

**DECISIONS SHOULD NOT BE IMPLEMENTED BEFORE
MONDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2014**

CABINET
4 February 2014

PRESENT - Councillor Dixon (in the Chair); Councillors Copeland, Harker, D A Lyonette, McEwan, A J Scott and Wallis. (7)

INVITEES – Councillor Curry. (1)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillors Francis and Long. (2)

APOLOGIES – Councillor C L B Hughes and Mrs H Scott. (2)

C106. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

C107. REPRESENTATIONS – There were no representations made by Members or members of the public made at the meeting.

C108. MINUTES - Submitted - The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Cabinet held on 7 January 2014.

RESOLVED - That the Minutes be confirmed.

REASON - They represent an accurate record of the meeting.

C109. MATTERS REFERRED TO CABINET - There were no matters referred back for reconsideration.

C110. ISSUES ARISING FROM SCRUTINY – There were no issues referred from the Scrutiny Committees to this meeting.

C111. KEY DECISIONS - (1) Residential Framework Agreement for Disabled Adults - The Cabinet Member with the Adult Social Care and Housing Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of People (previously circulated) advising Cabinet of the procurement process and seeking approval for the proposed strategy for the award of the contracts for residential provision for all eligible adults and to the changes from the current contract.

RESOLVED - (a) That the re-tendering of registered residential care through an approved procurement process, for the contract period 1 October 2014 to 30 October 2018, with an option to extend by up to a further two years, be approved.

(b) That a single Framework Agreement for all disabled adults who require registered residential care to meet their assessed needs, be approved.

REASONS - (a) This is an essential service. The current contracts end in 2014, and cannot be extended. The contracts need to be brought in line with the wider drive to a more personalised model of support and reflect developments over the past three years in respect of delivering outcomes.

(b) Combining the three contracts will achieve a more equal, transparent, and consistent Framework Agreement. Furthermore it will provide a more robust Framework Agreement that will ensure 'Value for Money' and stimulate the market to deliver on the personalisation agenda and to allow an opportunity for new Contractors to enter the local market.

(c) It will also ensure that inequalities within the current residential market are addressed through improving access to the service (consistency of service available in which people who need it will be able to choose from), providing opportunities for a more diverse workforce and provision of a more flexible and responsive service.

(d) The tender will ensure that the current contracts are up to date and are in line with the wider social care and health and wellbeing agenda.

(2) Disposal of Surplus Land for New Housing - The Cabinet Member with the Economy and Regeneration Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources and the Director of Economic Growth (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the disposal of eight parcels of Council-owned land, as shown on the plans as appended to the submitted report, so that they can be brought forward for new housing development.

RESOLVED - (a) That the sites as indicated on plans (a)-(h) at Appendix 1 to the submitted report, and listed in paragraph 30 of the submitted report, be declared surplus to requirements and authority to dispose of the sites be granted, in line with the circumstances, as outlined in paragraph 36 of the submitted report.

(b) That the Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources be given delegated authority, in consultation with the Cabinet Member with the Efficiency and Resources Portfolio, to make amendments to the site boundaries as considered appropriate, and to dispose of the sites in due course.

(c) That the Borough Solicitor be authorised to complete sale agreements as necessary.

(d) That the approach taken to bring forward suitable land within the urban area before land releases at the urban fringe, which reflects both the asset management and adopted Core Strategy locational priorities of the Council, be endorsed.

REASONS - (a) To help accelerate housing delivery.

(b) To support the wealth base of the community and the Council.

(c) To help avoid the negative consequences for communities and the Council of new housing development that may otherwise come forward in less suitable locations.

(d) To ensure the proper planning of the area.

(e) In respect of recommendation (b), to take account of any site specific planning issues that may emerge following more detailed work on any of these sites.

(f) To complete the disposal process.

(g) To ensure that land disposals support the locational strategy of the Council's adopted development plan.

C112. SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY STRATEGY - The Cabinet Member with the Leisure and Local Environment Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Economic Growth (previously circulated) briefing Members on the Darlington Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2014/19 (also previously circulated) and requesting that consideration be given to endorsing the strategy.

RESOLVED - That the Darlington Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2014/19, as appended to the submitted report, be endorsed and it be recommended to Council that the Strategy be agreed as part of the Council's Policy Framework.

REASONS - (a) A revised Sport and Physical Activity Strategy is required to replace the existing Strategy which expired in 2011.

(b) The revised Strategy reflects the recent changes in the national and local government finances, including the need to maximise the contribution from the voluntary and community sectors.

(c) The Strategy provides a clear set of objectives and actions to enable more Darlington residents to be more active, more often.

C113. SCHEME OF DELEGATION - The Leader introduced the report of the Chief Executive (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to a revised Scheme of Delegation (also previously circulated), following the decision to make changes to the management structure of the Council.

RESOLVED - That the revised scheme of delegation, as appended to the submitted report at Appendix 1, be approved in relation to executive functions.

REASONS - (a) To ensure that the Council has sufficient senior management capacity during a significant period in its transition and adaptation to the fall in resources.

(b) To drive forward the Council's vision in relation to Economic Growth.

C114. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2013/14 QUARTER THREE - 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 2013/14 revenue budget outturn, as part of the Council's continuous financial management processes.

RESOLVED - (a) That the forecast revenue outturn for 2013/14 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 £0.415M of departmental resources to 2014/15, as referred to in paragraph 17 of the submitted report, be noted and approved.

(c) That further regular reports be made 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.

C115. PROJECT POSITION STATEMENT AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING QUARTER THREE 2013/14 - 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 Councils capital programme and updating the current status of all construction projects currently being undertaken by the Council.

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

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

(c) That the adjustments to resources, as detailed in paragraph 18 of the submitted report, be approved.

(d) 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.

**DECISIONS DATED –
FRIDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2014**