

**DECISIONS SHOULD NOT BE IMPLEMENTED BEFORE
MONDAY 19 JANUARY 2015**

CABINET
6 January 2015

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

APOLOGIES – Councillor Harker.

INVITEES – Councillor Curry and Mrs Scott. (2)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillors Crichlow, Johnson, Long and J Taylor.(4)

C94. COUNCILLOR J LYONETTE – RESOLVED – That a minutes silence be held, as a mark of respect, for Councillor Joe Lyonette, who had sadly recently passed away,

REASON - To enable Members to show their respects.

C95. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

C96. REPRESENTATIONS – No representations were made by Members or members of the public in attendance at the meeting.

C97. MINUTES - Submitted - The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Cabinet held on 2 December 2014.

RESOLVED - That the Minutes be confirmed as a correct record.

REASON - They represent an accurate record of the meeting.

C98. MATTERS REFERRED TO CABINET - There were no matters referred back for reconsideration.

C99. ISSUES ARISING FROM SCRUTINY – There were no issues referred from the Scrutiny Committees to this meeting.

C100. ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER 2013/14 - The Leader introduced the report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources (previously circulated) presenting the Annual Audit Letter for 2013/14 (also previously circulated), which presented a high level summary of the results from the 2013/14 audit work undertaken by PriceWaterhouse Coopers, the Council's external auditors.

A representative from PriceWaterhouse Coopers presented the main findings from the Annual Audit Letter 2013/14 and stated that, the Council had been issued with an unqualified audit opinion, an unqualified value for money conclusion and an unqualified conclusion on the ability of the organisation to secure proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

RESOLVED - It is recommended that the Annual Audit Letter 2013/14, as appended to the submitted report, be noted.

REASON - To enable Cabinet to receive the results of the external audit work carried out.

C101. FEETHAMS DEVELOPMENTS - MULTI-STOREY CAR PARK (MSCP) - The Leader introduced the report of the Director of Economic Growth (previously circulated) informing Members of an urgent decision that he had made relating to the proposed multi storey car park in Feethams, to which the 'call-in' procedure could not be applied, as contained within this Council's Constitution.

RESOLVED - That the urgent decision taken relating to the Feethams Multi Storey Car Park, as detailed in the submitted report, be noted.

REASON - To comply with this Council's Constitution.

C102. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT QUARTER 2 - The Cabinet Member with the Health and Partnerships Portfolio introduced the report of the Assistant Chief Executive (previously circulated) providing an update report on the Council's performance management for the period 1 April to 30 September 2014, including progress against key performance measures and outcomes identified within the Council's agreed performance management framework.

RESOLVED - (a) That the contents of the revised Performance Management Framework, as detailed in the submitted report, be noted.

(b) That the performance narrative, as detailed in paragraphs 12 to 41 of the submitted report, be noted.

REASON - To effectively manage performance to deliver agreed priorities and outcomes.

C103. STRATEGIC GRANTS - The Cabinet Member with the Health and Partnerships Portfolio introduced the report of the Assistant Chief Executive (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to a way forward for the future of strategic grants to deliver savings identified in the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP).

RESOLVED - (a) That the Citizens Advice Bureau continue to be funded at the current level until new financial advice arrangements are put in place linked to the Financial Inclusion Strategy.

(b) That Evolution continue to be funded for a period of six months, whilst options for the future commissioning of infrastructure report is developed.

(c) That Age UK Darlington, First Stop, DAD and Groundwork continue to be funded for a period of up to twelve months, at the current rate, to allow a review of those services to take place.

REASON - It is important to understand the potential for improving delivery of services with the voluntary sector and to fully investigate options for financial advice, infrastructure and other frontline delivery

C104. MID YEAR PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT MONITORING REPORT 2014/15 - The Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the revised Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators and providing a half-yearly review of the Council's borrowing and investment activities.

RESOLVED - (a) That the revised prudential indicators and limits, as detailed in Tables 1 to 6, 8 and 14 to 17 of the submitted report, be examined.

(b) That the changes to the counterparty criteria, as outlined in paragraph 34 of the submitted report, be approved.

(c) That the reduction in the Treasury Management Budget (Financing Costs) of £0.478M, as shown in Table 11 of the submitted report, be noted.

(d) That the report be forwarded to Council, in order for the updated prudential indicators, to be approved.

REASONS - (a) In order to comply with the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities.

(b) To inform Members of the performance of the Treasury Management function.

(c) To comply with the Local Government Act 2003.

(d) To enable further improvements to be made in the Council's Treasury Management function.

C105. MEMBERSHIP CHANGES - There were no membership changes reported at the meeting.

C106. 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.

C107. ST MODWEN DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL – ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS (EXCLUSION PARAGRAPH NO 3) - The Cabinet Member with the Economy and Regeneration Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Economic Growth (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to a request for access rights across Council land at Faverdale, to facilitate the development of land owned by developers St Modwen.

RESOLVED - (a) That a right of access across Council owned land at Faverdale be agreed, to facilitate the development of the St Modwen land for employment uses in line with the terms, as set out in paragraph 21 of the submitted report.

(b) That the Director of Economic Growth be authorised, in consultation with the Cabinet Members with the Efficiency and Resources and Economy and Regeneration Portfolios, to finalise the terms and agree a new access agreement in line with the existing agreement and the terms previously reported to Cabinet.

(c) That the Borough Solicitor be authorised to complete the necessary documentation.

REASONS - (a) To support the Council's position in respect of the spatial strategy of the adopted development plan for Darlington.

(b) To ensure the land owned by St Modwen is opened up for potential employment development opportunities in the medium term.

(c) To provide a capital receipt for the Council.

**DECISIONS DATED –
FRIDAY 10 JANUARY 2015**