
CAPITAL STRATEGY AND ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

Responsible Cabinet Member(s) – Councillor Don Bristow
Responsible Director(s) – John Buxton Director of Development and Environment,
Paul Wildsmith, Director of Corporate Services

Purpose of Report

1. To consider and approve the Council's Capital Strategy **Appendix 1** and 2005/06 Asset Management Plan (AMP) **Appendix 2**.

Background

2. Both the Capital Strategy and the AMP were documents required by the Government Office-North East (GONE), both of these documents informed GONE about our approach to capital investment and asset management planning.
3. The last time that the documents were assessed by GONE in 2002 they were both 'good' and although there is now no obligation on the Council to submit its Capital Strategy or AMP it is recognised as good practice for authorities to continue to produce both documents.
4. In line with the approach adopted last year, it is considered appropriate that the production of the plans/strategies tie in with the Council's service planning round and budget setting processes.

Information and Analysis

Capital Strategy

5. The Capital Strategy sets out the way in which the Council determines and manages the Capital Programme. The Strategy is essentially an updated document from the one produced last year, although comments received from Resources Scrutiny Committee have been incorporated into the document.

Asset Management Plan

6. The AMP continues to develop as a working document. In previous years the descriptive content on our approach to asset management, planning arrangements and processes was condensed in an annex that formed a 'Guide to Asset Planning in Darlington'. This year's AMP does not contain the 'Guide' and has been amended to reflect 'good practice' guidelines produced by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors in conjunction with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM). The AMP also reflects the external influences affecting the Council's use of resources and identifies the relevant Corporate Performance Assessment (CPA) linkages.

7. The many developments that are taking place in which the Council or its assets are involved, continue to dominate the AMP but progress in implementing the recommendations of the Asset Management Best Value Review are also covered.
8. This year the documents have been produced in the corporate style. Both the style and contents are intended to make them more readable and applicable.

Outcome of Consultation

9. The Resources Scrutiny Committee held on 23rd August 2005 considered and supported the documents.

Legal Implications

10. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

11. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

Council Policy Framework

12. The issues contained within this report are required to be considered by Council.

Decision Deadline

13. For the purpose of the 'call-in' procedure this does not represent an urgent matter, however the item was considered at Resources Scrutiny Committee on 23rd August 2005.

Key Decisions

14. This matter is a key decision and it is included in the Council's Forward Plan.

Recommendation

15. It is recommended that the Capital Strategy and the Asset Management Plan appended to this report be considered by Cabinet and forwarded to Council for approval.

Reasons

16. The recommendations are supported to provide the Council with a Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan to follow when capital investment and asset management decisions are made.

John Buxton
Director of Development and Environment

Paul Wildsmith
Director of Corporate Services

Background Papers

Guidance and Assessment Criteria capital strategy and asset Management Plan
Minutes of Resources Scrutiny Committee August 2005
Capital Strategy 2004
Asset Management Plan 2004/05

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