

**DECISIONS SHOULD NOT BE IMPLEMENTED
BEFORE MONDAY 5 DECEMBER 2011**

CABINET
22 November 2011

PRESENT - Councillor Dixon (in the Chair); Councillors Copeland, Harker, C L B Hughes, McEwan, D A Lyonette, A J Scott and Wallis. (8)

INVITEES – Councillors Curry and Mrs. Scott. (2)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillors Donoghue, Francis, Galletley, Harman, Johnson, B. Jones, Mrs. D. Jones, Lewis, Long, Macnab and E. Richmond. (11)

C81. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

C82. REPRESENTATION – In respect of Minute C68 below, representations were made by representatives of Unison, representatives from various organisations and members of the public, in attendance at the meeting,

C83. KEY DECISION - MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2012/13 TO 2015/16 - The Leader introduced the report of the Chief Officers Executive (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for the period 2012/13 to 2015/16 for consultation, prior to final recommendations being made by Cabinet in February 2012 and to Council in March 2012.

A representative of Unison addressed Cabinet in respect of a number of proposals contained within the MTFP, including the changes to the terms and conditions of employees of the Council including the pay freeze and the three days unpaid leave; number of redundancies; closure of the Arts Centre; provision of a new 'Arts Hub' in the town; the Council Tax increase; and the consultation process. The VAT exemption for Cultural Services for the Civic Theatre was welcomed and a query was raised whether this could be extended for use by the Arts Centre.

Representations were made in respect of the eligibility criteria and the severe disability disregard and in particular the disability impact assessments that had been undertaken and the provisions for those with Mental Health needs that fell outside the eligibility criteria. References were also made to a number of the other budget proposals that would impact on the most vulnerable people including funding support for Shopmobility; rent support to Darlington Association on Disability; and carers support.

Representatives from various organisations who used the Arts Centre and members of the public addressed Cabinet in respect of its proposed closure, and in doing so made particular references to a number of issues, including the lack of investment in the building over the last four years; under-utilisation of the building and its facilities; various users of the building; 'cross-fertilisation' of the Arts; business plan produced by 'Darlington for Culture' for the Arts Centre; cultural heritage of the town; opportunities for joint development/use; proposed 'Arts Hub'; use of the Blanche Pease building; and the marketing of the Arts Centre.

References were also made in respect of the proposed budget savings proposals for the Bowling Greens and secondary school Home to School Transport.

The Leader, Cabinet and Chief Officers Executive responded to the issues, concerns and questions raised at the meeting thereon.

In considering the recommendations Members took into consideration their equality duty, in that the needs and rights of different members of the community who might be affected by the decision were considered. The officers of the Council had undertaken assessments to assist Members, but the need to understand the impact rests with Members as decision makers.

RESOLVED - (a) That the MTFP for 2012/13 to 2015/16, as appended to the submitted report, be approved for consultation including :-

- (i) a 3.5% Council Tax increase for 2012/13 and the following potential increases be included in the MTFP for future years;

2013/14	3.5%
2014/15	3.5%
2015/16	3.5%

- (ii) the budget reduction proposals, as set out in summary at Appendix 14 and in detail at Appendix 15 of the submitted report;
- (iii) the schedule of charges, as set out in Appendix 3 of the submitted report; and
- (iv) the recommendations as set out in the reports in Appendices 7 to 9 and 16 to 17, of the submitted report.

(b) That the results of consultation be submitted to the special meeting of Cabinet scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 22 February, 2012.

(c) That the recommendations contained within Appendix 6 of the submitted report and detailed below relating to Adult Social Care eligibility criteria and severe disability disregard to enable the implementation of those proposals contained within the 2011/12 MTFP revision, namely that

- (i) Cabinet considers the impact assessment against the need to achieve savings within the context of the draft MTFP; and
- (ii) Cabinet approves the following revised policies for introduction on the 5 December 2011;
 - (1) Eligibility Criteria for Adult Social Care; and
 - (2) Fairer Contributions Policy.

(d) That Darlington Partnership's vision for the Arts '*Creative Darlington: investing in a Creative Community*', and the creation of a Creative Darlington Board and Network, as set out in Appendix 7 to the submitted report, be endorsed.

(e) That the Director of Resources be authorised to commence marketing the disposal of the Arts Centre site, as set out in Appendix 8 of the submitted report, however, noting that disposal will be subject to final decisions of Council at its meeting scheduled to be held on 1 March 2012.

(f) That the Director of Place be authorised to apply for Arts Council capital funding for a new arts hub, as detailed in the submitted report, however, noting that this will be subject to final decisions of Council at its meeting scheduled to be held on 1 March 2012.

(g) That the recommendations contained within Appendix 9 of the submitted report, be approved and it be agreed to take the benefit of the VAT exemption for Cultural Services for the Civic Theatre, subject to the outcome of advertising the Council's intention.

(h) **(URGENT ITEM)** That the recommendations set out in Appendix 10 of the submitted report and detailed below, be approved, with regard to Strategic Grants, namely that:-

- (i) the criteria set out in Appendix 10, Annex 2 of the submitted report, be approved as the basis for assessing Strategic Grant applications;
- (ii) the proposals set out in Appendix 10, paragraphs 6, 7 and 24 to 29 of the submitted report for the Strategic Grant programme and the Tactical Fund, be approved;
- (iii) the delegated powers of the Cabinet Member with the Health and Partnerships Portfolio be extended, as described in Appendix 10, paragraphs 10 and 35 of the submitted report, to include approval of applications for grant from the Tactical Fund subject to call-in provision to allow Council Members to challenge decisions; and
- (iv) Cabinet receives and considers the recommendations of the Joint Funding Advisory Panel on the first round of applications for Strategic Grant on 10 January 2012.

