
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 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. They have also been used in the past to direct discretionary basic credit approvals associated with the Single Capital Pot. There is no longer any discretionary element in the Single Capital Pot.
3. The last time that the documents were assessed by GONE in 2002 they were both 'good'. For those authorities that received a 'good' standard in 2002 the requirement to submit plans to GONE for assessment have ceased. However local authorities are still encouraged to produce a Capital Strategy and AMP, as they form part of the CPA process
4. In the past both the Capital Strategy and the AMP were produced by 31st July to allow GONE to assess them and inform the Single Capital Pot Allocations which are announced in December. In line with the approach adopted last year, it is considered appropriate that the production of the plans/strategies now tie in with the Council's service planning round and budget setting process.

Information and Analysis

5. The Capital Strategy sets out the way in which the Council sets and manages the Capital Programme. The Strategy is essentially an updated document from the one produced last year, any feedback that was received from GONE since the documents submission has been taken into account. Furthermore comments received from Resources Scrutiny Committee last year have been incorporated into the document. The Strategy has been submitted in a more user friendly format and the bias in the document to external bodies has been removed and a more equal approach to both internal and external users has been adopted
6. The AMP document attached reflects the style and format of the approved transitional 2003/05 plan, produced last year, suitably updated and amended. The descriptive content on

our approach to asset management, planning arrangements and processes has again been condensed into an Annex, which forms a 'Guide to Asset Planning in Darlington'. The document highlights the significant amount of development activity taking place in Darlington involving the Council's assets. The document also sets out what the Council has done to use its assets to support service delivery, its priorities for asset management, its work programme and action plan for the coming year. As reported to Cabinet last year, it had been intended to bring forward this year a combined AMP and Capital Strategy. This has not proved possible due in part to resourcing the major development enquiry by Argos at Faverdale and in part to the Corporate Property Review and condensed 2004/05 Capital Programme.

7. This report recommends that the attached plan be adopted as the Council's Asset Management Plan for 2004/05.

Outcome of Consultation

8. The Resources Scrutiny Committee held on 9th September 2004 considered and supported the documents.

Legal Implications

9. 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

10. 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

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

Decision Deadline

12. 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 9th September 2004

Key Decisions

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

Recommendation

14. 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

15. The recommendation is 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

Asset Management Plan 2003/05
Capital Strategy 2003

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