

**DECISIONS SHOULD NOT BE IMPLEMENTED BEFORE  
MONDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2017**

**CABINET**

12 September 2017

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

**INVITEES** – Councillors Curry and Mrs H Scott. (2)

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE** – Councillor Crichlow.

**C36. REPRESENTATIONS** – There were no representations made at the meeting from Members or members of the public in attendance at the meeting.

**C37. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – In respect of Minute C45 below, Councillor A J Scott declared a non-pecuniary interest, as his place of work was affected by the proposals.

**C38. MINUTES** - Submitted - The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Cabinet held on 11 July 2017.

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

**REASON** – They represent an accurate record of the meeting.

**C39. MATTERS REFERRED TO CABINET** - There were no matters referred back for re-consideration to this meeting.

**C40. ISSUES ARISING FROM SCRUTINY** - There were no issues arising from Scrutiny considered at this meeting.

**C41. KEY DECISIONS - (1) Children’s Centres New Delivery Model** - The Cabinet Member with the Children and Young People Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Children and Adults Services and the Chief Officers Executive (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to a proposed new delivery model for Children’s Centres across Darlington comprising of a ‘Hub and Spoke’ Model for Children Centre Service delivery comprising of a dedicated Children Centre in McNay Street and targeted services delivered from satellite spokes based in Children Centres at Dodmire, Skerne Park and Mount Pleasant, with outreach services being offered at Red Hall and Maidendale; the proposed the closure of the Haughton Children’s Centre; and to the findings of the public consultation undertaken.

The submitted report outlined the background to the proposals; stated that the consultation period lasted for seven weeks; Equality Impact Assessments had been

undertaken; outlined the findings from the consultation; future use of buildings; clawback clauses for children centres; and finance, legal, human resource and estate and property implications.

**RESOLVED** - (a) That the new Children's Centre Delivery Model, with one main hub (McNay Street) and identified delivery points (Dodmire, Skerne Park and Mount Pleasant), as detailed in the submitted report, be approved.

(b) That the closure of Haughton Children's Centre, be agreed, and alternative uses for the centre be sought with interested parties subject to not invoking DFE clawback of the grant funding for the Children Centre at Haughton, and the Assistant Director Law and Governance be authorised to complete legal documents accordingly.

(c) That the surrender of part of the demised sub-lease areas at Rydal and Mount Pleasant Academies, be authorised, and the Assistant Director Law and Governance be authorised to complete surrender documents accordingly.

**REASONS** - (a) Changes to the delivery of Early Help Services were agreed as part of the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) in June 2016, and Cabinet approved the proposed Children Centre delivery model to go for consultation.

(b) Responses to consultation feedback evidences broad support for the new proposed delivery model.

(c) The proposals set out in the submitted report deliver £100,000 of savings contributing to the MTFP target.

**(2) Children and Young People's Plan 2017/22** - 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 draft Children and Young People's Plan 2017/22 (also previously circulated).

The submitted report stated that although it was no longer a statutory requirement to produce a Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP), it was considered to be best practice; the CYPP was one of the identified plans within the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS); the plan identified the key actions to be taken to deliver the agreed SCS priority of 'The best start in life for every child'; the plan formed part of the Council's Policy Framework; outlined the engagement activity undertaken; and the outcome of the consultation.

Particular reference was made to the four ambitions included within the Plan and to the seven priority actions for the next five years.

**RESOLVED** - That the draft Children and Young People's Plan, as appended to the submitted report, be endorsed and recommended to Council for approval.

**REASON** - To allow Cabinet to consider the Children and Young People's Plan.

**(3) Experience Darlington – A Visitor Economy Strategy** - 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

feedback following the Experience Darlington consultation and requesting that consideration be given to adopting the amended Experience Darlington Strategy 2016/26 (also previously circulated). In presenting the report the Cabinet Member with the Leisure and Local Environment Portfolio outlined the current position in respect of the indoor market, the operation of which had recently transferred to Market Asset Management (MAM).

The submitted report outlined the background to the strategy; the consultation undertaken; the revisions made to the strategy and the Experience Darlington Action Plan following that consultation; financial implications; and stated that the objective of the strategy, was to enhance Darlington's attraction as a place to visit within the context of the regional offer.

Particular references were made to the three main priorities for action which were a Railway Town, a Theatre Town and a Town to Visit and to the key milestones in achieving those priorities.

A member of the public in attendance at the meeting outlined the importance of the Library building to the heritage of Darlington and requested that the Council reconsider moving the service from the building.

**RESOLVED** - (a) That the Experience Darlington – A Visitor Economy Strategy 2016/26, as appended to the submitted report, be adopted.

