

**DECISIONS SHOULD NOT BE IMPLEMENTED BEFORE
MONDAY 19 DECEMBER 2016**

CABINET

6 December 2016

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

INVITEES – Councillors Curry, I G Haszeldine and Mrs Scott. (3)

APOLOGIES – Councillor C L B Hughes.

C77. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

C78. REPRESENTATIONS – In respect of Minute C82 below, representations were made by members of the public in attendance at the meeting

C79. MINUTES - Submitted - The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meetings of this Cabinet held on 8 and 25 November 2016.

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

REASON – They represent an accurate record of the meeting.

C80. MATTERS REFERRED TO CABINET - There were no matters referred back for reconsideration.

C81. ISSUES ARISING FROM SCRUTINY - There were no issues arising from Scrutiny considered at this meeting.

C82. KEY DECISION – (URGENT DECISION) EXPERIENCE DARLINGTON – A VISITOR ECONOMY STRATEGY - 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 the draft Experience Darlington Strategy and the draft Culture Strategy (both also previously circulated) as a mechanism for wider engagement to shape detailed action and intervention plans of not only the Council but of other stakeholders.

Representations were made by members of public in attendance at the meeting regarding the information included within the Strategy and requesting that further information, on the Town's Quaker heritage and history, be included within the Strategy, to make it a 'comprehensive' offer.

Discussion ensued on the information included within the Strategy and on the consultation process.

RESOLVED - That the draft Experience Darlington Strategy and its sister draft Culture Strategy, as appended to the submitted report, be endorsed, to enable further engagement with stakeholders on how the strategy and action plans can be further developed to align organisations and other potential external resources to achieve the vision and objectives.

REASONS - The draft Experience Darlington Strategy needs wider engagement with external stakeholders and partners to understand their priorities and how they can support the indicative actions within the plan.

C83. REVIEW OF OUTCOME OF COMPLAINTS MADE TO OMBUDSMAN - The Leader introduced the report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources (previously circulated) providing Members with an update of the outcome of cases which had been determined by the Local Government Ombudsman (LGO) since the preparation of the previous report to Cabinet on 12 July 2016.

RESOLVED - That the contents of the report be noted.

REASONS - (a) It is important that Members are aware of the outcome of complaints made to the Local Government Ombudsman in respect of the Council's activities.

(b) The contents of the submitted report do not suggest that further action, other than as detailed in the report, is required.

C84. PROPOSED WAITING RESTRICTIONS - OBJECTIONS – (1) Flora Avenue - The Cabinet Member with Transport Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Economic Growth (previously circulated) advising Members of the objections received to proposed waiting restrictions at the Flora Avenue/Coniscliffe Road junction and seeking a decision on whether to proceed with an amended proposal.

RESOLVED - (a) That the restrictions on Coniscliffe Road, as shown on the plan appended to the submitted report, be introduced as advertised in the legal order.

(b) That the restrictions be reduced to accommodate more on street parking on Flora Avenue, as shown on the plan appended to the submitted report, and as follows:-

to the east side, from its junction with Coniscliffe Road northwards for a distance of 10 metres; and

to the west side, from its junction with Coniscliffe Road northwards for a distance of 5 metres

REASONS - (a) To enhance road safety at the junction by improving visibility for traffic entering Coniscliffe Road and ensure the free flow of traffic at the junction.

(b) To maximise parking for the residents.

(2) Ridgeway - The Cabinet Member with Transport Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Economic Growth (previously circulated) advising Members of an objection received to a proposed amendment to the waiting restrictions in Ridgeway and seeking a decision on whether to proceed with the proposal.

RESOLVED – That the objection be set aside and officers be authorised to proceed with the proposal to introduce double yellow lines, as shown on the plan appended to the submitted report, as advertised.

REASON - To prevent obstructive parking to the access of No. 59 Ridgeway.

C85. FEETHAMS PROGRAMME – RIVERSIDE PARK - The Cabinet Member with Economy and Regeneration Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Economic Growth (previously circulated) providing Members with an update on the Riverside Park project and requesting that consideration be given to the release of the capital funding required, to deliver the project.

Discussion ensued on the development; the loss of parking spaces; the potential impact on parking in South Terrace and in the Feethams Green development; and the pedestrian crossing point on Victoria Road.

RESOLVED - That the progress on the delivery of the Feethams Programme – Riverside Park project, as detailed in the submitted report, be noted, and that the capital funds, as identified in Paragraph 18 of the submitted report, be released.

REASONS - (a) Members are aware of the progress in developing the Riverside Park in line with the objectives of the Feethams Brief.

(b) To provide accessible, high quality open space within the town centre, as well as an attractive frontage for the new development and linking the new development into the town centre.

(c) To enable delivery of the Riverside Park project to commence in January 2017.

C86. LAND ADJACENT TO FORMER SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL - ACQUISITION AND DISPOSAL - 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 acquisition of land from Durham County Council and to have the land to be acquired, and Public Open Space in Council ownership, as shown on the plan appended to the submitted report, declared surplus to requirements.

RESOLVED - (a) That the land owned by Durham County Council, as shown on the plan appended to the submitted report, be acquired on the terms as outlined in the submitted report.

(b) That the Council's land, as shown on the plan appended to the submitted report, be declared surplus to requirements and offered for sale for residential development.

(c) That the Director of Economic Growth, in consultation with the Cabinet Member with the Efficiency and Resources Portfolio, be authorised to finalise negotiations and conclude the acquisition of the land owned by Durham County Council.

REASONS- (a) To maximise the planning potential of all of the lands.

(b) To maximise the capital receipt to the Council from the sale of the lands.

(c) To expedite the sale of the lands and provide certainty to the purchaser.

C87. MEMBERSHIP CHANGES - There were no membership changes reported at the meeting.

C88. 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.

C89. ALLOTMENTS: PROPOSAL BY A FURTHER SEVEN ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATIONS TO BE GRANTED 'SELF-MANAGED' STATUS, AND BE GRANTED NEW LONG LEASES (EXCLUSION PARAGRAPH NO 3) - The Cabinet Member with the Efficiency and Resources 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 allowing a further six allotment associations to become self-managed and to be granted new 20 year leases and for one to be deferred; and seeking approval to the transfer of Council owned sheds at Lascelles to the allotment association and poly tunnels and greenhouses to the individual allotment holders. The submitted report stated that these items had previously been provided as part of the re-located allotment facilities required as part of the Central Park North scheme.

RESOLVED - (a) That the commitment to the principle of allotment sites achieving self-managed status, be re-affirmed, and reflect the arrangement whereby the Council agreed to pay for the first year of water charges incurred by each association upon becoming self-managed.

(b) That ownership of the relevant items, referred to in paragraphs 6 and 11 of the submitted report, should become as stated in the submitted report.

(c) That the relevant Director be authorised to offer the latest successful applicants the same 20-year self-managed lease negotiated and agreed with Cockerton Allotment Association.

(d) That the decision in respect of the Brankin Road site be deferred.

(e) That the Assistant Director for Law and Governance be authorised to complete the self-managed leases accordingly.

REASONS - (a) Continuation of the Council's principle of sites achieving self-management.

(b) The granting of 20-year leases to the successful associations should enable them to seek more external funding, which, if granted, could result in improvements to the allotments.

DECISIONS DATED – FRIDAY 9 DECEMBER 2016