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**CABINET PORTFOLIOS**

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**Responsible Cabinet Member - Councillor John Williams, Leader**

**Responsible Director - Paul Wildsmith, Director of Corporate Services**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To consider amending Cabinet portfolios in light of the debate by Cabinet at its meeting on 3 March 2009.

**Summary**

2. At its meeting on 3 March 2009, Cabinet discussed the efficiency agenda and the need for the following amendments to be made :-
  - (a) That the existing Resources portfolio be expanded to the Efficiency and Resources Portfolio.
  - (b) That the key role of all Cabinet Members in the efficiency agenda be incorporated into each portfolio.
  - (c) To increase the visibility of efficiency reports to include a standard paragraph on the impact on the organisations efficiency of each decision taken.
3. This report makes recommendations to deliver the above.

**Recommendation**

4. It is recommended that Cabinet portfolios be amended as detailed at paragraphs 7 and 8 of this report.

**Reasons**

5. The recommendation is supported to provide political leadership and focus for the efficiency agenda.

**Paul Wildsmith  
Director of Corporate Services**

**Background Papers**

No Background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

Paul Wildsmith : Extension 2301

TAB

S17 Crime and Disorder	No specific issues
Health and Well Being	No specific issues
Sustainability	No specific issues
Diversity	No specific issues
Wards Affected	All equally affected
Groups Affected	All equally affected
Budget and Policy Framework	The increased focus on efficiency delivered by the changes in this report will be key to delivering the budget framework.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	Efficiency will assist in delivery of One Darlington Perfectly Placed.
Efficiency	The inclusion of efficiency in all Cabinet portfolios will provide political leadership to the efficiency agenda.

## MAIN REPORT

### Information and Analysis

6. At its meeting on 3 March 2009, Cabinet discussed the efficiency agenda and the need for the following amendments to be made :-
  - (a) That the existing Resources portfolio be expanded to the Efficiency and Resources Portfolio.
  - (b) That the key role of all Cabinet Members in the efficiency agenda be incorporated into each portfolio.
  - (c) To increase the visibility of efficiency reports to include a standard paragraph on the impact on the organisations efficiency of each decision taken.
7. In discussing the issue Cabinet were aware that further improving efficiency within the Council is key to meeting the financial challenges the Council faces in the future. Although the Council is one of only two Unitary Authorities achieving top ratings for Value for Money as measured by the Audit Commission, it is recognised that more has to be achieved.
8. To emphasise the importance of Efficiency, the Resources Portfolio is to be expected to become the Efficiency and Resources Portfolio and the following inserted into the portfolio job description :-
  - (a) To have overall responsibility for giving political leadership to the Efficiency agenda in particular :-
    - (i) Working with officers to develop and drive efficiency.
    - (ii) To be the member Champion for efficiency
    - (iii) To work with Cabinet Members to ensure resources are used in an efficient manner.
    - (iv) To work with Cabinet Members to ensure efficiency features in all decision making procedures.
9. In respect of all other Cabinet portfolios the following additional responsibilities be added :-
  - (a) Ensure efficiency is fully taken into account when taking any decisions.
  - (b) Ensure resources within the portfolios are utilised in an efficient manner.
10. In respect of the standard efficiency paragraph Members will note from this meetings agenda that Officers have already amended reporting procedures to highlight the efficiency impact of decision making.

### Outcome of Consultation

11. There was no formal consultation on the contents of this report.