

COUNCIL
8th May 2014

PRESENT – The Mayor; Councillors Baldwin, Copeland, Cossins, Coultas, Crichlow, Crudass, Crumbie, Curry, Dixon, Donoghue, Galletley, Grundy, Harker, Harman, I. Haszeldine, L. Haszeldine, C. L. B. Hughes, L. Hughes, Hutchinson, B. Jones, Kelley, Knowles, Landers, Lee, Long, D. A. Lyonette, J. M. Lyonette, Macnab, McEwan, Newall, Nutt, Regan, E. A. Richmond, S. Richmond, Mrs. H. Scott, Stenson, C. Taylor, J. Taylor, Thistlethwaite, J. Vasey, L. Vasey, Wallis and Wright. (44)

APOLOGIES – Councillors Carson, Cartwright, Mrs. D. Jones, Lawton, Lister, A. J. Scott, Swainston and York. (8)

OTHER APOLOGIES RECEIVED – Mr. Ron Hogg, Police and Crime Commissioner for Durham and Darlington.

62. MINUTES – Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Council held on 20th March 2014.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes be approved as a correct record.

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

64. ORDER OF SEALING DOCUMENTS – Presented – The Register showing the documents which had been sealed since the last meeting of Council.

65. ANNOUNCEMENTS – (1) Ian Williams, Director of Economic Growth – The Mayor welcomed Ian Williams, Director of Economic Growth, who was attending his first meeting of the Council.

66. QUESTIONS – TO ANSWER QUESTIONS (WHERE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN) FROM – (1) The Public – There were no questions from members of the public.

(2) Members to Cabinet/Chairs – There were no questions from Members, where notice had been given, for the Mayor, Members of the Cabinet, or the Chairs of the Scrutiny Committees.

67. COUNCIL REPORTS – There were no reports to be decided by Council, which had not been considered by Cabinet, submitted to this meeting.

68. CABINET REPORTS – (1) Overview Reports of Cabinet Members – The Cabinet Members each gave a report (previously circulated) on the main areas of work undertaken under their relevant portfolio during the previous cycle of meetings. Cabinet Members answered questions on their portfolios.

(2) Sustainable Community Strategy Refresh – The Chief Executive submitted a report (previously circulated) to present a proposed Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) and Performance Management Framework (PMF).

The submitted report stated that in 2008 the Darlington Partnership agreed the overall plan and vision for Darlington up to 2021. This vision was entitled ‘One Darlington: Perfectly Placed’, and set out the vision for both the people of Darlington, and the place itself. It was reported that there had been significant changes since the plan had been originally developed, that new opportunities and challenges had emerged, and that the impact of the national economic situation, and reductions in government grant and income, had led to a reduction in the resources available to deliver public services across the partnership.

The submitted report identified eight outcomes agreed as key for the continued delivery of the vision, and work towards a reduction in inequality. The submitted report also incorporated a statement about how the overall conditions within the Borough needed to change in order to deliver the vision as a longer term goal, outlined those conditions, and reported on the consultation that had taken place.

RESOLVED – That the revised SCS document and Performance Management Framework be approved.

REASONS – (a) To ensure that the Council's vision is articulated and explained.

(b) To provide a revised framework in which other policies will operate.

(3) Transforming Rehabilitation: A Strategy for Reform – The Director of People submitted a report (previously circulated) to seek approval to loan Achieving Real Change in the Community (ARCC) Community Interest Company (CIC) £1,000,000 from reserves, as recommended by Cabinet on 1 April 2014.

The submitted report stated that the current 35 Probation Trusts were being abolished, and that these were to be replaced by 21 Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRC), which, following the completion of a tender process, would be run by external providers who will have the contractual responsibility to deliver probation services to a particular geographical area.

The submitted report outlined that Cabinet had previously approved a strategy to develop a consortium bid to tender to run the Durham and Tees Valley Probation Service (DTVPS) contract. It was highlighted that the tender was now ready for

submission, and that it required each of the partners in the consortium to make a loan to the Community Interest Company (CIC) established for the purpose.

The submitted report advised that Cabinet had given consideration to the progress made in developing the CIC, the risk to the Local Authority if the contract was awarded to an external provider, and the risks in making the loan.

RESOLVED – That £1,000,000 from Council reserves be earmarked for a loan to the CIC should the company be successful in its tender for the DTVPS.

REASONS – (a) To put in place approval for the required funding.

(b) To enable the Council to further participate in the CIC bid to tender for the DTVPS and ensure risk is minimised.

(4) Cabinet Urgent Decisions – The Chief Officer Executive submitted a report (previously circulated) detailing one decision taken by Cabinet as a matter of urgency and to which the procedure for call-in could not be applied.

The submitted report outlined the procedures to be followed if a decision was taken under the Urgency Rule and the Special Urgency Rule.

RESOLVED – That the urgent decision taken by Cabinet be noted.

REASON – To comply with the Council's Constitution.

69. SCRUTINY REPORTS – OVERVIEW REPORTS – The five Scrutiny Committee Chairs each submitted a report (previously circulated) on the main areas of work undertaken by their relevant Scrutiny Committee during the last cycle of Committee meetings.

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