

**THE CABINET
18th October, 2021**

Present:- Councillor Read (in the Chair); Councillors Alam, Allen, Beck, Brookes, Cusworth, Lelliott, Roche and Sheppard.

Also in attendance Councillor Clark (Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board)

54. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

55. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present at the meeting and no questions submitted in writing.

56. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 20th September, 2021, be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

57. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chair advised that Appendix 3 to Minute 60 was exempt by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. However, the Appendix was not discussed during the meeting and as such, the meeting remained open to the press and public throughout.

58. PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS TO NEWMAN SPECIAL SCHOOL

Consideration was given to the report which sought approval to commence a period of pre-statutory consultation on proposals to make prescribed alterations to Newman Special School. The prescribed alterations included increasing the registered number of places from the current 120 to 180. There were already 159 pupils on roll.

The proposals also included the establishment of a permanent annex site at the old Dinnington College site and the amendment of the designation of the school to complex SEND to cover all existing cohorts across a range of complexity of needs. The site at Dinnington would give capacity for the 180 pupils and was necessary on a temporary basis initially to support the facilitation of planned essential works and maintenance to parts of the Newman School site.

A period of pre-statutory consultation was necessary under the requirements of the Department for Education School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013. The consultation would last a minimum of four weeks and a report would be brought back to Cabinet in January 2022 outlining the outcome.

Resolved:

1. That approval is granted to commence a period of pre-statutory consultation in relation to proposals to make prescribed alterations to Newman Special School and
2. That a further report be submitted to Cabinet in January 2022 outlining the outcome of the pre-statutory consultation and seeking approval to proceed to a period of statutory consultation.

59. PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS TO THE WILLOWS SPECIAL SCHOOL

Further to Minute No. 7 of the Cabinet held 21st June, 2021, consideration was given to the report which outlined the responses to the period of pre-statutory consultation of the prescribed alterations to the Willows Special School. The report also sought approval to begin a period of statutory consultation on the alterations with a further report outlining the results to be brought back to Cabinet in January 2022.

The pre-statutory consultation on the alterations, which included an increase in the number of planned places from 100 to 120 and a change to the age range from 7-16 to 7-19, had taken place between 29th June and 9th August, 2021, and had resulted in no responses. A range of stakeholders had been consulted as detailed in Appendix 3 to the report.

The school had a Good rating from OFSTED and was already oversubscribed.

Resolved:

1. That approval is granted for the commencement of a period of statutory consultation in relation to proposals to make prescribed alterations to the Willow Special School.
2. That a further report be submitted to Cabinet in January 2022 outlining the outcome of the statutory consultation and seeking determination of the proposals.

60. DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS PROPERTY ASSET - FORMER ADULT LEARNING DISABILITY PROPERTY, 58 QUARRY HILL ROAD, WATH UPON DEARNE, ROTHERHAM, S63 7TD

Consideration was given to the report which sought approval to dispose of the Council's freehold interest in No. 58 Quarry Hill Road, Wath Upon Dearne. The property had been vacant since March 2021 following the relocation of the Learning Disability Residential Respite Service to Conway Crescent. Enquiries were made to ascertain whether the building could be reused but no options were put forward. As such, the property was declared surplus to the operational requirements of the Adult Care, Housing and Public Health Directorate in March 2021 and deemed suitable for disposal by the Asset Management Board in May 2021.

All local Ward Members had been consulted on the proposal and no objections had been received.

Information relating to the potential capital receipt values and potential holding/revenue costs had been provided to Cabinet Members in the exempt appendix to the report.

Resolved:

1. The approval is given to the disposal of the Council's freehold interest in No. 58 Quarry Hill Road, Wath Upon Dearne, Rotherham, S63 7TD;
2. That approval is given to the Assistant Director (Planning, Regeneration and Transport) for the disposal of the asset by implementing the most appropriate method of disposal to help expedite the process, whilst ensuring that best consideration is achieved under Section 123 – Local Government Act 1972; and
3. That the Assistant Director of Legal Services be instructed to negotiate and complete the necessary legal documentation once terms for the disposal have been agreed.

61. RENEWAL OF THE "TRANSPORT FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND VULNERABLE ADULTS" CONTRACTOR FRAMEWORK

Consideration was given to the report which explained that the Council's Transport Service had a statutory obligation to provide daily transport between home and school for more than 760 children. This figure changed constantly and continued to increase year on year. The Service also facilitated journeys for 52 adults in order for them to attend day centre provision and Adult Care provisions.

The existing contractor framework was introduced in April 2017 and had been due to expire in April 2021. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the framework had been extended to August 2022. In order to ensure

arrangements were in place following the end of the current framework, the Council was required to re-procure the external provision and proposed to use a Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) going forward. The DPS would improve the quality of the Service, drive innovation, increase competition and reduce costs. If agreed, the new arrangements would come into effect in September 2022 and align with the academic year.

The main advantage of the DPS system was that it allowed suppliers to join at any point, giving wider flexibility to the Service and better opportunities to local businesses.

Resolved:

That the re-procurement of the current transport framework using a Dynamic Purchasing System as detailed in Option C be approved.

62. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

There were no recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board to consider.

63. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:-

That the next meeting of the Cabinet will be held on Monday, 22nd November, 2021, commencing at 10.00 a.m. in Rotherham Town Hall.