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CABINET
24/04/2017 at 6.00 pm



1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Harrison.

2 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business received.

3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received.

4 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions received.

5 **MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON THE
20TH MARCH 2017**

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 20th March 2017 be approved as a correct record.

6 **INCLUSION POLICY FOR OLDHAM**

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Executive Director, Economy, Skills and Neighbourhoods which sought approval of a draft Inclusion Policy for Oldham, following a recommendation from the Oldham Education and Skills Commission to address the high level of exclusions in the secondary phase.

The report outlined the activities undertaken and progress made so far with the inclusion review, highlighted recommendations for consideration and set out the next steps in the review.

It was reported that the first phase of the review had been completed and involved engagement and input from key stakeholders and partners to help to inform and support the development of an Inclusion Policy for Oldham.

Options/Alternatives considered

Option 1 – To review and approve the Inclusion Policy for Oldham Council.

Option 2 – Following review, consider or suggest amendments to the Policy.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The rationale for undertaking the Inclusion Review led by the Council be noted.
2. Details of activities undertaken and progress made so far with the Review be noted.
3. Details of the consultation process and engagement undertaken to help inform and develop an Inclusion Policy be noted.
4. The Inclusion Policy for Oldham as appended to the report be approved in light of key outcomes from the Review to date.

5. The oversight of the Inclusion Policy and a consequent Inclusion Strategy for Oldham be given to the Best Start in Life Partnership, with clear governance and accountabilities in place to ensure their adoption and implementation.

7

COUNCIL TAX DISCOUNT FOR CARE LEAVERS

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Finance which sought approval to provide 100% discount from the payment of Council Tax to care leavers who live in the Borough aged 18-20.

It was reported that the Council had the discretion to reduce Council Tax liability for individuals or prescribed groups as per Section 13a of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. The Council proposed to exercise its discretionary powers to support care leavers by offering a 100% Council Tax discount. Providing this support would help care leavers to manage the social and financial transition from local authority care to independent living.

Options/Alternatives considered

Option 1 – Not to approve the 100% Council Tax discount for care leavers under 21. This could result in financial hardship for this group of vulnerable young people.

Options 2 – To approve the 100% Council Tax discount for care leavers. This would ensure that the Council had a Council Tax Policy which supports care leavers.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The provision of a 100% Council Tax discount scheme for care leavers aged 18, 19 and 20 who live in the Borough be approved from the 1st April 2017.
2. The creation of a Section 13 a (Local Government Finance Act 1992) policy to support this provision be approved.

8

OLDHAM CULTURAL QUARTER

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Executive Director Economy, Skills and Neighbourhoods which sought approval of a number of recommendations in relation to the Oldham Cultural Quarter Programme.

The report outlined the vision of a vibrant cultural quarter which would provide the widest possible cultural participation and promote excellence in theatre, heritage and the arts, acting as a catalyst for economic growth and promote Oldham as a destination of choice.

The vision relied on delivery of 4 key initiatives:

- Phase A – the Oldham Heritage and Arts Centre (OHAC) project centered upon the refurbishment of the grade 2 listed former Oldham Library, and including the current Gallery Oldham;
- Phase B – the development of the block of Council owned buildings at 84 Union Street and the adjacent former museum buildings, which would become vacant on the completion of the OHAC project;

- Phase C - a new theatre building for the Coliseum Theatre (OCT), located on the adjacent car park site at Southgate Street;
- Phase D – delivery of key heritage buildings along Union Street.

Members were provided with details of:

- Progress to date in relation to the Oldham Cultural Quarter programme;
- The capital budget
- Proposals in relation to Phases B&D;
- The proposal to provide an off-site storage facility required as part of the approved Phase A OHAC project;
- The agreed Governance Arrangements for the OHAC project.

Options/Alternatives considered

The options and alternatives were contained within the commercially sensitive report at agenda Item 11.

RESOLVED – That Cabinet would consider the information as detailed at Item 11 of the agenda before making a decision.

9

OLDHAM COMMUNITY LEISURE UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Director Health and Wellbeing which sought approval to provide cash flow support to Oldham Community Leisure.

The report outlined a request from Oldham Community Leisure's (OCL) as a Group of Companies (Oldham Community Leisure and Wellbeing Leisure) for cash flow support from the Council to assist with its short term operations and a business plan to detail future management actions was set out at Item 12 of the agenda.

Members were advised that in considering the recommendations of the report a commitment would be given for regular review periods to be undertaken, supported by due diligence from the Council, to ensure the cash flow support provided by the Council was having the anticipated impact on Oldham Community Leisure's financial position.

Options/Alternatives considered

The options and alternatives were contained within the commercially sensitive report at agenda Item 12.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet would consider the commercially sensitive information as detailed at Item 12 of the agenda before making a decision.

10

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they contain exempt information under paragraphs 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and it would not, on balance, be in the public interest to disclose the reports.

11

OLDHAM CULTURAL QUARTER

The Cabinet gave consideration to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 8 Oldham Cultural Quarter.

RESOLVED – That recommendations 1 -10 as outlined in the commercially sensitive report be agreed.

12

OLDHAM COMMUNITY LEISURE UPDATE

The Cabinet gave consideration to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 9 Oldham Community Leisure Update.

RESOLVED – That recommendations as outlined in the commercially sensitive report be agreed.

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 6.13 pm