alice Atkins)

## **12. Register of attendance and apologies for absence**

All Cabinet Members were present.

## **13. Minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2021**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2021 were agreed as a correct record of the decisions taken.

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

No interests were disclosed.

#### **15. Outturn Position Report 2020/21**

##### Purpose of report

To approve the Council's provisional outturn position for the financial year 2020/21.

##### Decision

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

1. To recommend to Governance and Audit Committee the provisional revenue and capital outturn report and associated appendices for the financial year 2020/21.
2. To recommend to Governance and Audit Committee the proposed reserve movements.
3. To approve the budget carry forwards to be included into the 2021/22 budget framework.
4. To approve that the allocation of the Covid recovery reserve to be delegated to the Chief Executive and the Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources.

##### Other options considered and rejected

No other options were considered.

##### Reason for the decision

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources introduced the report which set out the Council's provisional outturn position for the financial year 2020/21. The document provided an update on the financial position of the Authority and recommended actions to ensure that financial resources were in line with the budget and targeted towards the Council's priorities.

#### **16. Choice Based Lettings Scheme Consultation**

##### Purpose of report

To provide background on Choice Based Lettings schemes in advance of any consultation on a possible change of approach from direct lettings to a Choice Based Lettings scheme, and also to provide information on future amendments to the Council's existing Allocation Policy.

## Decision

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

1. To note the content of the report and the likely benefits of a Choice Based Lettings Approach.
2. To approve:
  - a) The consultation with partners and housing register applicants, as detailed in the report, to support the review of the Council's Allocation Policy and the introduction of a Choice Based Lettings process.
  - b) The consultation materials, processes and timescale as suggested in and appended to the report, and delegate to the Director of Housing and Property authority to make minor amendments to the materials and process as needed.
  - c) The submission of a future report with a revised Allocation Policy and Choice Based Lettings scheme, taking into account the Council's statutory responsibilities and the consultation responses.

## Other options considered and rejected

- a) Do nothing and continue with a direct lettings approach.
- b) Change to a Choice Based Lettings approach.

## Reason for the decision

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Property introduced the report which set out a potential change to the way the Council allocated its vacant properties, from a direct letting approach to one where applicants bid for suitable homes to meet their needs, through an automated bidding system known as Choice Based Lettings.

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

### Purpose of report

To provide an overview of decisions taken by individual Cabinet Members since the last meeting of the Cabinet on 15 June 2021.

### Decision

On being put to the vote it was **AGREED** to note the contents of the report.

### Other options considered and rejected

No other options were considered.

### Reason for the decision

The Leader of the Council introduced the report which set out the Key and Non-Key decisions which had been taken under delegated authority since the Cabinet last met on 15 June 2021.

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Property had made a Non-Key decision on 8 June 2021 regarding the approval to award the management of specific Council operated commercial assets to an external management agent. This decision was effective from 18 June 2021.

## **18. Cabinet Forward Plan**

Cabinet noted the contents of its Forward Plan for the period 1 July to 30 July 2022.

## **19. Matters Referred to Cabinet by the Council or Overview and Scrutiny Committees:**

### **a) Housing Customer Feedback Policy**

#### Purpose of report

To propose a Housing Customer Feedback Policy.

#### Decision

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

- a) Note the content of the report in relation to the management of complaints, compliments and comments in respect of the Council's role as a social landlord.
- b) Approve the proposed Housing Customer Feedback Policy.
- c) Delegate to the Director of Housing and Property authority to make minor changes to the Policy as required by changes to legislation or regulation.

#### Other options considered and rejected

No other options were considered.

### Reason for the decision

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Property introduced the report which detailed the proposed Housing Customer Feedback Policy, setting out how the Housing Service would manage feedback. The document outlined the Authority's need as a social landlord to listen and act on the views of its service users and to comply with the Social Housing White Paper and the Housing Ombudsman Complaints Handling Code.

The meeting closed at 14:25.