

**DECISIONS SHOULD NOT BE IMPLEMENTED BEFORE
MONDAY 22 FEBURARY 2015**

CABINET
9 February 2016

PRESENT – Councillor Dixon (in the Chair); Councillors Copeland, Harker, C L B Hughes, McEwan, A J Scott and Wallis. (7)

INVITEES – Councillor Curry, I G Haszeldine and Mrs Scott. (3)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillor Crichlow.

APOLOGIES – Dr A Jones.

C104. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

C105. REPRESENTATIONS – There were no representations made at the meeting from Members or members of the public in attendance at the meeting.

C106. MINUTES - Submitted - The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Cabinet held on 5 January 2016.

RESOLVED - That the Minutes be confirmed as a correct record.

REASON - They represent an accurate record of the meeting.

C107. MATTERS REFERRED TO CABINET - There were no matters referred back to this meeting for reconsideration.

C108. ISSUES ARISING FROM SCRUTINY – There were no issues arising from Scrutiny considered at this meeting.

C109. KEY DECISIONS – (1) 2017/18 School Admission Arrangements - The Cabinet Member with the Children and Young People Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Children and Adults Services (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the Local Authority's admission arrangements (also previously circulated) for the 2017/18 academic year for all maintained schools in the Borough.

Discussion ensued on the admission arrangements for academy schools and to potential accommodation issues when providing additional school places for children who have undergone statutory assessment and an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC).

RESOLVED - (a) That Darlington Local Authority's admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools, as appended to the submitted report, be approved.

(b) That the Co-ordinated Admission Schemes for both primary and secondary applications for the 2017/18 academic year, be adopted.

REASONS - (a) The Authority is under a statutory duty to determine admission arrangements for primary schools for which it is the admission authority for the academic year 2017/18.

(b) If the co-ordinated scheme is not approved and returned to the DfE by the 28 February 2016 the Secretary of State may impose a scheme on the Authority.

(2) The Closure of The Independent Living Fund (ILF) and Transfer to the Local Authorities - The Cabinet Member with Adult Social Care and Housing Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Children and Adults Services (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to proposals to implement the closure of the Independent Living Fund (ILF) and to the transfer of the resource and responsibility to the local authority.

RESOLVED - That Option 3, as detailed in the submitted report, be agreed and the funding for the financial year 2016/17 and future years, be transferred into the baseline budget for adult social care, and ex-ILF fund users be reassessed annually, as are all other social care users who meet the eligibility criteria, and following that reassessment their care and support package be changed accordingly if needed.

REASONS - (a) To implement the enforced closure of the ILF and the transfer of resource and responsibility to the local authority.

(b) The ILF operates a different eligibility criteria to that of the local authority when assessing care and support needs. The Care Act 2014 introduces a new national minimum eligibility criteria with a set threshold for care and support needs which local authorities must comply with. This enables all people with care and support needs to be supported through one equitable and streamlined social care system.

(c) The local authority is required to meet the care and support needs of all individuals who have eligible needs in a consistent way. This enables use of all available adult social care funding in a more consistent, effective and equitable way within a single system.

C110. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT AND EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE IN DARLINGTON - The Cabinet Member with the Children and Young People Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Children and Adults Services (previously circulated) providing Members with an update on the local authority's school improvement strategy and a summary of educational performance in Darlington.

Particular reference was made to the consultation being undertaken by the Government on the statutory duties of local authorities on ceasing the Education Services Grant and possibly removing the local authority's responsibility for school improvement.

RESOLVED - (a) That the Annual School Improvement Report, as set out in Appendix A of the submitted report, be approved.

(b) That officers be authorised to continue to review the effectiveness of the school improvement strategy and bring forward any proposed revisions.

REASONS - (a) The local authority is responsible for having an effective system for monitoring and challenging school performance in its area.

(b) A good education is a key factor in giving young people the best start in life and enabling them to make a greater social and economic contribution to Darlington.

C111. BEAUMONT STREET ONE WAY - The Cabinet Member with the Leisure and Local Environment Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Economic Growth (previously circulated) advising Members of an objection received to the proposed one way traffic system in Beaumont Street and seeking a decision on whether to proceed with the proposal.

Reference was made at the meeting to the impact on surrounding streets of the introduction of the one way system on Beaumont Street.

RESOLVED - (a) That the objection, as detailed in the submitted report, to the proposed one way traffic system in Beaumont Street, be set it aside.

(b) That officers be authorised to proceed with the proposal to introduce a one way system in Beaumont Street as advertised.

REASON - The one way system is required to prevent a large volume of traffic leaving the car park from driving towards Feethams and making a difficult right turn through the splitter island where it is not easy to see traffic exiting the roundabout into Feethams and to enable a traffic lane into the car park to be marked in Beaumont Street. The proposed arrangement one way system is likely to have traffic capacity and highway safety benefits.

C112. PROJECT POSITION STATEMENT AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING QUARTER THREE 2015/16 - The Cabinet Member with the Efficiency and Resources Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources and the Director of Economic Growth (previously circulated) providing Members with a summary of the latest Capital resource and commitment position, to inform monitoring of the affordability and funding of the Council's capital programme; an update on the current status of all construction projects currently being undertaken by the Council; and seeking approval for a number of changes to that programme.

RESOLVED - (a) That the status position on construction projects, as detailed in the appendix to the submitted report, be noted.

(b) That the projected capital expenditure and resources, as detailed in the submitted, be noted.

(c) That the resource virements, as indicated in paragraph 19 of the submitted report, be approved.

REASONS - (a) To inform Cabinet of the current status of construction projects.

(b) To make Cabinet aware of the latest financial position of the Council.

(c) To maintain effective management of resources.

C113. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2015/16 – QUARTER 3 - The Cabinet Member with the Efficiency and Resources Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources (previously circulated) providing Members with an up-to-date forecast of the 2015/16 revenue budget outturn as part of the Council's continuous financial management processes.

RESOLVED - (a) That the forecast revenue outturn for 2015/16 and actions being taken to manage the Council's finances, as detailed in the submitted report, be noted.

(b) That the proposed carry forward of resources, as referred to in paragraphs 17 to 22 of the submitted report, be noted and approved.

(c) That further regular reports be made to Cabinet to monitor progress and take prompt action if necessary.

REASONS - (a) To continue effective management of resources.

(b) To continue to deliver services to agreed levels.

C114. MEMBERSHIP CHANGES – There were no membership changes reported at the meeting.

C115. 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 paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act.

C116. SALE OF SITE AT KELLAW ROAD, DARLINGTON (EXCLUSION PARAGRAPH NO 3) - The Cabinet Member with the Efficiency and Resources Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Economic Growth (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the disposal of land adjacent to Kellaw Road, as shown on the plan appended to the submitted report, to the existing leaseholder.

RESOLVED - (a) That the disposal of land at Kellaw Road, as shown on the plan appended to the submitted report, be approved on the terms as detailed in the submitted report.

(b) That the Head of Legal Services be authorised to document the sale accordingly.

REASON - To achieve a capital receipt for the Council.

C117. SCHEDULE OF TRANSACTIONS (EXCLUSION PARAGRAPH NO 3) – The Cabinet Member with the Efficiency and Resources Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Economic Growth (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the schedule of transactions (also previously circulated) and seeking approval of the terms negotiated.

RESOLVED - That the schedule of transactions, 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 Cabinet before binding itself contractually to a transaction.

**DECISIONS DATED –
FRIDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2016**