

**DECISIONS SHOULD NOT BE IMPLEMENTED BEFORE
MONDAY 16 JUNE 2014**

CABINET
3 June 2014

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

INVITEES – Councillors Curry and Johnson. (2)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillor Crichlow.

APOLOGIES – Councillor Copeland.

C1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

C2. TIMES OF MEETINGS – RESOLVED – That meetings of this Cabinet be held at 5.00 pm for the remainder of the 2014/15 Municipal Year.

REASON – To comply with the views of Cabinet.

C3. REPRESENTATIONS – No representations were made by Members or members of the public in attendance at the meeting.

C4. MINUTES - Submitted - The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Cabinet held on 29 April 2014.

RESOLVED - That the Minutes be confirmed.

REASON - They represent an accurate record of the meeting.

C5. MATTERS REFERRED TO CABINET - There were no matters referred back for reconsideration.

C6. ISSUES ARISING FROM SCRUTINY – There were no issues referred from the Scrutiny Committees to this meeting.

C7. KEY DECISIONS – (1) Children, Families and Learning Capital Programme 2014/15 - The Cabinet Member with the Children and Young People Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of People (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the proposed Children, Families and Learning Capital Programme for 2014/15; and to the release of capital funds relating to this programme.

RESOLVED - (a) That capital funding of £769,679, as outlined in Appendix A of the submitted report, be released, and the proposed prioritised capital investment programme for maintained schools and community centres, as detailed in the submitted report, be agreed, and the Director of People be given delegated authority to manage the authorisation of this funding.

(b) That the proposed ‘universal free school meals’ capital investment programme for Children’s Services, as identified in Appendix B of the submitted report, be agreed, and the Director of People be given delegated authority to manage the authorisation of this funding.

REASONS - (a) Release of the funds will enable capital investment to be undertaken in the areas identified with the greatest need, in terms of asset management priorities.

(b) Detailed planning to identify priorities has been undertaken which ensures effective use of all investment.

(2) School Term Dates 2015/16 – With the prior approval of the Leader to the matter being treated as urgent, to enable the School Term Dates to be set by the required deadline, the Cabinet Member with the Children and Young People Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of People (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to setting school term date arrangements for Darlington Maintained schools for the academic year 2015/16.

RESOLVED - That the school term dates for Darlington Maintained schools for the 2015/16 academic year, as detailed in Model A, as appended to the submitted report, be agreed.

REASON - This is the model preferred by most schools, governing bodies and other interested parties in Darlington following the consultation exercise which ended on 23 May 2014.

C8. REPRESENTATION ON OTHER BODIES 2014/15 - The Leader introduced the report of the Chief Executive (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to this Council’s representation on other bodies for the 2014/15 Municipal Year, to which Cabinet appoints.

RESOLVED - That the appointments to the other bodies for the 2014/15 Municipal Year, as detailed below, be approved:-

Name of Body or Organisation	Nomination(s)
Business Improvement District (BID) Board	Cabinet Member with Economy and Regeneration Portfolio (Councillor McEwan)
Charitable Organisations for the Blind (COB)	Councillor Newall
County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust – Board of Governors	Councillor Copeland
Darlington and District Youth and Community Association (2002)	Councillors Baldwin and Macnab

