

**DECISIONS SHOULD NOT BE IMPLEMENTED
BEFORE MONDAY, 23RD MAY, 2005**

CABINET
10th May, 2005

PRESENT - Councillor Williams (in the Chair); Councillors Bristow, Dixon, Harker, D.A. Lyonette, McEwan, L. Vasey and Wallis. (8)

APOLOGIES –

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillors Johnson, Richmond, Mrs. Scott and Thistlethwaite. (4)

C266. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – There were no declarations of interest reported to the meeting.

C267. MINUTES - Submitted - The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of Cabinet on 12th April, 2005.

RESOLVED - That the Minutes be confirmed.

REASON - They represent an accurate record of the meeting.

C268. EXTERNAL AUDIT SERVICE PLAN 2004/05 - (2) Report - The Cabinet Member with the Resource Management Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Corporate Services (previously circulated) presenting the External Audit Service Plan 2004/05 (also previously circulated) as agreed with PriceWaterhouseCoopers (PWC), the Council's appointed External Auditors.

Mr. Mark Nicholson and Mr. Paul Harrison, of PriceWaterhouse Coopers, gave a presentation to Cabinet on the purpose and function of the External Audit Service Plan 2004/05.

RESOLVED - That the External Audit Service Plan 2004/05, as appended to the submitted report, be noted.

REASON – The External Audit Service Plan comprises part of the Council's Corporate Governance arrangements.

C269. MATTERS REFERRED TO CABINET - There were no matters referred back for reconsideration.

C270. ISSUES ARISING FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - TOURISM REVIEW GROUP - FINAL REPORT

The Cabinet Member with the Regeneration and Planning Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Development and Environment (previously circulated) reporting the Environment Scrutiny Committee's recommendations in relation to how the Tourism Strategy could be improved in the light of regeneration.

The views of the Director of Development and Environment in respect of the review were detailed in the submitted report.

RESOLVED - (a) That the final report of the Tourism Review Group, as appended to the submitted report, be endorsed.

(b) That the Action Plan, as appended to the final report, be approved.

(c) That the recommendations be referred back to the Environment Scrutiny Committee.

REASON - To enable the views of Cabinet to be sought and referred back to the Environment Scrutiny Committee.

C271. KEY DECISIONS – (1) (URGENT ITEM) Appointment of Proper Officer - The Cabinet Member with the Consumer and Environmental Services Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Development and Environment (previously circulated) outlining a request from Doctor Roberta Marshall, Director of County Durham and Darlington Local Health Protection Unit, that a revised list of Proper Officers be adopted.

RESOLVED - That Dr A R Marshall be appointed as Proper Officer and Dr Deborah Wilson, Dr Anne Lowe, Dr Ian Holtby, Dr Patricia Cresswell, Dr Michael Grandey and Dr David Walker be appointed as alternate Proper Officers for the purposes of the:-

(a) Public Health (Control of Diseases) Act 1984;

(b) National Assistance Act 1948 and its amendment for the purposes of Section 47 Removals; and

(c) Public Health Aircraft Regulations 1979.

REASON - To enable the Council to carry out its statutory duties to protect the health of individuals and the general community.

(2) Darlington Local Development Framework: Local Development Scheme - The Cabinet Member with the Regeneration and Planning Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Development and Environment (previously circulated) outlining the response of the Government Office for the North East to the Local Development Scheme (LDS) submitted by this Council; requesting that consideration be given to the date for the LDS to take effect; and that further consideration be given to the key scheme steps and milestones and the involvement of Members, leading up to the start of participation on the preferred core strategy and alternative options.

RESOLVED - (a) That the Local Development Scheme for Darlington, as submitted to the Government Office for the North-East on 16th March 2005, take effect as from 10th May 2005.

(b) That the proposed arrangements for consultation with key stakeholders on Core Strategy issues and alternative options, as outlined in the submitted report, be approved.

(c) That Officers report on the response to the consultation, and on proposed Core Strategy options, to the meeting of Cabinet scheduled for 27th September 2005.

REASONS - (a) The Council is required by statute to resolve to bring its Local Development Scheme into force, on a specified date.

(b) Consideration of, and decisions on, the matters covered is necessary at this stage to assist in meeting the next major Local Development Scheme target milestone for the Council.

C272. (URGENT ITEM) LOCAL AREA AGREEMENTS - The Leader introduced the report of the Acting Chief Executive (previously circulated) seeking approval to submit an expression of interest in the latest phase of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's call for pilot Local Area Agreements.

RESOLVED - (a) That the development of an expression of interest for a Local Area Agreement for Darlington, be supported.

(b) That the matter be referred to the meeting of the Darlington Partnership Board scheduled for 18th May, 2005, for its views and endorsement.

REASONS - (a) To meet the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister deadline of 20th May 2005 for expressions of interest;

(b) To ensure an inclusive process, with the active involvement of key partners.

C273. CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION - (1) Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) - The Cabinet Member with the Community and Public Protection Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Community Services (previously circulated) informing Members of a potential one-off opportunity to expand and improve the towns Closed Circuit Television system (CCTV), including the installation of an Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) system and seeking approval to support and provide financial assistance towards the scheme in partnership with Durham Constabulary.

RESOLVED - (a) That installation of the Automatic Number Plate Recognition System within CCTV, subject to any planning or other consents required, be approved.

