

**DECISIONS SHOULD NOT BE IMPLEMENTED BEFORE
MONDAY 21 MARCH 2016**

CABINET
8 March 2016

PRESENT – Councillor Dixon (in the Chair); Councillors Copeland, Harker, McEwan, A J Scott and Wallis. (6)

INVITEES – Councillors Curry and I G Haszeldine. (2)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillor Crichlow.

APOLOGIES – Councillor C L B Hughes.

C124. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

C125. REPRESENTATIONS – There were no representations made at the meeting from Members or members of the public in attendance.

C126. MINUTES - (1) Submitted - The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Cabinet held on 9 February 2016.

RESOLVED - That the Minutes be confirmed.

REASON – They represent an accurate record of the meeting.

(2) Submitted - The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Cabinet held on 11 February 2016.

RESOLVED - That the Minutes be confirmed.

REASON – They represent an accurate record of the meeting.

C127. MATTERS REFERRED TO CABINET - There were no matters referred back for reconsideration.

C128. ISSUES ARISING FROM SCRUTINY - There were no issues arising from Scrutiny considered at this meeting.

C129. KEY DECISION - DELIVERY OF THE LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 2011/26 - The Cabinet Member with the Leisure and Local Environment Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Economic Growth (previously circulated) providing Members with an update on developments in transport and delivery of Darlington's Local Transport Plan (LTP).

RESOLVED - (a) That the progress in delivering the Local Transport Plan, as detailed in the submitted report, be noted, and £0.886M Integrated Transport Block and £1.593M Highway Maintenance funding be released for the Local Transport Plan for expenditure in 2016/17, as shown in Appendix 5 of the submitted report.

(b) That the performance reward grant associated with Highway Asset Management via the Department for Transport 'Incentive Fund', be released.

(c) That the submission of the bid, as detailed in the submitted report, be approved retrospectively, and £1.01M of funding be released from the Highways England Housing and Growth Fund should the Council be successful in securing this grant funding.

(d) That the funding secured from the Tees Valley Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Local Growth Fund, as identified in Appendix 4 of the submitted report, be released, should the Council be successful in securing this funding.

(e) That the approach to Highway Asset Management, as detailed in the submitted report, be noted, and the indicative guidelines of where road condition levels should be managed, be agreed.

(f) That the Director of Economic Growth, be authorised, in consultation with the Cabinet Member with the Leisure and Local Environment Portfolio, to agree on bidding for external funding available through the following funds and, if successful, to the release of the funding secured:-

- (i) Department for Transport 'Access Fund' and 'Transition' funds for Sustainable Transport Fund;
- (ii) Department for Transport 'Pothole Fund';
- (iii) Local Growth Fund;
- (iv) Further rounds of the Department for Transport Housing and Growth Fund;
- (v) The Department for Transport Pothole Fund; and
- (vi) County Durham and Darlington Road Safety Partnership for Pedestrian Training.

REASONS - (a) To maximise the potential for investment in Darlington to ensure our town and city region's economic capabilities and assets are enhanced to support economic growth.

(b) To enable the continued delivery of the Transport Strategy in 2016/17.

(c) To enable Officers to proceed with the scheme to widen the A68 approach to the Rotary Way roundabout if funding is made available from the Highways England Housing and Growth Fund.

(d) To enable Officers to proceed with delivering schemes financed by the Local Growth Fund.

(e) To maximise the Council's opportunity to bid for, and deliver externally funded transport schemes.

C130. CALENDAR OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2016/17 - The Leader introduced the report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the Calendar of Council and Committee Meetings for the 2016/17 Municipal Year (also previously circulated).

RESOLVED - That the Calendar of Council and Committee Meetings for the 2016/17 Municipal Year, as appended to the submitted report, be approved, and the proposed dates for the meetings of Council be referred to the Annual Council meeting scheduled to be held on Thursday 19 May 2016, for approval.

REASONS - To ensure that the calendar of meetings is approved for the forthcoming municipal year.