(i) That the following recommendations, as detailed in Appendix 17 of the submitted report, and detailed below relating to Car Parking charges, be agreed:-

- (i) It is recommended that the Directors of Place and Resources be authorised to take the necessary steps to implement traffic regulation orders to:-
 - (1) introduce a charge on Sundays of 50p per 30 minutes up to a maximum stay of 2 hours, with no return within 1 hour, 8am to 6pm at the pay and display parking places as shown in Appendix 17, Table A in Appendix 1 and in Figure 1 of the submitted report;
 - (2) introduce a charge on Sundays of 50p for a maximum stay 30 minutes, no return within 1 hour, 8am to 6pm at the pay and display parking places shown in Appendix 17, Table B in Appendix 1 and Figure 1 of the submitted report;
 - (3) introduce a Saturday and Sunday charge of 50p per 30 minutes up to a maximum stay of 2 hours, no return within 1 hour, 8am to 6pm at the pay and display parking places shown in Appendix 17, Table C in Appendix 1 and in Figure 1 of the submitted report;
 - (4) reduce the daily charge at Park Lane car park from £7 to £5 on a trial basis until 31 March 2013; and
 - (5) introduce a schedule of discounts as shown in Appendix 17, Table E in Appendix 1 of the submitted report, for contract car parking at Beaumont Street

West for town centre businesses with a travel plan.

- (ii) It is recommended that the Directors of Place and Resources be authorised to take the necessary steps to advertise traffic regulation orders to:-
- (1) introduce the weekday charges on Sundays in all Council operated car parks, such that there is a one short or long tariff seven days per week, except for Archer Street, Garden Street and Kendrew Street (East and West);
 - (2) introduce a mixed short and long stay tariff in Archer Street, Garden Street & Kendrew Street (East and West) on a trial basis until 31 March 2013;
 - (3) introduce Sunday operation of residents' parking zones, excluding Zones near the Darlington Football Club;
 - (4) introduce progressive increases in residents' permit fees, so that these increase from £25 to £50 per annum over 3 years;
 - (5) increase the cost of the standard weekly long stay parking ticket to £16 and the Chesnut Street weekly long stay parking ticket to £8;
 - (6) introduce a Saturday and Sunday charge of 50p every 30 minutes up to a maximum stay of 2 hours, no return within 1 hour 8am to 6pm at the pay and display places shown Appendix 17, Table D in Appendix 1 and in Figure 1 of the submitted report; and
 - (7) introduce a £5 per day waiver for eligible trade people and builders who require parking on yellow lines and in parking places in order to undertake their work.

REASONS - (a) To allow employees, the public and stakeholders to provide feedback on the draft MTFP.

(b) To enable Cabinet to consider the results of consultation prior to the making its recommendations to Council.

(c) To enable 2011/12 MTFP proposals to be implemented.

(d) Members have now been provided with the draft 2012/13 to 2015/16 MTFP to allow them to give full consideration to the impacts as described in the Equality Impact Assessment and proposed mitigations in the submitted report alongside all other budget proposals.

(e) To enable the vision for the Arts in Darlington to be taken forward in partnership with the public, private and third sectors.

(f) Marketing the Arts Centre site now will enable the value of the site to be known as soon as possible, in order to support external funding bids.

(g) To enable the deadlines for capital funding bids to be met.

(h) To reduce the net cost of operating the Civic Theatre.

- (i) To enable the Third Sector to participate fully in the delivery of strategic outcomes.
- (j) To make the most effective use of the Council's resources for Third Sector support.
- (k) With regard to implementing traffic orders:-
 - (i) to implement Sunday charging at on-street parking places in the town centre, appropriate to the individual locations set out in Appendix 17, Table A of the submitted report;
 - (ii) to implement Sunday charging at on-street parking places in the town centre, appropriate to the individual locations set out in Appendix 17, Table B of the submitted report;
 - (iii) to implement Saturday and Sunday charging at on-street parking places in the town centre, appropriate to the individual locations set out in Appendix 17, Table C of the submitted report;
 - (iv) to encourage use of Park Lane Car Park, especially by rail passengers; and
 - (v) to provide a contract parking scheme that better meets the needs of businesses in the town centre.
- (l) With regard to taking necessary steps to advertise traffic orders:-
 - (i) to enable the Council to continue to maintain and manage the parking service in a sustainable way;
 - (ii) to introduce a mixed short and long stay tariff in Archer Street, Garden Street and Kendrew Street (East and West) in response to feedback from users;
 - (iii) to minimise the impact of displaced parking on residents in residents' parking zones;
 - (iv) to operate the residents' parking zones in a sustainable way;
 - (v) to increase the cost of the weekly tickets to reflect the fact they apply all week, yet still offering a discount compared to the cost of parking for five days a week;
 - (vi) to implement Saturday and Sunday charging at on-street parking places in the town centre, appropriate to the individual locations set out in Appendix 17, Table D of the submitted report; and
 - (vii) to contribute to the cost of processing parking waiver requests.

**DECISIONS DATED -
FRIDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2011**