

# CABINET

Monday, 20 January 2020

|                 |             |   |   |
|-----------------|-------------|---|---|
| <u>Present:</u> | Councillor  | P Hackett (Chair)   | Leader of the Council   |
|                 | Councillors | E Grey<br>C Jones<br>T Jones<br>A Leech<br>J McManus<br>C Spriggs<br>T Usher<br>S Whittingham<br>J Williamson | Environment and Climate Change<br>Adult Care Health and Wellbeing<br>Regeneration and Growth<br>The Local Plan<br>Community Services<br>Culture and Tourism<br>Children Families and Education<br>Housing and Planning<br>Finance and Resources |

## ONE MINUTE'S SILENCE

The Cabinet stood in silence for one minute as a mark of respect for Councillor Chris Blakeley who had sadly passed away on 15 January 2020.

## 79 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

## 80 MINUTES

### RESOLVED:

**That the Minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet held on 25 November 2019, 23 December 2019 and 13 January 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.**

## 81 EXECUTIVE KEY DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

### RESOLVED:

**That the following Key Decisions taken under delegated authority from the period 13 December 2019 (date of publication of last Cabinet agenda) to date be noted:**

- **Town Centre Retail Warehouse - 107 - 127 Claughton Road, Birkenhead  
Decision Maker: Leader of the Council  
Date of decision: 18 December 2019  
Effective from: 3 January 2020**

- **Preferred Development Option for New Ferry**  
**Decision Maker: Leader of the Council**  
**Date of decision: 20 December 2019**  
**Effective from: 7 January 2020**
- **Wirral Council to Commit to Keep it Local Campaign**  
**Decision Maker: Cabinet Member – Finance and Resources**  
**Date of decision: 20 December 2019**  
**Effective from: 7 January 2020**

82 **SITE OF THE FORMER ROCK FERRY HIGH SCHOOL - SALE TO A REGISTERED PROVIDER**

Councillor Janette Williamson introduced a report which sought the Cabinet's approval to the sale of part of the site of the former Rock Ferry High School in Rock Ferry.

Councillor Williamson reported that the sale would support the Wirral Plan and its delivery through the generation of capital receipts and would enable a Registered Provider of social housing to develop affordable homes in the borough. Improving housing availability for residents was a key priority for the Council. Enabling regeneration projects that also supported the Local Plan in the process were ideal for the area, its green spaces, residents and future homeowners.

Councillor Williamson informed that the sale of the site would allow the provider to develop affordable housing, bringing much needed social value to the area as it repurposed the space to benefit the community. Also, as part of an extra care housing scheme, supported by funding from Homes England, the development would see 186 shared ownerships and affordable rent residential units including houses, bungalows and apartments created on the site. Of these, more than 100 would be extra care units.

Councillor Williamson further informed that whilst the development itself responded directly to the borough's affordable housing needs, the Council would also benefit from a capital receipt resulting from the sale of the land, a portion of which would help to pay for the improvement of Riverside Primary School.

Cabinet Members, in turn, informed how pleased they were to support the proposal and noted that it would help to push forward its agenda for community wealth building, redirecting wealth back into the local economy and placing control and benefits into the hands of local people.

This matter affected the Rock Ferry Ward and was a key decision.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Director of Delivery Services be authorised to agree a sale of part of the site of the former Rock Ferry High School to Torus62 Ltd (Registered Society No RS007826) for £2,100,000 plus a contribution of £1,500 towards the Council's legal costs and Surveyor's fees.**

83 **AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19**

Councillor Pat Hackett introduced the Audit and Risk Management Committee's Annual Report 2018-19 which it had been required to complete in accordance with best professional practice.

The Audit and Risk Management Committee at its meeting on 18 November 2019 had considered its draft Annual Report, approved it and referred it to the Cabinet for consideration. (Minute No 30 refers) The Cabinet received a copy of Minute No. 30 for information.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Audit and Risk Management Committee's Annual Report be noted.**