

**DECISIONS SHOULD NOT BE IMPLEMENTED
BEFORE TUESDAY, 25TH SEPTEMBER, 2012**

CABINET
11 September 2012

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 Currie, I Haszeldine and Mrs. H Scott. (3)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillors Franis, Johnson, Lewis and Stenson. (4)

C38. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

C39. REPRESENTATIONS – In respect of Minutes C43(2) and (4), C44 and C45 below, representations were made by Members in attendance at the meeting.

C40. MINUTES - Submitted - The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Cabinet held on 10 July 2012.

RESOLVED - That the Minutes be confirmed.

REASON - They represent an accurate record of the meeting.

C41. MATTERS REFERRED TO CABINET - There were no matters referred back for reconsideration.

C42. ISSUES ARISING FROM SCRUTINY - There were no issues arising from Scrutiny.

C43. KEY DECISIONS - (1) Council Tax Support - The Cabinet Member with the Efficiency and Resources Portfolio introduced a report of the Director of Resources (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the Draft Council Tax Support (CTS) Scheme (also previously circulated) prior to consultation with residents within the Borough.

Discussion ensued on the consultation to be undertaken on the scheme; the role of Scrutiny in the process; and the deadline for publishing the scheme.

RESOLVED - (a) That the draft Council Tax Support (CTS) scheme, as detailed at Appendix 7 to the submitted report, be approved, for public consultation.

(b) That a report be presented to a future meeting of Cabinet on the options to review Council Tax exemptions.

REASONS - (a) The Council is required to publish a local Council Tax Support (CTS) scheme by 31st January 2013.

(b) A full public consultation is required on the proposals, prior to approval of the final scheme.

(c) To enable Members to consider options to change the current scheme for Council Tax exemptions.

(2) Adult Social Care Policy Review - Eligibility Criteria Policy - The Cabinet Member with Adult Social Care and Housing Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of People (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the revised Adult Social Care Eligibility Criteria Policy (also previously circulated).

A Member in attendance at the meeting enquired whether the decision would change the approved Medium Term Financial Plan and the Director of People responded thereon.

RESOLVED – That having considered the impact assessment against the need to achieve efficiencies within the context of the current Medium Term Financial Plan the revised Eligibility Criteria Policy for Adult Social Care, as appended to the submitted report, be approved for implementation from 1 December 2012.

REASONS - (a) Members have approved the 2012/13-2015/16 Medium Term Financial Plan and gave full consideration to the impacts as described in the Equality Impact Assessment and proposed mitigations in the submitted report alongside all other budget proposals.

(b) The efficiencies are required to support the Council in meeting its overall budget efficiencies.

(3) Release of Adults Personal Social Services Capital Allocations - The Cabinet Member with Adult Social Care and Housing Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of People (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the release of £75,000 from the Adults Personal Social Services Capital Allocation for the upgrade of lifeline services equipment in the Council's three extra care schemes.

Discussion ensued on the remaining funding available to spend on other capital projects.

RESOLVED - That capital grant funding of £75,000 be approved to upgrade the technology in the Extra Care Schemes at Dalkeith House, Oban Court and Rosemary Court.

REASONS - (a) The existing technology is outdated and no longer fit for purpose.

(b) The new technology will improve the quality and efficiency of the services provided in the Council's Extra Care Schemes.

(4) Equality Scheme 2012/16 - The Cabinet Member with the Health and Partnership Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of People (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to formally signing off the Equality Scheme 2012/16 (also previously circulated) and the arrangements for implementing the scheme.

A Member enquired at the meeting whether there would be a cost to the Council for implementing the scheme and the Director of People responded thereon.

RESOLVED - (a) That the Equality Scheme 2012/16 and the associated Equality Impact Assessment Tool as a framework for meeting the Public Sector Equality Duty, as set out in the Equality Act 2010, be agreed.

(b) That the engagement arrangements set out in the Scheme, as appended to the submitted report, be agreed, to involve staff from across the Council to support embedding equality, within the resources that the Council has.

REASONS - (a) The Council needs to meet it's Public Sector Equality Duty set out within the Equality Act 2010.

(b) The publication of a single equality scheme is the most efficient and effective way of delivering the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty.

(5) Economic Strategy - The Cabinet Member with Economy and Regeneration Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Place (previously circulated) briefing Members on the draft Economic Strategy (also previously circulated) and seeking endorsement for the actions contained within it.

It was reported at the meeting that Place Scrutiny had welcomed and endorsed the Strategy.

Discussion ensued on the Strategy and due to its importance it was requested that a copy of the Strategy be forwarded to all Members of the Council.

RESOLVED - (a) That the Economic Strategy, as detailed at Appendix 1 to the submitted report, be endorsed.