Name of Body or Organisation	Nomination(s)
Darlington Partnership Board	Leader of the Council (Councillor Dixon), Cabinet Member with Health and Partnerships Portfolio (Councillor A J Scott) and Councillor Mrs Scott (Leader of the Opposition)
Darlington Cares	Councillor McEwan (Cabinet Member with Economy and Regeneration Portfolio) and Councillor Mrs Scott (Leader of the Opposition)
Darlington Railway Museum Trust	Cabinet Member with Leisure and Local Environment Portfolio (Councillor Wallis)
Durham County Pension Fund Committee	Cabinet Member with Efficiency and Resources Portfolio (Councillor Harker) and Chair of Efficiency and Resources Scrutiny Committee (Councillor I Haszeldine)
Durham Tees Valley Airport Limited - Board	Councillor Dixon (Director) (Councillor D A Lyonette as substitute Council Director)
Durham Tees Valley Airport Limited - Consultative Committee	Cabinet Member with Transport Portfolio (Councillor D A Lyonette)
Family Help Organisation	Councillors Curry, J M Lyonette and Newall
Family Placement Panel	Councillor Nutt
Ground Work North East : Board	Cabinet Member with Leisure and Local Environment Portfolio (Councillor Wallis)
Sub-Regional Board	Cabinet Member with Leisure and Local Environment Portfolio (Councillor Wallis) and Cabinet Member with Health and Partnerships Portfolio (Councillor A J Scott)
Maidendale Nature and Fishing Reserve (Associate Member)	Councillor Dixon (Ward Member)
North East Cultural Partnership	Councillor Wallis (Cabinet Member with Leisure and Local Environment Portfolio) and Councillor Mrs Scott (Leader of the Opposition)

Name of Body or Organisation	Nomination(s)
North East Regional Employers Organisation Executive Committee	Cabinet Member with Efficiency and Resources Portfolio (Councillor Harker), Chair of Efficiency and Resources Scrutiny Committee (Councillor I Haszeldine) and Vice Chair of Efficiency and Resources Scrutiny Committee (Councillor Landers) Cabinet Member with Efficiency and Resources Portfolio (Councillor Harker)
North East Strategic Migration Partnership (NESMP)	Cabinet Member with Health and Partnerships Portfolio (Councillor A J Scott) (Councillor C L B Hughes as named substitute)
North Eastern Purchasing Organisation Collaborative Procurement Sub-Committee	Cabinet Member with Efficiency and Resources Portfolio (Councillor Harker)
Northern Council of Education Authorities	Cabinet Member with Children and Young People Portfolio (Councillor C L B Hughes) and Chair of Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee (Councillor Lister) and Councillor Galletley
Northern Housing Consortium	Cabinet Member with Adult Social Care and Housing Portfolio (Councillor Copeland)
Northumbrian Regional Flood and Coastal Committee	Councillor Harman (Councillor McEwan as named substitute)
RELATE North East	Councillors Cartwright and Regan
Shopmobility Steering Group	Cabinet Member with Transport Portfolio (Councillor D A Lyonette) and Cabinet Member with Health and Partnerships Portfolio (Councillor A J Scott)
Tees Valley Environmental Protection Group	Cabinet Member with Leisure and Local Environment Portfolio (Councillor Wallis), Vice Chair of Place Scrutiny Committee (Councillor Cossins) and Councillor Harman
Tees Valley Local Access Forum	Councillor Long (Chair of Place Scrutiny Committee)
Tees Valley Rivers and Fisheries Association	Councillor I Haszeldine
Tees Valley Unlimited – Leadership Board	Leader of the Council (Councillor Dixon)

Name of Body or Organisation	Nomination(s)
Tidy North Regional Consultative Committee	Cabinet Member with Leisure and Local Environment Portfolio (Councillor Wallis)

REASON - To comply with the nominations received from the Political Groups.

C9. DEVELOPMENT OF HOUSING PLUS SERVICE - The Leader introduced the report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the proposed charges in respect of a new self-funded Housing Management Service, to support those tenants who may be at risk of losing their tenancy.

RESOLVED - That the Housing Plus Service be introduced from July 2014 and that a charge of £17.02 per week, be made for the service.

REASON - Social Housing Landlords have a responsibility to provide accommodation and support to vulnerable people and those with complex lifestyles. A Housing Plus Service will help more people sustain a housing tenancy and improve community cohesion but it is reasonable to expect the service user to be charged for the service rather than pooling the costs in the Housing Revenue Account.

