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**OVERVIEW OF EFFICIENCY AND RESOURCES PORTFOLIO**

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1. Since the last meeting of Council, the following are the main areas of work under my Efficiency and Resources Portfolio.

**Disposal of Surplus Land for New Housing**

2. Cabinet has agreed to dispose of eight parcels of land, amounting to 17.59 hectares, within the main urban area and on the urban fringe of Darlington to help accelerate new housing delivery in the short to medium term to meet the need for new housing, to generate capital receipts for the Council and to assist in stimulating local jobs growth in the construction sector.

**Revenue Budget Monitoring 2013-14 – Quarter 3**

3. Cabinet has considered the Quarter 3 forecast of the 2013/14 revenue budget outturn. The projected revenue reserves at the end of 2013/14 are £17.437 million, which is £6.505 million better than the original 2013/17 Medium-Term Financial Plan position and the amended projected outturn was included in the MTFP recently approved by Council. Whilst the improved position is welcomed it does not fundamentally change the financial context in which the council is currently planning.

**Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring - Quarter 3 – 2013/14**

4. Cabinet received information on the current position of the Council's capital commitments and resource together with all the live construction projects currently being managed by the Council.
5. The Council has a substantial annual construction programme of work, with the current project position statement showing that there are 70 live projects currently being managed with an overall project outturn value of £88.5 million. The majority of the projects are running to time, cost and quality expectations with no foreseeable issues.

**DfE Building**

6. The building work is on target with the steel work currently being erected. The superstructure is scheduled for completion by 12 June 2014 and the roof complete by 22 September 2014. The overall building completion is scheduled for 23 January 2015. Work on sharing services and facilities is on-going and making

good progress.

### **Citizenship Ceremony – Tenth Anniversary**

7. I was delighted to host the tenth Anniversary of Citizenship Ceremonies in the Council Chamber on 10<sup>th</sup> March. The Ceremony, which coincided with Commonwealth Day, saw a further 22 citizens taking citizenship and being presented with certificates of Naturalisation as a British Citizen by the Mayor. We were delighted that so many Members and Dignitaries could attend the Ceremony and thanks must also go to the Federation of Abbey Schools Year 6 Choir who performed at the Ceremony and also sang the National Anthem.
8. Over 800 citizens from 35 Countries have taken British Citizenship in Darlington over the last ten years and we welcome them all to the Borough.

**Councillor Stephen Harker**  
**Cabinet Member with Efficiency and Resources Portfolio**