

COUNCIL
2nd November, 2004

PRESENT – The Mayor; Councillors Armstrong, Bristow, Copeland, Dixon, Flowers, Harker, Mrs. Hart, Hartley, Heaney, Hughes, Hutchinson, Johnson, B. Jones, Lawton Lee, Lewis, Lister, Long, D.A. Lyonette, J.M. Lyonette, Maddison, Newall, Nutt, Richmond, F.S. Robson, S. Robson, Scott, Mrs. Scott, Stamford-Bewlay, Vasey-Smith, J.C. Vasey, L. Vasey and Williams. (34)

APOLOGIES - Councillors Baldwin, Mrs. Brown, Burt, Foster, Haszeldine, Holmes, Mrs. D. Jones, S. Jones, Maybrey, McEwan, Reynolds, Roberts, Ruck, Stenson, Mrs. Swift, Thistlethwaite, G.B. Walker, Wallis and Wilson. (19)

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

51. CHILDREN’S SERVICES – THE WAY FORWARD – The Chief Executive submitted a report (previously circulated) detailing the main measures in the Children’s Bill and also how the Council would respond to the legislative changes contained therein.

The submitted report outlined the background to the Children’s Bill which dealt with the legislative changes contained in the Government’s Green Paper ‘Every Child Matters’. Particular references were made to the need to appoint a Director and Lead Council Member of Children’s Services; the proposed establishment of a Children’s Services Department, which would incorporate children services currently provided by the Education and Social Services Departments; and proposals to explore ways in which Adult Services could be delivered. Appended to the submitted report was proposed new Cabinet Portfolios to comply with the proposals.

RESOLVED – (a) That the target date for the implementation of the Children’s Services Department be April 2005 and up until that period, the Director of Social Services and the Director of Education remain responsible for their current areas of service delivery.

(b) That the post of Children’s Services Director is advertised internally in the first instance.

(c) That Officers open discussions with the Primary Care Trust to explore ways in which there can be more integration in relation to the delivery of Adult Services and that a further report be brought back to Members.

(d) That further reports be brought back to Members, as appropriate, in relation to detailed arrangements.

(e) That the new Cabinet portfolios as described in the report be approved.

REASONS - (a) To allow the Council to respond to the Children Bill.

(b) To consider future options for the delivery of Adult Services.

(c) To align Cabinet portfolios with legislation and local priorities.

THE COMMON SEAL of THE)
COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH)
OF DARLINGTON was hereunto affixed)
this Twenty fifth day of November)
two thousand and four in the presence of :-)

Mayor

Borough Solicitor