

**DECISIONS SHOULD NOT BE IMPLEMENTED
BEFORE MONDAY, 9TH AUGUST, 2010**

CABINET
28 July 2010

PRESENT - Councillor Dixon (in the Chair); Councillors Harker, McEwan, D A
Lyonette, A J Scott and Wallis. (6)

INVITEES – Councillors Barker and Mrs Scott. (2)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillors Coultas, Curry, Dunstone, Johnson and
Long. (5)

APOLOGIES – Councillors Copeland, Hughes and Williams. (3)

C51. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

C52. REPRESENTATIONS – In respect of Minute C53(1) below, representations were made by Members, employees/Trade Unions (Unison, GMB and the Trades Union Council), representatives from Darlington Association on Disability and ‘Ring a Ride’ and members of the public in attendance at the meeting.

C53. KEY DECISIONS - (1) Review of the Medium Term Financial Plan - Revenue - The Cabinet Member with Efficiency and Resources Portfolio introduced the report of Corporate Management Team (previously circulated) updating Members on the implications of Government grant reductions in 2010/11 and announcements made in the emergency budget, and proposing changes to the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) in response to those reductions in funding.

The submitted report outlined the background to review of the MTFP; the implications on this Council’s budget of the reduction in funding; the in-year grant reductions proposed for 2010/11; proposed savings; impact on the workforce; engagement on current and future proposals; and stated that an opportunity had arisen to review the allocation of Playbuilders capita funding.

It was reported that Equalities Impact Assessments had been carried out in relation to each of the proposals; electronic versions of those assessments had been provided to Members; and that Members had a specific duty to consider the impact of any decision on disabled people. Particular reference was made to the decision in relation to Concessionary Fares which would have a detrimental impact on the disabled, however paragraph 45 of the submitted report set out the reasons why it was proposed to make those cuts despite the impact.

In reaching its decision Cabinet took into consideration the views made at the meeting regarding the impact the proposals would have on employees, the public and disabled people and also the comments made on the Equality Impact Assessments.

RESOLVED - (a) That the significant impact of the recent Government announcements in the emergency budget, be noted.

(b) That the reductions, as set out in Appendix 2 to the submitted report, be approved.

(c) That no further schemes be implemented from the playbuilder funding.

(d) That in respect of management structures the proposals, timescale and savings target, as detailed in the submitted report, be agreed.

(e) That further reports relating to the proposals for 2011/12 and beyond be presented to meetings of the Cabinet in the autumn.

(f) That budget proposals with workforce implications in terms of redundancy be subject to ongoing consultation in accordance with statutory requirements and, under delegated powers relevant officers, continue consultation with a view to reaching agreement, and any financial impact of changes be agreed as part of the ongoing consultation process be reported back to Cabinet.

REASONS – (a) To update Members.

(b) To balance the 2010/11 budget.

(c) To increase revenue balances to assist with meeting the medium term financial challenge.

(d) To enable the restructure proposal to be developed.

(e) To progress the revision of the MTFP.

(f) To facilitate statutory consultation.

(2) Review of the Medium Term Financial Plan - Capital - The Cabinet Member with Efficiency and Resources Portfolio introduced the report of Corporate Management Team (previously circulated) updating Members on reductions in Government grant funding for capital and proposing changes to the Capital Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) in response to those funding reductions.

Particular references were made to the reductions in capital grant for Transport and Education and to the Equalities Impact Assessments that had been carried out in relation to each of the proposals. It was reported that electronic versions of those assessment had been provided to Members and that Members had a specific duty to consider the impact of any decision on disabled people.

RESOLVED - (a) That the reduction in capital grant funding, as detailed in the submitted report, be noted.

(b) That the consequential reductions in planned capital expenditure, as set out in Appendices 1 and 2 of the submitted report, be approved.

REASONS – (a) To update Members.

(b) To deliver the best achievable outcomes within the reduced level of capital resources now available.

(3) Longfield School – Sports Project - The Director of Children’s Services submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the release of capital funds in relation to the Longfield School – Sports Project, allocated by the Department for Education.

The submitted report outlined the background to the project together with an estimate of the projects costs.

RESOLVED - (a) That the capital funding of £530,000, for the Longfield School – Sports Project, as detailed in the submitted report, be released.

(b) That the assessment of the contract as non-strategic, be approved.

(c) That the contract award decision for the Longfield School – Sports Project, be delegated to the Director of Children’s Services.

REASONS – (a) Detailed planning to target need has been undertaken which ensures effective use of investment.

(b) The project is key to Longfield School delivering its Sports Diploma specialism and of being a regional centre for school sport.

(c) In light of the recent cancellation of the Authority’s Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme, it is imperative to the school that this project is retained and that further direct grant is not lost.

(d) This grant is for the purposes of improving sports facilities in the school to aid in the schools delivery of its sports diploma. It is not available for alternative use.

(e) The DfE Grant is being used as support funding towards a grant of £110,000 from the Football Foundation to support the project. The Football Foundation grant is dependent on having support funding secured.

(f) The contracts designated non-strategic are of a lower value and lower significance in respect of the impact on residents and public safety.

**DECISIONS DATED:
Friday, 30th July 2010.**