

CABINET
14th January 2009

PRESENT - Councillor Williams (in the Chair); Councillors Chapman, Copeland, Dixon, Harker, McEwan, D.A. Lyonette, A.J. Scott and Wallis (9)

INVITEES – Councillors Haszeldine, Mrs. Scott and Swainston and Mr. A. MacConachie. (4)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillors Barker, Coultas, Johnson, B. Jones, Mrs. D. Jones, Lewis, Richmond and Walker. (8)

C130. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – In respect of Minute C132 below, Councillor Wallis declared a personal and prejudicial interest, as his wife worked for the Council and could be affected by some of the proposals contained within the submitted report, and left the meeting during consideration of that item.

C131. REPRESENTATIONS – In respect of Minute C132 below, representations were made, by members of the public and union representatives, in attendance at the meeting.

C132. KEY DECISIONS – DRAFT MEDIUM TERM CORPORATE PLAN INCORPORATING THE MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN – The Leader introduced the report of the Corporate Management Team (previously circulated) presenting, for consultation, the Council’s combined draft Medium Term Corporate Plan incorporating the Medium Term Financial Plan (also previously circulated).

Representations were made at the meeting on a number of the proposals contained within the submitted report, including the scheme to provide cycleways/footways along the Skerne Valley in the Houghton area; closure of the Mayor’s Charity Shop; closure of a number of public conveniences throughout the Borough; introduction of charges for Cycle and Pedestrian Training; and the implications and associated costs of introducing the new Waste Management Contract.

The Cabinet Member with the Transport Portfolio reported at the meeting that the proposed cost for the Pedestrian Training was £12 per child and not £17 per child, as detailed in the submitted report.

A number of volunteers from the Mayor’s Charity Shop addressed Cabinet and requested that they reconsider the proposal to close the shop, as they felt its closure could cause hardship to the many people who currently use it. It was stated that the shop contributed towards the Council’s recycling targets through the recycling and re-usage of all goods donated to it. Excess items were given to other organisations, if they could not be sold by the shop, and these goods were quite often sent abroad. The shop also offered assistance to the homeless; schools; community in general; and other voluntary organisations, through the donation of goods.

A Union Representative in attendance at the meeting addressed Cabinet in respect of the proposals and stated that they would provide a full written response to those proposals as part of the consultation process.

The Leader responded to the issues raised thereon.

Discussion ensued on other potential savings that could be made elsewhere in the budget to alleviate the need for redundancies.

RESOLVED – (a) That the following be approved, for consultation, namely:-

- (i) the Corporate Plan, as appended to the submitted report at Appendix 1;
 - (ii) the revenue Medium Term Financial Plan, as detailed in the submitted report and summarised at Appendix 12, the key elements being: -
 - (A) efficiency savings of up to £4.9M per annum and service reprioritisations with savings of up to £0.4M per annum as detailed in the Directors' reports, as appended to the submitted report;
 - (B) the provision of headroom of £0.250M per annum;
 - (C) prudent revenue balances of £6.0M; and
 - (D) a 3.5 per cent Council Tax increase; and
 - (iii) the draft Capital Medium Term Financial Plan as detailed in the submitted report and summarised at Appendix 10; and
 - (iv) the funding of capital schemes totalling £1.165M, as detailed in paragraph 82 of the submitted report.
- (b) That a further report be presented to the special meeting of Cabinet scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 17th February, 2009, detailing the outcome of consultation prior to final decisions being made on the Corporate and Medium Term Financial Plans.

**DECISIONS DATED -
FRIDAY, 16TH JANUARY, 2009**