

**DECISIONS SHOULD NOT BE IMPLEMENTED BEFORE
MONDAY 14 APRIL 2014**

CABINET
1 April 2014

PRESENT - Councillor Dixon (in the Chair); Councillors Copeland, Harker, C L B Hughes, McEwan, A J Scott and Wallis. (7)

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillors Crichlow and EA Richmond. (2)

APOLOGIES – Councillor D A Lyonette.

C129. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

C130. REPRESENTATIONS – No representations were made by Members or members of the public in attendance at the meeting.

C131. MINUTES - Submitted - The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Cabinet held on 4 March 2014.

RESOLVED - That the Minutes be confirmed.

REASON - They represent an accurate record of the meeting.

C132. MATTERS REFERRED TO CABINET - There were no matters referred back for reconsideration.

C133. ISSUES ARISING FROM SCRUTINY – There were no issues referred from the Scrutiny Committees to this meeting.

C134. KEY DECISIONS - (1) Annual Procurement Plan - The Cabinet Member with the Efficiency and Resources Portfolio introduced the report of the Chief Executive (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the Annual Procurement Plan (also previously circulated).

RESOLVED - That the assessment of strategic and non-strategic contracts as detailed in Appendix 1 of the submitted report, be approved, and it be agreed that:

- (a) further reports on the procurement process for those contracts designated as strategic be brought to Cabinet for approval and the contract award decision be made by Cabinet; and
- (b) the contract award decisions for the contracts designated as non-strategic be delegated to the appropriate Director as listed in the plan at Appendix 1 of the submitted report.

REASONS - (a) The Contract Procedure Rules require Cabinet to approve the designation of contracts as strategic and non-strategic.

(b) The contracts designated strategic are of high value and high significance in respect of the impact on residents, Health and Safety and public safety.

(c) The contracts designated non-strategic are of a lower value and lower significance in respect of the impact on residents and public safety.

(2) (URGENT ITEM) Release of Capital Allocation for the Housing Capital Programme 2014/15 - The Cabinet Member with Adult Social Care and Housing Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the release of £5.827m from the Housing Revenue Account, to fund the 2014/15 Housing Capital Programme.

RESOLVED - That Capital funding of £5.827m be released from the Housing Revenue Account, to fund the 2014/15 Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme.

REASON - To enable the Council to deliver an appropriate level of services to tenants to meet housing needs and to support the economic growth of the Borough through housing development.

C135. TRANSFORMING REHABILITATION: A STRATEGY FOR REFORM - The Leader introduced the report of the Director of People (previously circulated) requesting that that consideration be given to making available £1m of funding to lend to the Achieving Real Change in the Community (ARCC) Community Interest Company (CIC) to enable the company to tender to run the Durham and Tees Valley Probation Company.

RESOLVED – That it be recommended to Council that:-

(a) £1m from Council reserves be earmarked for a loan to the Achieving Real Change in the Community (ARCC) Community Interest Company (CIC) should the company be the successful tenderer for the Durham and Tees Valley Probation Service company;

(b) a further report be presented to Cabinet prior to the submission of the tender explaining how the financial risk of the tender has been minimised to the Council;

(c) Miriam Davidson, Director of Public Health, be appointed as this Council's representative on the board of ARCC; and

(d) a share of the costs of the tendering process, as detailed in the submitted report, be met by the Council.

REASONS - (a) To put in place approval for the required funding.

(b) To ensure risk is minimised.

(c) To appoint a board member.

(d) To fund the tendering process.

C136. OPPORTUNITY TO BID TO NATIONAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAMME - The Cabinet Member with the Adult Social Care and Housing Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Economic Growth and the Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the submission of an application to the Homes and Community Agency's Affordable Housing Programme (AHP) 2015/18, which is being made available through a competitive bidding process.

Discussion ensued on the use of the green open space in the Red Hall estate.

RESOLVED - (a) That the submission of a bid to the Affordable Housing Programme 2015/18, be approved.

(b) That the Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources, in consultation with the Cabinet Member with the Adult Social Care and Housing Portfolio, be authorised to agree the detailed elements of the funding bid prior to submission to the Homes and Communities Agency.

REASONS - (a) Darlington has funds available through the Housing Revenue Account to build Council houses. A grant of up to 20 per cent from the Affordable Housing Programme will replace some of the Council's funding and make the Council's limited funds stretch further.

(b) There is a short timescale in which to develop and agree an Affordable Housing Programme bid.

C137. CHARGES FOR TAXI TESTING/MOT'S - The Cabinet Member with the Efficiency and Resources Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the introduction of charges for taxi testing and MOT services.

RESOLVED – That the charges for Taxi Testing and MOT's, as detailed in paragraph 9 of the submitted report, for both registered taxis and general public, be approved.

REASON - To enable new charges to be brought in for this new service.

C138. MEMBERSHIP CHANGES - There were no membership changes reported at the meeting.

C139. 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.

C140. SCHEDULE OF TRANSACTIONS (EXCLUSION PARAGRAPH NO 3) - The Cabinet Member with the Efficiency and Resources Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Economic Growth (previously circulated) requesting that consideration

be given to the Schedule of Transactions (also previously circulated) and seeking approval of the terms negotiated.

RESOLVED - That the schedule of transactions, 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 –
FRIDAY 4 APRIL 2014**