

**DECISIONS SHOULD NOT BE IMPLEMENTED
BEFORE MONDAY, 23RD OCTOBER, 2006**

CABINET
10th October, 2006

PRESENT - Councillor Williams (in the Chair); Councillors Harker, D.A. Lyonette, McEwan, Thistlethwaite, L. Vasey and Wallis. (7)

APOLOGIES – Councillor Bristow and Dixon. (2)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillors Johnson, Richmond and Mrs. Scott. (3)

C71. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS - There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

C72. MINUTES - Submitted - The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meetings of Cabinet held on 12th and 28th September, 2006.

RESOLVED - That the Minutes be confirmed.

REASON - They represent an accurate record of the meeting.

C73. MATTERS REFERRED TO CABINET – There were no matters referred back for reconsideration.

C74. ISSUES ARISING FROM SCRUTINY – There were no issues arising from Scrutiny.

C75. KEY DECISIONS – (1) (URGENT ITEM) Darlington Eastern Transport Corridor - Release of Funding - The Cabinet Member with the Highways and Transport Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Development and Environment (previously circulated) seeking the release of funding for the construction of the Darlington Eastern Transport Corridor, subject to the upgrade of the status of the scheme, by the Department for Transport, from conditional to full approval; informing Members of the proposed construction timetable; and seeking approval to include the Highways Agency as joint client in the Works Contract.

RESOLVED - (a) That the release of £12.04 million for the construction of the Darlington Eastern Transport Corridor Scheme, subject to full approval being granted by the Department for Transport, be approved.

(b) That the Council and the Highways Agency enter the Works Contract jointly, for the construction of the Darlington Eastern Transport Corridor.

REASONS - (a) To expedite the start of construction of the Darlington Eastern Transport Corridor in accordance with the conditions attached to the scheme of approval.

(b) To satisfy the Highways Agency requirements to be protected against contractor liability for the maximum period (12 years).

(2) (URGENT ITEM) Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document - The Cabinet Member with Regeneration and Planning Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Development and Environment (previously circulated) outlining the main elements of the draft Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (also previously circulated) and seeking agreement for it to be published as the basis for public and other consultations and for it to be applied on an interim basis, in negotiating the provision of affordable housing as part of new housing developments.

RESOLVED - (a) That the draft Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document, as appended to the submitted report, be agreed as the basis for the public and other consultations.

(b) That the Sustainability Appraisal Report be published and comments be invited on it.

(c) That a further report be received after the close of consultations, outlining the responses received and presenting a finalised version of the Supplementary Planning Document.

(d) That the draft Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document be agreed as the basis for the Council's decision making on planning applications where affordable housing is required as part of new development, until such time as a finalised Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document is adopted by the Council.

REASONS - (a) To meet the regulatory requirements for preparing a Supplementary Planning Document.

(b) To provide some certainty to developers and others about the scale and nature of the Council's expectations regarding affordable housing, in the interim period until a finalised Supplementary Planning Document can be adopted by the Council.

C76. FEDERATION OF ABBEY SCHOOLS - TARGETED CAPITAL FUND BID - The Cabinet Member with the Children's Services Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Children's Services (previously circulated) informing Members of the successful bid, submitted by the authority, on behalf of the Federation of Abbey Schools.

RESOLVED - That the successful bid for the Federation of Abbey Schools, which will see a further £600,000 of capital funding invested in a Darlington school, be agreed.

REASONS - (a) The new school hall will provide Abbey Schools with a much-needed facility to offer improved sports and arts teaching.

(b) The new hall will provide extended school facilities which will aid the school in its aim to be at the heart of the local community.

C77. PANDEMIC INFLUENZA PLAN - The Cabinet Member with the Consumer and Environmental Services Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Development and Environment (previously circulated) seeking approval for a plan (also previously circulated) to enable the Council to respond to Pandemic Influenza.

RESOLVED - That the approach to planning for a Pandemic Influenza, as detailed in the Plan appended to the submitted, be approved.

RESOLVED - The plan will enable the Council to maintain key services and support other relevant agencies in the event of a Pandemic Influenza.

C78. MEMBERSHIP CHANGES - There were no membership changes report at the meeting.

C79. 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 1 and 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act.

C80. HOPETOWN HOUSE - PROPOSED REPLACEMENT OFFICES (EXCLUSION PARAGRAPHS 1 AND 3) - The Director of Development and Environment submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the replacement office options available to the Council, for the offices at Hopetown House, and seek authority to commence negotiations and enter into a lease.

The Director of Development and Environment reported that the date by which time the current premises were required to be vacated by, had been extended.

RESOLVED - (a) That the Director of Development and Environment be authorised to negotiate and agree terms for a Lease of the office accommodation at the Beehive, as detailed in the submitted report, in consultation with the Cabinet Member with the Resource Management Portfolio.

(b) That the Borough Solicitor be authorised to complete the necessary legal documentation.

(c) That the fitting out and relocation costs of £180,000, as detailed in the submitted report, be approved and the funds released accordingly.

(d) That the projected saving of £60,000 in the 2007-08 revenue budget be used to meet part of the capital cost.

(e) That the balance of £120,000 be funded from capital receipts.

(f) That provision be made in future revenue Medium Term Financial Plans for the increase in annual costs, as detailed in the submitted report.

REASON - To enable the relocation of staff currently based at Hopetown House.

C81. SCHEDULE OF TRANSACTION (EXCLUSION PARAGRAPH NO. 3) - 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.

**DECISIONS DATED -
FRIDAY, 13TH OCTOBER, 2006**