

**DECISIONS SHOULD NOT BE IMPLEMENTED BEFORE  
24 JUNE 2024**

**CABINET**

Tuesday, 11 June 2024

**PRESENT** – Councillors Harker (Chair), Curry, McCollom, Porter, Dr. Riley, Roche and Wallis

**INVITEES** – Councillors Dulston, K Nicholson and Snedker

**APOLOGIES** – Councillors McEwan

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE** – Councillors Holroyd and Mammolotti

**C1 TIMINGS OF MEETINGS**

**RESOLVED** - That meetings of this Cabinet be held at 5.00 p.m. for the remainder of the 2024/25 Municipal Year.

**REASON** – To comply with the views of Cabinet.

**C2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

In respect of Minute C8 below, Councillors Curry, Porter and Dulston declared pecuniary interests, and Councillors Curry and Porter left the meeting during the consideration of that item.

**C3 TO HEAR RELEVANT REPRESENTATION (FROM MEMBERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC) ON ITEMS ON THIS CABINET AGENDA.**

In respect of Minute C6 below, a representation was made by a Member in attendance at the meeting.

**C4 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THIS CABINET HELD ON TUESDAY 7 MAY 2024**

**Submitted** – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of Cabinet held on 7 May 2024.

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

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

**C5 MATTERS REFERRED TO CABINET**

There were no matters referred back for re-consideration to this meeting.

## **C6 ISSUES ARISING FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

A Member in attendance at the meeting addressed Cabinet in respect of a Task and Finish Review Group final report that had been considered by the Adults Scrutiny Committee and raised concerns in respect of the process and requested information on what progress had been made on the recommendations contained within the report, as she had not been kept informed. The Leader of the Council responded thereon.

## **C7 KEY DECISIONS**

There were no key decisions made at the meeting.

## **C8 RELEASE OF EDUCATION CAPITAL FUNDS**

The Cabinet Member with the Children and Young People Portfolio introduced the report of the Group Director of People (previously circulated) requesting the release of £184,335 of childcare capital expansion funding, £267,245 of Section 106 funding and £59,000 of High Needs Capital Funding.

The submitted report outlined the background to the receipt of £184,435, as part of the national childcare funding package announced by the Government and the subsequent allocation of that funding in accordance with the criteria, following the submission of a number of bids from a wide range of providers; the background to the receipt of two Section 106 contributions for additional primary places in the West End of Darlington and the proposal to allocate that funding to the Federation of Abbey Schools Academy Trust; and the need to release the High Needs Capital Funding to enable improvements to be made at both Hummersknott Academy and Marchbank Free School to improve specialist facilities for pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

It was reported that all of the projects would be undertaken in line with the Council's Corporate Capital Process Procedures and that all projects would be grant funded with the schools managing the projects.

**RESOLVED** – (a) That the release of the full allocation of £184,335 of the childcare expansion funding, as detailed in the submitted report, be approved.

(b) That the release of £267,245 of Section 106 funding for works at the Federation of Abbey Schools Academy Trust, as detailed in the submitted report, be approved.

(c) That the release of £21,000 of High Needs Capital Funding for EHCP adaptations at Hummersknott Academy, as detailed in the submitted report, be approved.

(d) That the release of £38,000 of High Needs Capital Funding for EHCP adaptations at Marchbank Free School, as detailed in the submitted report, be approved.

**REASON** – To release funding which will allow the educational settings to enhance their educational facilities, targeting capital investment in the areas identified as greatest need.

## **C REPRESENTATION ON OTHER BODIES 2024/25**

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The Leader introduced the report of the Group Director of Operations (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to this Council’s representation on Other Bodies for the 2024/25 Municipal Year to which Cabinet appoints.

**RESOLVED** – That the appointment to other bodies as detailed below, for the 2024/25 Municipal Year, be approved, namely :-

Name of Body or Organisation	Nomination(s)
Association of Rail North Partnership Authorities	
Rail North Ltd.	Councillor Harker (Leader of the Council) (as named substitute for the TVCAM)
Rail North Committee	Councillor Harker (Leader of the Council)
East Coast Mainline Authorities Group	Councillor Harker (Leader of the Council)
County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust – Board of Governors	Councillor Kane
Creative Darlington	Councillor McCollom (Cabinet Member with Local Services Portfolio) (Chair of Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee as named substitute)
Crown Street Library Trustee Board	Councillor Harker (Leader of the Council)
Darlington Cares	Councillor McEwan
Darlington Railway Museum Trust	Councillor McCollom (Cabinet Member with Local Services Portfolio)
Darlington Safeguarding Partnership	Councillor Wallis (Cabinet Member with the Children and Young People Portfolio) and Councillor Curry (Cabinet Member with the Adults Portfolio)
Darlington Town Centre Deal Board	Councillor Harker (Leader of the Council) and Councillor Dr Riley
Darlington Young People’s Engagement	Councillor Wallis (Cabinet Member