C10. RELEASE OF CAPITAL ALLOCATION IN THE HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME – NEW BUILD COUNCIL HOUSING - The Leader introduced the report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the release of funding allocated in the Housing Capital Programme, to provide 24 new Council flats for rent on the Branksome estate.

RESOLVED – (a) That £2,845,235 of the £5m allocated in the Housing Capital Programme for 2014/15 for a Council housing new build programme, as detailed in the submitted report, be released.

(b) That the Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources be authorised to proceed with the works, as detailed in paragraph 8 of the submitted report, subject to planning consent.

REASON - To meet the demand for more low cost housing options for rent.

C11. ADDITIONAL HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE FUNDING - The Cabinet Member with Transport Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Economic Growth (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the release of additional grant funding, allocated by the Department for Transport to help in the repair of damage to the local road network caused by severe weather in 2013/14, and to retrospectively approving the submission of a bid into the £168 million pothole fund, to repair local roads, and to release the funding if successful.

RESOLVED - (a) That Capital grant funding of £65,483 for the severe weather in 2013/14, be released, to supplement the delivery of a programme of maintenance throughout the Borough’s road network.

(b) That retrospective approval be given to the submission of a bid into the Department for Transport pothole fund for additional maintenance funding.

(c) That, subject to a successful bid, the funding obtained be released and it be prioritised on reactive and preventative treatments on all roads, but with specific targeted treatment on 'C' class and unclassified roads, to address the declining trend in condition.

REASONS – (a) To deliver additional highway maintenance to address the impact of severe weather.

(b) To seek additional funding for highway condition improvements.

(c) To enable the Council to respond quickly and comply with the bid criteria; delivering works in periods of the year that are conducive with the repair techniques and programmes.

C12. NORTH EAST PROCUREMENT ORGANISATION - The Cabinet Member with the Efficiency and Resources Portfolio introduced the report of the Chief Executive (previously circulated) giving details of the proposed changes to the North East Procurement Organisation (NEPO) as a result of a review, and requesting that consideration be given to the revised arrangements.

RESOLVED - (a) That, subject to the Association of North East Council's (ANEC's) formal agreement, the revised governance structure and staffing arrangements, as outlined in the submitted report, for the administration of the North East Purchasing Organisation and future collaborative procurement on behalf of the North East Councils, be approved.

(b) That the Assistant Director (Chief Executive) be authorised to formalise and agree the revised arrangements that ANEC Ltd will have in respect of NEPO, on behalf of the Council.

(c) That the Cabinet Member with the Efficiency and Resources Portfolio be authorised to serve on the new Collaborative Procurement Sub-committee of ANEC.

REASON - These proposals will serve to improve the capacity and capability of the North East Councils collectively and Darlington individually to maximise the benefits of engagement in collaborative procurement both regionally and locally. In so doing they mesh effectively with Darlington's own ambitions to generate the local economy and make the best use of resources.

C13. MEMBERSHIP CHANGES - There were no membership changes reported at the meeting.

C14. FEETHAMS PROGRAMME - BUS AND COACH IMPROVEMENTS – With the prior approval of the Leader to the matter being treated as urgent to enable the decision to be made at the earliest possible date, the Cabinet Members with the Economy and Regeneration and Transport Portfolios introduced the report of the Director of Economic Growth (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the release of funding in relation to the delivery of improved bus and coach infrastructure in Feethams.

Discussion ensued on the detailed programme for the project and the 'signposting' of local facilities for coach users should the buses be running late, particularly during the night and in severe weather.

RESOLVED - That £0.477M of Tees Valley Bus Network Improvement funding, be released, to enable the detailed design and delivery of the Bus and Coach Waiting Facility Improvements Project, as detailed in the submitted report.

REASON - The scheme will reduce traffic congestion on Tubwell Row and development in the Feethams area is likely to attract more demand for bus facilities. The project will improve passenger waiting facilities for bus and coach passengers.

**DECISIONS DATED –
FRIDAY 6 JUNE 2014**