(b) That the support of the Tees Valley Combined Authority, in providing resource to lead the Railway Heritage project forward as part of the Tees Valley economic development, and funding the Project Director for the 2025 200th Railway Anniversary, as part of the Culture Development programme, to mark the first public passenger railway, as detailed in the submitted report, be noted.

**REASONS** - (a) To maximise the opportunities tourism presents to the borough for the benefit of existing businesses and residents by presenting a cohesive strategic plan and ambition, partner organisations can support.

(b) To maximise the potential for investment in Darlington, increasing the Council's opportunity to bid for and deliver externally funded regeneration of key cultural and historic assets.

(c) To underpin our strategies for economic growth by encouraging more people (footfall) into the town, spending money and supporting local businesses in the process.

**C42. CORPORATE PLAN AND PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK** - The Leader introduced the report of the Chief Executive (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the new Corporate Plan and supporting framework for performance management (both also previously circulated), as a basis for consultation prior to being submitted to Council for approval. In presenting the report the Leader highlighted the importance of all Members having 'ownership' of the Plan.

The submitted report stated that the Corporate Plan was an overarching high level strategy for the Council detailing how it contributed towards the outcomes set out in the wider Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) and its own organisational objectives;

provided a clear and accessible summary of the Council's priorities over the next four years; proposed a supporting performance monitoring framework; and stated that it had been developed in alignment with the four year Medium Term Financial Plan.

**RESOLVED** - (a) That the content of the draft Corporate Plan 2017/21, as appended at Appendix 1 to the submitted report, be agreed for consultation.

(b) That the content of the draft Corporate Plan Performance Indicator Suite, as appended at Appendix 2 of the submitted report, be approved for consultation.

**REASONS** - (a) To approve draft plans for a new corporate planning and associated performance management framework for the council for consultation.

(b) To meet the procedural requirements, as set out in the council's constitution, for changes to the policy framework.

**C43. DARLINGTON LOCAL PLAN 2016/36 : SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK** - The Cabinet Member with Economy and Regeneration Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Economic Growth (previously circulated) setting out the reasons for revisiting the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Framework for the emerging Local Plan; requesting that consideration be given to the revised Sustainability Appraisal Framework (also previously circulated); and outlining the next steps in the Sustainability Appraisal process.

The submitted report stated that following a review of the Sustainability Appraisal Framework against the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and National Planning Practice Guidance, the framework document was updated and added to, to ensure that it was fit for purpose, including revised sustainability objectives; an updated statistical baseline; and a full review of relevant plans, policies and programmes.

**RESOLVED** - (a) That the reasons for reviewing the Sustainability Appraisal Framework approved by Cabinet on 8 November 2016, as detailed in the submitted report, be noted.

(b) That the revised Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Framework, as appended to the submitted report, be approved, for publication.

**REASON** - The need to meet the requirements of Section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 which requires local planning authorities to carry out a sustainability appraisal of each of the proposals in a Local Plan during its preparation. Planning Practice Guidance identifies that the scoping stage should set out the context, objectives and approach of the assessment; and identify relevant environmental, economic and social issues and objectives.

**C44. HOUSING WHITE PAPER AND LOCAL PLAN PROGRESS** - The Cabinet Member with Economy and Regeneration Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Economic Growth (previously circulated) providing an overview of the Government's published Housing White Paper (HWP) and its implications for Darlington and in particular on the process for the Local Plan preparation; requesting that consideration be given to making representations to the Tees Valley Combined Authority in support of

an Expression of Interest for Forward Fund of the Housing Investment Fund to support the delivery of infrastructure; and seeking delegated authority to make applications for grant to the Marginal Viability Fund, to support development proposals that might be accelerated or unblocked.

Particular references were made to the timescales for the bids and to possibility of obtaining funds for decontamination works on brownfield sites.

**RESOLVED** - (a) That the timetable for the Local Plan preparation to be submitted to Cabinet in January 2018, be noted and endorsed, including the use of the existing methodology for calculating housing need.

(b) That the submission of an Expression of Interest to a Tees Valley Combined Authority, be agreed, for Greater Faverdale and Skerningham Garden Village to the Forward Funding strand, of the Housing Infrastructure Fund for up to £250m.

(c) That the submission of applications, be agreed, to the Homes and Communities Agency to the Marginal Viability Funding strand of the Housing Infrastructure Fund and the final submission be delegated to the Director of Economic Growth having regard to the Homes and Communities Agency selection criteria.

**REASONS** - (a) To expedite the Local Plan process.

(b) The Council has an opportunity to secure grant funding for infrastructures in order to support the acceleration of delivery of new housing at strategic locations within the Borough.

(c) The Council has an opportunity to secure grant funding for infrastructures in order to support the acceleration of delivery of new housing at strategic locations within the Borough.