and Justice Service Board	with Children and Young People Portfolio) (Councillor Kane as named substitute)
Durham County Pension Fund Committee	Councillor Porter (Cabinet Member with Resources Portfolio) and Chair of Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee
Family Help Organisation	Councillors Ali, Crumbie and Kane
Fostering Panel	Councillor Ali
Integrated Care Partnership Tees Valley	Councillor Roche (Chair of Health and Well Being Board) (Councillor Layton as named substitute)
Maidendale Nature and Fishing Reserve (Associate Member)	Councillor Dillon (Ward Member)
North East Ambulance Service	Councillor Roche (Chair of Health and Well Being Board)
North East Child Poverty Commission	Councillor Wallis (Cabinet Member with Children and Young People Portfolio)
North East Regional Employers Organisation	Councillor Porter (Cabinet Member with Resources Portfolio), Chair of Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee and Vice Chair of Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee
Executive Committee	Councillor Porter (Cabinet Member with Resources Portfolio)
North East Strategic Migration Partnership	Councillor Wallis (Cabinet Member with Children and Young People Portfolio) (Councillor Harker (Leader of the Council as named substitute))
Northern Housing Consortium	Councillor Roche (Cabinet Member with Health and Housing Portfolio)
Northumbrian Regional Flood and Coastal Committee	Councillor Snedker
Poor Moor Fund/Charity	Councillor Porter (Cabinet Member with Economy Portfolio)

RELATE North East	Councillors McCollom and Mahmud
Teesside International Airport Limited - Board	Councillor Garner (to be appointed as Director) (Councillor Haszeldine named substitute Director)
Teesside International Airport Limited - Consultative Committee	Councillor McCollom (Cabinet Member with Local Services Portfolio)
Tees Valley Local Access Forum	Chair of Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee (Chair of Health and Housing Committee as named substitute)

**REASON** – To comply with the nominations received from the Political Groups.

#### **C10 DARLINGTON LONG TERM PLAN FOR TOWN FUNDS**

The Leader introduced the report of the Chief Executive (previously circulated) updating Cabinet on the recently announced allocation of £20 million from the Government's long-term plan for towns initiative and advising of the subsequent requirement to increase representation on the Towns Fund Board.

The submitted report outlined the background to the allocation and the proposal to increase community representation on the membership of the current Towns Fund Board to ensure it was more inclusive of community and voluntary groups within the Town and to include an additional elected Member, together with a representative of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Particular reference was made at the meeting to liaison with the Tees Valley Combined Authority regarding funding; the reasons behind not opting for two separate boards; how the community representatives were chosen; the funding gap that the Council was facing; the thematic areas of the projects, which were not just Town Centre focused; and to how projects could be supported by the fund. The Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive responded thereon.

**REOLVED** – That confirmation of the funding allocation and the proposed changes to the Towns Fund Board, as detailed in the submitted report, be noted.

**REASON** – To contribute to the further economic wellbeing and vitality of the Town.

#### **C11 WILKINSON'S BUILDING ACQUISITION AND PROCUREMENT OF DEVELOPMENT PARTNER**

The Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member with the Resources Portfolio introduced the report of the Chief Executive (previously circulated) seeking Cabinet's approval, in principle, to the Council entering into an agreement with a developer to bring forward the redevelopment of key town centre sites and also seeking Cabinet's approval to acquire the

long leasehold interest of the land and buildings of the former Wilkinson's Store at East Street.

The submitted report outlined the background to the proposal to engage a development partner who, it was envisaged would work with the Council over a ten to 15 year period to offer a range of development options including residential, mixed use and office led commercial development at three core town centre sites at Kendrew Street, East Street and Commercial Street, plus any additional ones which might be identified in the phased approach.

It was reported that the partner's role would be to oversee the development management process, prepare design work, secure planning permission, place construction building contracts, market and let schemes to occupiers and secure the required funding commitments.

The submitted report also highlighted the proposal to acquire the long leasehold interest of the former Wilkinson's site in East Street which would give the Council full control over 0.54 hectares (1.35 acres) of strategically important development land.

Reference was made at the meeting to the additional pressures and risks that the purchase of the former Wilkinson's site would put on the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP); the need to be realistic on what the Council can achieve; a number of other sites that the Council owned within the Town Centre that were still to be developed; the implications of not purchasing the site; the workplace study that had been undertaken; the potential uses of the site when developed; the viability of the site; and implications on the Linear Park. The Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member with the Resources Portfolio and the Chief Executive responded thereon.

**RESOLVED** – (a) That the acquisition of the long leasehold interest of the former Wilkinson's site in East Street by way of acceptance of a lease surrender for a premium sum, as set out in the appendix to the submitted report, be approved.

(b) That the Assistant Director Law and Governance be authorised to complete the transaction accordingly.

(c) That approval be given to set aside budget to cover holding costs, as estimated in paragraph 60 of the submitted report.

(d) That the Assistant Director Economic Growth be authorised to approve final holding costs.

(e) That approval, in principle, be given to entering into an agreement with a private sector development partner to bring forward development on several town centre sites, the details of the agreement and the final list of sites to be included, to be presented to Cabinet at a future meeting for approval.

**REASON** - (a) To secure property for future strategic Town Centre development.

(b) To give the Council control of a prominent town centre site.

**C12 SCHEDULE OF TRANSACTIONS**

The Cabinet Member with the Resources Portfolio introduced a report (previously circulated) of the Chief Executive requesting that consideration be given to the Schedule of Transactions (also previously circulated).

**RESOLVED** – That the Schedule of Transactions, as detailed in the appendix to the submitted report, be approved and the transactions be completed on the terms and conditions detailed therein.

**REASON** – The terms negotiated require approval by Cabinet before binding itself contractually to a transaction.

**C13 MEMBERSHIP CHANGES - TO CONSIDER ANY MEMBERSHIP CHANGES TO OTHER BODIES TO WHICH CABINET APPOINTS.**

There were no membership changes reported at the meeting.

**DECISIONS DATED –  
FRIDAY 14 JUNE 2024**