C131. CHANGES TO THE CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL (ENCTS) ASSESSMENT PROCESS - The Cabinet Member with the Leisure and Local Environment Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Economic Growth (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the introduction of a new assessment process for the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (ENCTS).

RESOLVED - (a) That, from 1 April 2016, an assessment process, using the Occupational Therapy Team, be implemented for all new applicants for a concessionary bus pass for eligible disabled under Category D - has a disability, or has suffered an injury, which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on his or her ability to walk.

(b) That, from 1 April 2016, an assessment process, using Healthcare Professionals, be implemented for all new applicants for a concessionary bus pass for eligible disabled under Category G - would, if he or she applied for the grant of a licence to drive a motor vehicle under Part III of the Road Traffic Act 1988, have his/her application refused pursuant to section 92 of the Act (physical fitness) otherwise than on the ground of persistent misuse of drugs or alcohol.

(c) That existing pass holders that previously applied under Category D and G are recalled for further assessment if they have been unable to provide current evidence of automatic entitlement through the consultation process, the re-assessment either being through the health professional form or an assessment by the Occupational Therapy Team.

(d) That existing pass holders that are assessed as no longer eligible will either have their cards destroyed or 'hotlisted' and will not be able to apply again for a period of 12 months (in line with existing policy) and that it be noted that, an appeals process is in place.

REASONS - (a) This is in line with Department for Transport (DfT) guidance on Independent Medical Assessment, which states that 'in the case of the assessment of the inability to walk, occupational therapists or physiotherapists are often best placed to assess eligibility due to their professional knowledge of mobility'.

(b) This is in line with DfT guidance on Independent Medical Assessment, which states that 'using an applicant's GP to verify that an individual meets the criteria for a concessionary travel pass is regarded as an unsatisfactory arrangement for both the GP and administrators of the scheme....it compromises the doctor/patient relationship.'

(c) To ensure that everyone who has already been issued with a pass under Category D or G is still eligible for a pass.

(d) Those that are not eligible should no longer be able to use the bus pass and benefit from the free travel entitlement that it provides.

C132. XENTRALL SHARED SERVICES – NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL ICT HOSTING - 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 an extension of the services delivered by Xentrall Shared Services to include providing Northumberland County Council with an ICT hosting service.

RESOLVED - (a) That it be noted that the Cabinet of Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council will consider the Xentrall Shared Services ICT hosting proposal in March 2016 and that this Council's support for agreement to be concluded between Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and Northumberland County Council (including the acceptance by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council of the delegation of this function from Northumberland County Council), be conveyed to them.

(b) That, subject to the delegation of function being concluded between Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and Northumberland County Council (as set out in recommendation (a) above), the extension of the shared service delivery scope of the Darlington and Stockton Shared Service Partnership (Xentrall Shared Services) to enable the service to include providing Northumberland County Council with an ICT hosting service, be approved.

(c) That the Assistant Director Law and Governance be authorised to make any variations to the Darlington and Stockton Shared Service Partnership Agreement as may be needed to reflect this change.

REASONS - (a) To enable financial efficiencies to be delivered.

(b) To facilitate co-operation and the development of partnership working with Northumberland County Council.

(c) It is in the public interest.

C133. MEMBERSHIP CHANGES - There were no membership changes reported at the meeting.

C134. 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.

C135. LEASE OF ACCOMMODATION AT EASTBOURNE SPORTS COMPLEX (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 granting of a lease of rooms at Eastbourne Sports Complex, to the Martin Gray Football Academy.

RESOLVED - (a) That the lease of accommodation at Eastbourne Sports Centre to the Martin Gray Football Academy, be approved, on the terms as detailed in the submitted report.

(b) That the Assistant Director Law and Governance be authorised to document the lease accordingly.

REASONS - (a) To achieve a committed revenue for the Council.

(b) To increase the sustainability of the Eastbourne Sports Complex.

**DECISIONS DATED –
FRIDAY 11 MARCH 2016**