**C45. MORTON PALMS CAR PARK** - The Cabinet Member with Economy and Regeneration Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Economic Growth (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to delivering a new car park at Morton Palms and the associated business model and capital spend.

The submitted report stated that to attract new investment, infrastructure improvements were required at Morton Palms; the development of a car park was a key component of those improvements in order to remove vehicles from Alderman Best Way, to improve the approach to the employment site and its marketability; and that the funding package was being negotiated with Tees Valley Combined Authority to supplement the Council's capital contribution.

**RESOLVED** - (a) That the business model, as detailed in the Appendix to the submitted report, be approved.

(b) That authority be delegated to the Director of Economic Growth to conclude negotiations with Tees Valley Combined Authority on the funding package and complete the necessary funding agreement.

**REASON** - To promote economic growth and new development at Morton Palms.

**C46. ALLOTMENTS: PROPOSAL BY SPRINGWELL TERRACE ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION TO BE GRANTED 'SELF-MANAGED' STATUS, TO SURRENDER THEIR EXISTING AGREEMENT AND BE GRANTED A NEW LONG LEASE** - The Cabinet Member with the Efficiency and Resources Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources and Director of Economic Growth (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to allowing Springwell Terrace allotment site to become 'self-managed' and be granted a new 20-year lease.

The submitted report stated that 12 of the Council's 18 sites were now self-managed.

**RESOLVED** - (a) That the Director of Economic Growth be authorised to offer the latest applicant and any remaining Allotment Associations the same 20-year 'self-managed' lease negotiated and agreed with Cockerton Allotment Association and approved by Cabinet on 7 July 2015.

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

**REASONS** - (a) There is a financial deficit in respect of managing the allotment sites that remain under the direct control of the Council. This should be reduced if more associations become self-managed. Even with the proposed increases in allotment charges, the deficit would remain, so allowing more associations to become self-managed should assist reduce that deficit.

(b) There should be a reduction in the call on officer time if the relevant association is allowed to go self-managed.

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

**C47. MEMBERSHIP CHANGES – RESOLVED** - (a) That the Mayor, Councillor Jan Taylor, be nominated to Family Help, in place of Councillor Kane, for the remainder of the 2017/18 Municipal Year.

(b) That the appointment of Councillor A J Scott to the North East Ambulance Service, in his capacity of Chair of the Health and Well Being Board, be confirmed.

**REASONS** – To comply with the nominations received.

**C48. 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 items on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in exclusion paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act.

**C49. DISPOSAL OF LAND AT SPARROW HALL DRIVE, ACCESS TO ELM TREE FARM AND ACQUISITION OF LAND AT ELM TREE FARM (EXCLUSION PARAGRAPH NO 3)** - The Cabinet Member with the Efficiency and Resources

Portfolio introduced the report and plan of the Director of Economic Growth (both previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the terms for the sale of approximately 2.66 acres of land at Sparrow Hall Drive, Darlington, and the acquisition of 1.38 acres of land at Elm Tree Farm, to safeguard a potential future strategic access road to land to the north of Darlington.

**RESOLVED** - (a) That the sale of the freehold interest in approximately 2.66 acres of Council land, be authorised, on the terms as detailed in the submitted report.

(b) That the acquisition of 1.38 acres of land at Elm Tree Farm, be authorised, on the terms as detailed in the submitted report.

(c) That the Assistant Director - Law and Governance be authorised to document the sale of the property accordingly.

**REASONS** - (a) To achieve a capital receipt for the Council.

(b) To safeguard a potential future access route to significant development land to the North of Darlington.

**C50. DISPOSAL OF LAND HELD BY THE POOR MOOR FUND (EXCLUSION PARAGRAPH NO 3)** - The Cabinet Member with Economy and Regeneration Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Economic Growth (previously circulated) informing Cabinet of recent developments regarding the Poor Moor Fund and requesting that consideration be given to the disposal of land held by the Poor Moor Fund, for the benefit of the charity, subject to the requirements of trust law on land disposals.

**RESOLVED** - (a) That as trustee, the disposal of the land be agreed, subject to the production of an independent valuation confirming the transaction represents good value.

(b) That the Councillor appointed as representative trustee on the Poor Moor Fund, be authorised to approve the entry into the option/agreement for sale and enter into all resolutions of the board of trustees as necessary subject to the production of an independent valuation confirming the transaction represents good value.

(c) That the Assistant Director of Law of Governance be authorised to enter into and seal such legal documents as required to give effect to the above recommendations.

**REASON** - To benefit the objectives of the Poor Moor Fund.

**DECISIONS DATED –  
FRIDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2017**