

COUNCIL
10th March, 2011

PRESENT – The Mayor; Councillors Armstrong, Baldwin, Barker, Burton, G. Cartwright, M. Cartwright, Copeland, Cossins, Curry, Davies, Dixon, Dunstone, Francis, Galletley, Harker, Hartley, Haszeldine, L. Haszeldine, Hughes, Jenkinson, Johnson, B. Jones, Mrs. D. Jones, Lawton, Lee, Lewis, Lister, Long, D. A. Lyonette, J. M. Lyonette, Maddison, McEwan, Newall, Nicholson, Regan, Robson, Ruck, A. J. Scott, Mrs. H. Scott, Stenson, Swift, Vasey, Walker, Wallis and Williams. (46)

APOLOGIES – Councillors Coultas, Freitag, Nutt, Richmond, Roberts, Swainston and York. (7)

53. MINUTES – Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Council held on 27th January 2011.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes be approved as a correct record.

54. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

55. ORDER OF SEALING DOCUMENTS – Presented – The Register showing the documents which had been sealed since the last meeting of Council.

56. ANNOUNCEMENTS – There were no announcements made at the meeting.

57. QUESTIONS – TO ANSWER QUESTIONS (WHERE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN) FROM – (1) The Public – There were no questions from members of the public.

(2) Members to Cabinet / Chairs – There were no questions from Members, where notice had been given, for the Mayor, Members of the Cabinet, or the Chairs of the Scrutiny Committees.

(3) Members to the Nominated Member of the Police Authority in accordance with Section 20 of the Police Act 1996 – There were no questions from Members, where notice had been given, to the nominated Member of the Police Authority, in accordance with Section 20 of the Police Act 1996.

58. COUNCIL REPORTS – (1) Adult Social Care Contracts – The Director of People submitted a report (previously circulated) to request that Contract Procedure Rules be waived to allow Officers to renew the contract with the Home Equipment Loan Service (HELS), to bring the contract in line with the Durham and Darlington Primary Care Trust and Durham County Council's (DCC) contract which was scheduled to end on 31st March 2013, and extend the contract with Avalon Shared Lives Service for a maximum of six months.

RESOLVED – (a) That the contract with the Home Equipment Loan Service be renewed for one year (2012–2013), to ensure that the contract ‘dovetails’ with other contracts that are in place to support added value, and develop improved personalised services that are targeted to those service users with more complex needs.

(b) That the current contract be reviewed, and that an outcome based contract be developed that supports rehabilitation and reablement.

(c) That an extension of six months be granted from April 2011 to September 2011, in relation to the Avalon Shared Lives Service Contract.

REASONS – (a) Due to the varied and complex needs of the service users accessing these services, it is felt that it would be detrimental to their health and well being to end these contracts.

(b) To enable continued delivery of services whilst work can be undertaken to review current contract arrangements and for Contracts to be extended to come in line with other Contracts ending.

(c) To continue with current contract arrangements to allow for a planned and co-ordinated approach involving users and carers to the changes that will occur from changing the way services are delivered in the future.

(d) To cover the transition period of Home Loans going through a partnership or joint commissioning arrangements to develop a service that supports the new pathways, for example, early interventions, assistive technology and reablement.

(e) To maintain positive current performance indicators and budget position.

(2) Polling Places for Borough and Parish Elections and the Referendum on the Alternative Voting System for UK Parliamentary Elections – 5th May 2011 – The Returning Officer and Local Counting Officer submitted a report (previously circulated) to inform Members of the details of the Polling Places to be used for the Local and Parish Elections, and Referendum on the Alternative Voting System for UK Parliamentary Elections on 5th May, 2011.

The submitted report stated that all proposed Polling Places for the Local Elections and the Referendum on the Voting System for UK Parliamentary Elections had been inspected, in an attempt to ensure high levels of voter participation. It was reported that access issues and compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act had also been taken into consideration, and that Officers had also been liaising with head teachers in an attempt to keep schools open during the polls.

RESOLVED – That the arrangements for Polling Places, as appended to the submitted report, be approved.

REASON - To ensure that Members are aware of, and approve, the Polling Places for the Election.

59. CABINET REPORTS – (1) Overview Reports of Cabinet Members – The Leader and Cabinet Members each gave a report (previously circulated) on the main areas of work undertaken under their relevant portfolio during the previous cycle of meetings.

Cabinet Members answered questions on their portfolios.

(2) Darlington’s Third Local Transport Plan – The Director of Place submitted a report (previously circulated) to request approval of the final version of Darlington’s Third Local Transport Plan, containing transport policies for the period 2011-2026.

The submitted report stated that the Local Transport Act 2008 retained the statutory requirement for local transport authorities to produce and review Local Transport Plans (LTPs) and policies, and that guidance issued by the Department for Transport set out the national policy framework for the development of the LTP and advised authorities to follow the process recommended by The Eddington Transport Study: The Case for Action to develop an effective strategy and decide priorities for implementation.

The submitted report outlined the process followed by the Council, and stated that the development and content of the Plan has been amended from the results of extensive consultation with local people and stakeholders, and examination by the Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee. It was reported that in developing and monitoring the Plan, a number of statutory assessments had been undertaken, which formed an integral part of the decision-making process and final content of the Plan.

The submitted report outlined the changes to the national context, the development of five goals which strategically fit with the new national priorities of growing the economy and tackling carbon emissions, the priorities in One Darlington: Perfectly Placed and the policies in the Local Development Framework Core Strategy, and the key challenges and subsequent implications that face the Borough. It was reported that a number of strategic choices had been considered, and that 21 key policies had been developed in consultation with key stakeholders and local people, in response to the identified goals and challenges, setting the priorities for the strategy. A copy of the Third Local Transport Plan was appended to the submitted report.

RESOLVED – That the Third Local Transport Plan be approved.

REASON – To comply with the Local Transport Act 2008, setting the policy framework for the Council’s intentions for transport spending and actions between 2011 and 2026.

(3) Cabinet Urgent Decisions – The Corporate Management Team submitted a report (previously circulated) detailing two decisions taken by Cabinet as a matter of urgency and to which the procedure for call-in could not be applied.

The submitted report outlined the procedures to be followed if decisions were taken under the Urgency Rule and the Special Urgency Rule.

RESOLVED – That the urgent decisions taken by Cabinet be noted.

REASON – To comply with the Council’s Constitution.

60. SCRUTINY REPORTS – Overview Reports – The five Scrutiny Committee Chairs each gave a report (previously circulated) on the main areas of work undertaken by their relevant Scrutiny Committee during the last cycle of Committee meetings.

61. MEMBERSHIP CHANGES – There were no membership changes reported at the meeting.