(b) That officers continue to work up the detailed action plans, as detailed at Appendix 2 to the submitted report, with delivery partners under the Priority Actions set out in the Economic Strategy.

REASON - To support and to continue the development of a local resilient economy that contributes to the One Darlington: Perfectly Placed outcomes.

(6) Darlington Local Development Scheme 2012/15 - The Cabinet Member with Economy and Regeneration Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Place (previously circulated) outlining the Local Development Scheme for 2012/15 (also previously circulated) and seeking agreement to the recommendations being proposed to Council regarding it.

RESOLVED – That it be recommended to Council that the updated Local Development Scheme for the period 2012-15, as appended to the submitted report, be agreed, to take effect from 28 September, 2012.

REASON - The Council is required to have an up to date Local Development Scheme (Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, as amended by Section 111, Localism Act 2011).

C44. ENFORCEMENT POLICY FOR THE SERVICES FOR PLACE GROUP - The Cabinet Member with Economy and Regeneration Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Place (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the adoption of an Enforcement Policy (also previously circulated) to be used by properly authorised officers working in the Services for Place Group to enforce legislation on behalf of the Council.

Discussion ensued on the number of Enforcement Officers employed by the Council.

RESOLVED – That the Enforcement Policy, as appended to the submitted report, be approved.

REASONS - (a) It will promote consistent enforcement practices by providing a framework to guide the enforcement actions of the Councils authorised enforcement officers.

(b) It will allow the policy to be shared with the community it serves.

C45. STRESSHOLME GOLF COURSE OPTIONS - The Cabinet Member with the Efficiency and Resources Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Place and the Director of Resources (also previously circulated) on the review of the future of Stressholme Golf Course.

A Member in attendance at the meeting addressed Cabinet in respect the running of Stressholme Golf Course; the subsidy paid; and the value of the land.

Discussion ensued on usage of the golf course; the options available; and the consultation process on the preferred option.

RESOLVED - (a) That the principle of merging Stressholme Golf Club with Blackwell Grange Golf Club, in accordance with the terms outlined in the submitted report, be agreed.

(b) That the Director of Resources be granted delegated power to conduct negotiations and agree the terms of any proposed land transaction with Blackwell Grange Golf Club and the Scheme of Delegation be amended under Exceptions in relation to Specific Projects to reflect that.

(c) That a further report be presented to Cabinet following the outcome of negotiations and consultation.

REASONS - (a) This best meets the criteria as set out in the options analysis.

(b) To provide flexibility to reach agreement on the detail of any arrangement.

(c) To inform Members about the details of the final agreement and make a final decision having regard to consultation results.

C46. HIGH STREET INNOVATION FUND - The Cabinet Member with Economy and Regeneration Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Place (previously circulated) providing Members with an update in respect of the allocation of £100,000 through the High Street Innovation Fund and seeking approval for the release of those monies to commence delivery of a number of projects to be funded through the scheme.

RESOLVED - That the receipt of £100,000 from the High Street Innovation Fund, be noted, and it be spent on the projects, as detailed at Appendix 1 to the submitted report.

REASONS - (a) The Council is in receipt of £100,000 that has been awarded by Government for the purpose of implementing measures to address the issue of vacant units in the town centre.

(b) The proposed use of the funding will meet the One Darlington; Perfectly Placed outcomes by improving the attractiveness of the Town Centre, assist new business from and survive and create new opportunities for apprenticeships.

C47. PROJECT POSITION STATEMENT AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING - QUARTER ONE 2012/13 - The Cabinet Member with the Efficiency and Resources Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Resources and the Director of Place (previously circulated) providing Members with a summary of the latest capital resource and commitment position, informing monitoring of the affordability and funding with the Council's capital programme and updating Members on the current status of all construction projects currently being undertaken by the Council.

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

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

(c) That the adjustments to resources, as detailed 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.

C48. MEMBERSHIP CHANGES - There were no membership changes reported at the meeting.

C49. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC - RESOLVED - That, pursuant to Sections 100A(4) and (5) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the ensuing item on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in exclusion paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act.

C50. SCHEDULE OF TRANSACTIONS (EXCLUSION PARAGRAPH NO. 3) - The Cabinet Member with the Efficiency and Resources Portfolio introduced the report and schedule of the Director of Resources (both previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the schedule of transactions and seeking approval of the terms negotiated.

RESOLVED - That the schedule, as appended to the submitted report, be approved and the transactions be completed on the terms and conditions detailed therein.

REASON - The terms negotiated require approval by Cabinet before binding itself contractually to a transaction.

**DECISIONS DATED -
MONDAY, 17TH SEPTEMBER, 2012**