

**DECISIONS SHOULD NOT BE IMPLEMENTED BEFORE
MONDAY 15 MAY 2017**

**CABINET
2 May 2017**

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

INVITEES – Councillors Curry and Mrs Scott. (2)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillor Crichlow and J Kelley. (2)

C152. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

C153. REPRESENTATIONS – In respect of Minute C157 below, representations were made by a Member in attendance at the meeting.

C154. MINUTES - Submitted - The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Cabinet held on 4 April 2017.

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

REASON – They represent an accurate record of the meeting.

C155. MATTERS REFERRED TO CABINET - There were no matters referred back for re-consideration to this meeting.

C156. ISSUES ARISING FROM SCRUTINY - There were no issues arising from Scrutiny considered at this meeting.

C157. EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT IN DARLINGTON - The Cabinet Member with the Children and Young People Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Children and Adults Services (previously circulated) providing an analysis of educational performance in Darlington and explaining the new performance measures that were introduced in Summer 2016.

The submitted report stated that the majority of Darlington schools were academies; that as the Department for Education had introduced new performance measures, it was not possible to compare Darlington's performance with previous years in Key Stages 1, 2 and 4; improving attainment was a long held goal of both the Council and the Darlington Partnership; and that the Council maintained close liaison with academies.

Discussion ensued on a number of the indicators, including reading, Attainment 8 and Progress 8 Scores; narrowing the gap for those children with special educational needs and those children who receive free school meals; and the holding of a briefing for Members.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

REASON - To ensure that Cabinet are updated on the educational performance in Darlington.

C158. ANNUAL PROCUREMENT PLAN UPDATE - The Cabinet Member with the Efficiency and Resources Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Children and Adults Services (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to including an additional item to the Procurement Plan, to enable the procurement process to commence.

The submitted report stated that the contract was a key component of the digital workstream within the Healthy New Towns (HNT) project, and that £0.207m secured by the Clinical Commissioning Group had been transferred to the Council to fund the procurement and further additional digital workstream costs.

RESOLVED - (a) That the item, as detailed at Appendix 1 to the submitted report, be added to the Procurement Plan.

(b) That the procurement be deemed non-strategic, in accordance with the assessment matrix, as attached at Appendix 2 to the submitted report.

(c) That the award of the contract be delegated to the Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources, in line with the Contract Procedure Rules.

(d) That the carry forward of £0.207m of funding to 2017/18, as detailed in the submitted report, to be used on the Health New Towns (HNT) project, be approved.

REASONS - (a) To ensure the items to be added to the Procurement Plan are able to progress and move forward.

(b) In compliance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

(c) To ensure adequate funding is available for the project.

C159. INTRODUCING FLEXIBLE TENANCIES FOR SINGLE PEOPLE UNDER 35 - The Cabinet Member with Adult Social Care and Housing Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to introducing two year flexible tenancies for single people under 35 years of age, as a result of changes being introduced as part of the Government's welfare reforms.

The submitted report stated that the Government were introducing a Local Housing Allowance (LHA) cap on housing benefit from April 2019, for tenants in social housing; the change would affect single people under 35, as they would have their benefit capped at the LHA shared room rate; the LHA cap represented a clear risk to the tenant's ability to maintain a tenancy; and that the introduction of two year flexible tenancies allowed for a more frequent review of tenant's circumstances, allowing for constructive discussions with the tenant about any risks or changes.

RESOLVED - That two year Flexible Tenancies be introduced for single people under the age of 35, from 1 June 2017.

REASON - To reduce the risk of tenancy failure for people who could be affected by the single room allowance.

C160. MEMBERSHIP CHANGES – No membership changes were reported at the meeting.

C161. 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.

C162. LAND AT BEAUMONT STREET AND COMMERCIAL STREET (EXCLUSION PARAGRAPH NO 3) - 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 a proposal to accept a surrender of the lease of the former and now derelict nightclub and bar at Commercial Street and in a linked transaction to dispose of the Council's land at Beaumont Street West under an option to purchase conditional on planning permission being obtained.

RESOLVED - (a) That the surrender of the Commercial Street lease, for the land as shown on the plan appended to the submitted report, be agreed.

(b) That the disposal of the site at Beaumont Street West, as shown on the plan appended to the submitted report, under an option agreement, subject to detailed planning permission being obtained, be agreed.

(c) That the Director of Economic Growth, be authorised, in consultation with the Cabinet Member with the Efficiency and Resources Portfolio, to negotiate and agree terms in line with Heads of Terms, as set out in the submitted report.

(d) That the Assistant Director Law and Governance be authorised to complete the associated legal transactions accordingly.

REASONS - (a) To facilitate the removal of the former nightclub and bar at Commercial Street and provide an opportunity for alternative uses including additional car parking in that area.

(b) To encourage the development of the Beaumont Street West site and in turn the regeneration of the area as a specialist shopping, leisure, fine dining and artisan food quarter.

**DECISIONS DATED –
FRIDAY 5 MAY 2017**