

PUBLIC

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the **CABINET MEMBER – ADULT CARE** held on 11 June 2020 at County Hall, Matlock.

**PRESENT**

Councillor J Wharmby (in the Chair)

Also in attendance were Councillors C Dale, and S Swann.

**14/20** **MINUTES RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 16 April 2020 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Cabinet Member.

**15/20** **PETITIONS TO BE RECEIVED** The Cabinet Member received petitions forwarded to the County Council relating to matters contained within the portfolio of the Cabinet Member for Adult Care.

In compliance with the Council's Petition Scheme, 10 petitions were presented for receipt, investigation and formal response by the Executive Director for Adult Social Care and Health.

**RESOLVED** that (1) the petitions listed above be received and noted; and (2) the Local Members and lead petitioners be advised that in order to alleviate the anxieties for residents, family members and staff, as well as to bring clarity for the market as a whole, an urgent report had been submitted to Cabinet on 4 June 2020 recommending that following the consultation on the future of direct care homes for older people none of the homes proposed for closure would close unless a local care home or alternative provision was available to replace and further consultation had been undertaken as appropriate; and a further report setting out a programme of repair and refurbishment for these seven homes, to include any works required immediately to ensure their soundness and safety, would be presented to Cabinet in due course.

**16/20** **REVIEW OF URGENT OFFICER DECISIONS REPORTED TO CABINET 23 APRIL 2020** The challenges relating to the COVID-19 pandemic had necessitated urgent decision making processes by the Executive Director for Adult Social Care and Health and Directors to be implemented to ensure the welfare of service users and the public and to safeguard the interests of the Council. The decisions had been made under the urgent delegated powers of the Executive Directors as set out in the Constitution.

In the main, the decisions related to short-term temporary arrangements which were subject to regular review. This had been particularly important where subsequent Government guidance had been issued notably in the area of

Adult Social Care. It had been intended that as Cabinet were now able to function with meetings being held 'remotely', the need for officers to make urgent decisions would now diminish.

However, it was important that officer decisions were kept under regular review by Elected Members and officers. At the 4 June Cabinet meeting it had been agreed that Cabinet would formally delegate review decisions to the relevant Cabinet Member (CABCO) meeting as these were meetings held in public, virtually if necessary, in order to ensure maximum transparency. A summary of review decisions made by Cabinet members would be reported to Cabinet every two months.

As a further safeguard, any significant reductions in service that had been reviewed and substantially maintained over any eight week period would be referred to Cabinet as soon as possible after the eight week period for ratification.

A summary of the reviews that had taken place since Cabinet initially approved these urgent officer decisions on 23 April 2020 and at other subsequent meetings of Cabinet along with notes and suggested recommendations in relation to the decision for the next fortnight had been presented. All review decisions to date had been discussed with the Executive Director and Cabinet Member following review by SMT.

**RESOLVED** to (1) note the review of decisions made under urgent delegated powers arising from the COVID-19 Pandemic; and (2) agree that future review decisions be made on a fortnightly basis by the Cabinet Member for Adult Care.

**17/20**        **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC RESOLVED** that the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the remaining items on the agenda to avoid the disclosure of the kind of exempt information detailed in the following summary of proceedings:-

**SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS CONDUCTED AFTER THE PUBLIC WERE EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING**

1. To confirm the exempt minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Adult Care held on 16 April 2020.
2. To receive the report from the Executive Director for Adult Social Care & Health on the Review of Urgent Officer Decisions Reported to Cabinet 23 April 2020.