

CABINET

REMOTE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 28TH MAY, 2020

PRESENT: Councillor Maher (in the Chair)
Councillors Atkinson, Cummins, Fairclough, Hardy,
John Joseph Kelly, Lappin, Moncur and Veidman

1. INTRODUCTION

Councillor Maher, Leader of the Council welcomed Members to the first remote meeting of Sefton Council's Cabinet and he extended a special welcome to members of the public who may be viewing the meeting online; and indicated that this meeting was being held using Microsoft Teams Live Events software and that prior to the meeting a test meeting had been held to ensure that this meeting ran smoothly.

Councillor Maher advised that a protocol for Members attending remote meetings had been circulated prior to the meeting and he requested that Members adhered to this protocol; and indicated that it would be particularly helpful if Members turned their cameras off and muted their microphones when not addressing the meeting. If Members would like to address the meeting at any time they were requested to so indicate by using the chat facility in Microsoft Teams. The chat facility enabled elected Members to raise issues and interact with the meeting in real time.

Councillor Maher concluded that if Members were called to address the meeting could they please pause for a few seconds to enable their microphones to be unmuted and their cameras to be turned on.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of any disclosable pecuniary interests or personal interests were received.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Decision Made:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 March 2020 be approved as a correct record.

5. SEFTON CLIMATE EMERGENCY STRATEGY

The Cabinet considered the joint report of the Executive Director - Corporate Resources and Customer Services and the Executive Director – People that indicated that Sefton Council was committed to reducing carbon emissions and had resolved to go further than the UK100 Agreement and to act in line with the scientific consensus that we must reduce emissions to net zero by 2030; and that as such the Council at its meeting in July 2019 declared a climate emergency. Following that declaration work had progressed within the Council on the agreed actions that were contained and approved by Members; and that as part of that work a Strategy for the delivery of the Council Motion had been developed and this report sought approval of that Strategy.

A copy of the Sefton Council Climate Emergency Strategy and Council Motion were attached to the report.

Decision Made:

That Council be recommended to approve the Sefton Climate Emergency Strategy.

Reasons for Decision:

The Strategy will provide the framework for the delivery of the Council Motion that declared a climate emergency.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

6. SEND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Further to Minute No. 42 of the meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board held on 11 March 2020 the Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Executive that updated on the progress made against the actions taken and progress made with regard to the Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND Continuous Improvement Plan); and which also updated on the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic.

Decision Made:

That:

- (1) the progress made to date in connection with the SEND Continuous Improvement Plan be noted;
- (2) it be noted that changes have now been introduced resulting in many of the action plan objectives being met and that where required appropriate remedial action has been put in place;

- (3) it be noted that the ASD pathway has been impacted by the COVID 19 pandemic and the remedial actions being taken by the provider and the approaches taken to maintain a safe level of service for children requiring ASD/ADHD assessment and diagnosis also be noted; and
- (4) it be confirmed that Cabinet considers that the level of risk is being effectively managed.

Reasons for Decision:

The Health and Wellbeing Board provides system leadership and keeps the Council's Cabinet informed of progress and if necessary, will escalate concerns. On 11th March 2020 the Health and Wellbeing Board agreed the report (attached as an appendix to the Cabinet report) and in relation to recommendation (9) of that report sought to provide assurance of robust oversight of the delivery of the SEND Continuous Improvement Plan.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

7. APPOINTMENT TO LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL NHS FOUNDATION TRUST UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

Further to Minute No. 65 of 7 November 2019 the Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer seeking the appointment of an elected Member as a Governor of the Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust University Hospital Council following the resignation of Councillor Friel from that position.

Decision Made:

That Councillor Tony Carr be appointed as the Sefton Council representative to the Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust University Hospital Council of Governors, with immediate effect, until 2 December 2022.

Reasons for Decision:

The Cabinet has delegated powers set out in Chapter 5, Paragraph 40 of the Constitution to appoint the Council's representatives to serve on Outside Bodies.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

8. CARE HOMES ADDITIONAL FUNDING

The Cabinet considered the report of the Executive Director – Adult Social Care and Health outlining proposals on providing additional funding to the Sefton care home market in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Decision Made:

That:

- (1) the proposals outlined in section 5.1 of the report be implemented in order to provide additional financial support to care homes during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- (2) future decisions on any further additional funding to be provided to care homes be delegated to the Executive Director - Adult Social Care and Health and the Director of Public Health in consultation with the Cabinet Member - Adult Social Care and the Cabinet Member - Health and Wellbeing;
- (3) the Executive Director - Adult Social Care and Health and the Director of Public Health be requested to continue to gather information from care homes on the financial pressures they are experiencing in order to assess the sufficiency of additional funding provided to date;
- (4) further reports be submitted to Cabinet and the Health and Wellbeing board in order to provide updates on the financial support being provided to care homes and to report the impact of COVID-19 on the Sefton care home market;
- (5) it be noted that the proposal was a Key Decision but had not been included in the Council's Forward Plan of Key Decisions. Consequently, the Leader of the Council and the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health) had been consulted under Rule 27 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules of the Constitution, to the decision being made by Cabinet as a matter of urgency on the basis that it was impracticable to defer the decision until the commencement of the next Forward Plan because the Council is required to submit a planning return to Central Government by 29 May 2020, which details the current activities and forward plans it has in place to support the care home market in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. There is also a need to put in place further additional financial support payments to care homes as soon as possible due to the increased financial pressures they are currently experiencing;
- (6) it be noted that the proposal was a Key Decision but had not been included in the Council's Forward Plan of Key Decisions. Consequently, the Leader of the Council and the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health)

had given their consent under Rule 29 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules of the Constitution for these decisions to be treated as urgent on the basis that they cannot be reasonably deferred because the Council is required to submit a planning return to Central Government by 29th May 2020, which details the current activities and forward plans it has in place to support the care home market in light of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

- (7) it be noted that the Leader of the Council and the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health) had given their consent under Rule 46 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules for these decisions to be treated as urgent and not subject to "call in" on the basis that they cannot be reasonably deferred because the Council is required to submit a planning return to Central Government by 29th May 2020, which details the current activities and forward plans it has in place to support the care home market in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and also pay the additional funding to care homes as soon as possible in order to support them in light of the increased financial pressures they are currently experiencing.

Reasons for Decision:

To continue to support the Sefton care home market during the COVID-19 pandemic and to ensure that ongoing work takes place to assess the financial impact on care homes.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

The following options were considered and rejected:

- (1) Not providing further additional funding – this option was considered and rejected as the Council is required to ensure that additional funding allocated to it from Central Government is used to support care homes, who are experiencing additional financial pressures due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There is also a requirement to ensure that additional funding also reflects the impact on all types of care home placements, not simply those commissioned by the Council.
- (2) Providing additional funding via other mechanisms such as arbitrary one-off payments – this option was considered and rejected as there is a need to ensure that any additional funding provided is based on a sound understanding of the impact of COVID-19 on the Sefton care home market and that further analysis will need to take place via the submission of templates from care homes detailing the cost pressures they are experiencing, in order to ascertain whether funding provided to date is sufficient.