(b) That the Council's Revenue Medium Term Financial Plan be amended to fund the additional £20,000 annual revenue costs.

REASONS - (a) It is well evidenced within other Police Force areas that ANPR has contributed towards reducing crime. The installation of PTZ CCTV cameras will enable the CCTV Control Room to monitor public space in the proposed areas and deal more effectively with incidents of anti-social behaviour and community problems as they occur.

(b) The proposal provides a cost effective way of expanding the Borough's CCTV system with no initial capital outlay required from the Council.

(2) Annual Inspectors Report - The Cabinet Member with the Community and Public Protection Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Corporate Services (previously circulated) introducing the second Annual Report from the Independent Inspectors of CCTV (also previously circulated).

RESOLVED - (a) That report by the Independent Inspectors, as appended to the submitted report, be accepted.

(b) That the report be publicised in the Town Crier and other journals and the opportunity be taken to recruit up to three additional Inspectors as part of that publicity.

REASONS- (a) The report is positive and supportive of the CCTV service.

(b) Publicising the report will further enhance the reputation of the Council and service and significantly contribute to the process of sustaining public confidence.

(c) The positive and reassuring tone of the report should help us recruit up to three new Inspectors to take the Group back to its original compliment, which will ultimately aid the inspection process.

(3) Service Contract - The Cabinet Member with the Community and Public Protection Portfolio induced the report of the Director of Corporate Services (previously circulated) seeking approval to extend the current three-year service and maintenance contact on a yearly basis up to a maximum of a further two years.

RESOLVED - (a) That the existing service and maintenance contract with ESS be extended for a further year, to be reviewed at the end of April 2006.

(b) That should the service and maintenance be satisfactory, a report confirming this be submitted to a meeting Cabinet in April/May 2006 requesting that the contract be extended for a further one year only to April 2007 at which point both the service and maintenance contracts and term contract for new installation be re-tendered as a combined package on the open market.

REASONS - (a) The Cabinet approval for the term contract for new installation included a clause allowing to officers to continue the contract beyond the original three-year period for a further two years. The contract for the service and maintenance has a clause that allows for a negotiation for further years, but this is different to the Cabinet report and Council report that approved the process for entering that particular contract.

(b) Allowing the service and maintenance contract to be extended on a year by year basis (subject to the performance clause) allows the term contract and the service and maintenance contracts to come together in March/April 2006. At that point a broader package can be tendered on the open market with possible benefits to the Council by virtue of what is hoped would be a more lucrative contract attracting interest and competition from more companies.

(c) The current annual service and maintenance contract is still believed to represent excellent value by officers and by the appointed term consultants (Atkins). The service company have confirmed that they are prepared to keep to the same charges for the two years in question. As

well as the monetary consideration the levels and quality of service during the initial three-year period have far exceeded both officers expectations and their previous experience.

(d) The ongoing work around the application to NSI (National Security Inspectorate) and the alarm monitoring work already in hand make this a sensitive time at which to re-tender and/or change the service provider. Officers believe there is more to be lost than gained by going through such an exercise at this point in time.

C274. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2005/06 - RELEASE OF FUNDS - NORTHGATE (BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS) PARTNERSHIP SCHEME - The Cabinet Member with the Regeneration and Planning Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Development and Environment (previously circulated) seeking approval for the release of funds to provide grants for the improvement of older buildings in the Northgate Conservation Area.

RESOLVED - That the release of £100,000 contributed from English Heritage to support the first year of the Northgate Partnership Scheme, be approved.

REASON - To help improve the condition, appearance, and economic and social prospects of one of the most historic, but most run-down, gateways into Darlington.

C275. CONTRACTS UNDERTAKEN FOR EXTERNAL CLIENTS IN 2004/05 - The Cabinet Member with the Resource Management Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Community Services (previously circulated) advising Members of work undertaken by Community Services for external clients during 2004/05.

RESOLVED - That the report be received.

REASON - To advise Members of the level of external trading undertaken by Community Services.

C276. MEMBERSHIP CHANGES - There were no membership changes reported at the meeting.

C277. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC - RESOLVED - That, pursuant to Sections 100A(4) and (5) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the ensuing items on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in exclusion paragraphs 7, 8 and 9 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act.

C278. SCHEDULE OF TRANSACTIONS (EXCLUSION NO. 7, 8 AND 9) - The Cabinet Member with the Resource Management Portfolio introduced the report and schedule of the Director of Development and Environment (both previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the Schedule of Transactions and seeking approval of the terms negotiated.

RESOLVED - That the Schedule as appended to the submitted report, be approved and the transactions be completed on the terms and conditions detailed therein.

REASON - The terms negotiated require approval by Council before binding itself contractually to a transaction.

C279. (URGENT ITEM) FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR LOCAL BUS SERVICES (EXCLUSION NO. 7 AND 9) – With the prior approval of the Leader to the matter being treated as urgent to ensure continuing levels of services, the Cabinet Member with the Highways and Transport Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Development and Environment (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the provision of financial support for local bus services.

RESOLVED - That £130,000 of additional financial support be given to ensure the continued provision of subsidised bus services in Darlington.

REASON – To ensure that the public are provided with the level of service previously approved by the Council

**DECISIONS DATED –
FRIDAY, 13TH MAY, 2005**