

**DECISIONS SHOULD NOT BE IMPLEMENTED BEFORE
MONDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2017**

CABINET

7 February 2017

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

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

C110. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

C111. REPRESENTATIONS – There were no representations made at the meeting from Members or members of the public in attendance at the meeting.

C112. MINUTES - Submitted - The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Cabinet held on 17 January 2017.

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

REASON – They represent an accurate record of the meeting.

C113. MATTERS REFERRED TO CABINET - There were no matters referred back for reconsideration to this meeting.

C114. ISSUES ARISING FROM SCRUTINY - There were no issues arising from Scrutiny considered at this meeting.

C115. KEY DECISION – 2018/19 SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS - The Cabinet Member with the Children and Young People Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Children and Adults Services (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the admission arrangements for the 2018/19 academic year for all maintained schools in the Borough.

RESOLVED - (a) That the Admissions Policy for Darlington Community Primary Schools 2018/19, as appended to the submitted report, be approved.

(b) That the Co-ordinated Admission Scheme for Schools in Darlington 2018/19, as appended to the submitted report, for both primary and secondary applications for the 2018/19 academic year, be adopted.

REASONS - (a) The Authority is under a statutory duty to determine admission arrangements for primary schools for which it is the admission authority for the academic year 2018/19.

(b) If the co-ordinated scheme is not approved and returned to the DfE by 28 February 2017 the Secretary of State may impose a scheme on the Authority.

C116. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH DARLINGTON ANNUAL REPORT 2016 'MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN DARLINGTON' - The Cabinet Member with the Health and Partnerships Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Children and Adults Services (previously circulated) presenting the Director of Public Health Darlington Annual Report 2016 'Mental Health and Wellbeing for Children and Young People in Darlington' (also previously circulated).

The Director of Public Health in presenting the report stated that it was the third annual report following the transfer of public health responsibilities from the NHS to local government, as part of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, and that the theme of mental health and wellbeing for children and young people was chosen in recognition of the fact that in order to develop resilience in adult life the foundations needed to be set in childhood. Reference was made to the key messages contained within the report; its focus on mental health rather than ill-health; the impact of adverse childhood experiences on mental health; what needed to be put in place to grow resilience; the various contributors to the report; and to the actions arising from the previous annual report.

Discussion ensued on the inclusion of internet safety when developing the Children and Young Peoples Plan, in order to improve resilience and mental health; the need for parity between physical and mental health; cyber bullying; and to the timescale for developing the service for children in need using the resources previously provided to CAMHS. The Director of Public Health responded thereon.

RESOLVED - That the Director of Public Health Darlington Annual Report 2016 'Mental Health and Wellbeing for Children and Young People in Darlington', as appended to the submitted report, be noted.

REASON - The Health and Social Care Act 2012 stipulates the responsibility of the Director of Public Health to provide an annual report and for Council's to publish that report.

C117. COUNCIL TAX EMPTY PROPERTY DISCOUNT - 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 withdrawal of the Council Tax discount for empty and unfurnished properties, following consultation, from 1 April 2017.

RESOLVED - (a) That the results of the public consultation and equality impact assessment, as detailed in the submitted report, be noted.

(b) That it be recommended to Council that the Council Tax discount for empty and unfurnished properties be withdrawn from 1 April 2017.

REASONS - (a) The Council has the flexibility to set and review Council Tax discounts for empty and unfurnished properties.

(b) The financial position of the Council has not improved and therefore the withdrawal of the Council Tax empty property discount is appropriate.

C118. PROJECT POSITION STATEMENT AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING QUARTER THREE 2016/17 - The Cabinet Member with the Efficiency and Resources Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources and the Director of Economic Growth (previously circulated) providing a summary of the latest Capital resource and commitment position, to inform monitoring of the affordability and funding of the Council's capital programme; an update on the current status of all construction projects currently being undertaken by the Council; and requesting that consideration be given to a number of changes to the programme.

RESOLVED - (a) That the status position on construction projects, as detailed in the appendix to the submitted report, be noted.

(b) That the projected capital expenditure and resources, as detailed in the submitted report, be noted.

(c) That the adjustments to resources, as detailed in paragraph 19 of the submitted report, be approved.

REASONS - (a) To inform Cabinet of the current status of construction projects.

(b) To make Cabinet aware of the latest financial position of the Council.

(c) To maintain effective management of resources.

C119. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2016/17 – QUARTER 3 - The Cabinet Member with the Efficiency and Resources Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources (previously circulated) providing an up-to-date forecast of the 2016/17 revenue budget outturn, as part of the Council's continuous financial management process.

Particular reference was made at the meeting to the savings that had been achieved in Adult Social Care and Health and to the fact that a large proportion of the Social Care Council Tax Precept would be taken up by paying the living wage to employees.

RESOLVED - (a) That the forecast revenue outturn for 2016/17 and actions being taken to manage the Council's finances, as detailed in the submitted report, be noted.

(b) That the proposed carry forward of resources, as referred to in paragraphs 15 to 21 of the submitted report, be noted and approved.

(c) That the earmarked reserve, as referred to in paragraph 24 of the submitted report, be noted and approved.

(d) That further reports be made to monitor progress and take prompt action if necessary.

REASONS - (a) To continue effective management of resources.

(b) To continue to deliver services to agreed levels.

C120. MEMBERSHIP CHANGES – That Councillor Mrs Scott be appointed as the Minority Party representative on the Collaborative Procurement Sub-Committee.

REASONS – To enable the appointment to the Sub-Committee to be confirmed.

**DECISIONS DATED –
FRIDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2017**