

MEETING:	Cabinet
DATE:	Wednesday, 13 December 2017
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Reception Room, Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present Councillors Houghton CBE (Chair), Andrews BEM, Bruff, Cheetham, Gardiner, Howard, Miller and Platts

Members in Attendance: Councillors Franklin, Frost, David Griffin, Pourali and Saunders and Sheard

141. Declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

Councillor Roya Pourali declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 147 in her capacity as a Berneslai Homes Board Member.

142. Leader - Call-in of Cabinet decisions

The Leader reported that no decisions from the previous meeting held on 29th November, 2017 had been called in.

143. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 29th November, 2017 (Cab.13.12.2017/3)

The minutes of the meeting held on 29th November, 2017 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

144. Decisions of Cabinet Spokespersons (Cab.13.12.2017/4)

The Record of Decisions taken by Cabinet Spokespersons under delegated powers during the weeks ending 1st and 8th December, 2017 were noted.

145. Petitions received under Standing Order 44 (Cab.13.12.2017/5)

It was reported that no petitions had been received under Standing Order 44.

Communities Spokesperson

146. Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy (Cab.13.12.2017/6)

RESOLVED that approval be given to the implementation of the addendum referring to Houses in Multiple Occupation to the Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy 2017 – 2020 as set out in the report now submitted.

Place Spokesperson

147. Homes and Communities Agency Empty Homes Programme 2018/21 (Cab.13.12.2017/7)

The Place Spokesperson explained that there was a discrepancy in the financial data presented within the body of the report and Appendix A to the report. He confirmed that Appendix A provided the correct financial information.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that approval be granted for the acceptance of empty homes grant funding of £995,000 from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), as detailed in the report submitted;
- (ii) that the Executive Director, Core Services be authorised to enter into contract with the Homes and Communities Agency for the delivery of a new HCA Empty Homes Programme covering the period 2018/21; and
- (iii) that the Council's capital programme be amended to include the HCA Empty Homes Programme 2018/21 with a total value, including match-funding, of £3.591 million.

People (Safeguarding) Spokesperson

148. Social Worker Caseloads in Children's Social Care and Safeguarding Services (Cab.13.12.2017/8)

RESOLVED that approval be given to the funding and recruitment of 14 FTE additional social workers with a view to reducing caseloads in Children's Social Care front line social work teams; assessment; child protection; disability; children in care and care leavers (excluding adoption and fostering teams) from an average of 21.7 cases per social worker to an average of 18 cases per social worker, as set out in paragraphs 4.3 and 4.3.1 of the report now submitted.

149. Exclusion of Public and Press

RESOLVED that the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items, because of the likely disclosure of exempt information as described by the specific paragraphs of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended, as follows:-

<u>Item Number</u>	<u>Type of Information Likely to be Disclosed</u>
150	Paragraph 3

Core Services Spokesperson

150. Building Schools for the Future - Refinancing Proposal & Change in Law (Cab.13.12.2017/10)

The Core Services Spokesperson noted that the report stated that written confirmation from the Education Funding Agency (EFA) had not yet been received regarding the refinancing proposal. However, he informed the meeting that the EFA did not typically provide written confirmation of such agreements and therefore it was not intended to await such confirmation before implementing the proposals set out in the report.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the terms for refinancing the Phase 1 PFI Project Agreement in respect of the Building Schools for the Future Programme, as outlined in paragraph 3.3 of the report now submitted, be noted and approved;
- (ii) that the Change in Law terms as outlined at paragraphs 3.7 - 3.16 of the report submitted be noted and approved;
- (iii) that these proposals be agreed in the absence of written confirmation from EFA of the matter outlined in paragraph 3.6.
- (iv) that the Executive Director of Core Services and Solicitor to the Council and the Service Director Finance, or their authorised representatives, be authorised to finalise the Project Documents and any ancillary documents to ensure that financial close on the refinancing and the amendment to the Change in Law risk be reached on behalf of the Council;
- (v) that the Executive Director of Core Services and Solicitor to the Council or his representative be authorised to execute the Project Documents and any ancillary documents to which the Council is a party for the purposes set out at (iv) above;
- (vi) that Cabinet receive further updates on the refinancing/amendment to the Change in Law risk, where necessary; and
- (vii) that Cabinet receive reports on the Phase 3 PFI project agreement refinancings in due course.

(Note: In accordance with Part 2, Paragraph 5(6) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had given approval for the above item to be considered at a private meeting of Cabinet where it had not been possible to give 28 days' notice)

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Chair