

**DECISIONS SHOULD NOT BE IMPLEMENTED BEFORE
MONDAY 4 JULY 2022**

CABINET

Wednesday, 22 June 2022

PRESENT – Councillors Dulston (Chair), Clarke, Durham, Keir, Marshall, K Nicholson, Renton and Tostevin

INVITEES – Councillors Curry, Harker and Snedker

APOLOGIES – Councillor Tait

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillors Boddy, Heslop, McCollom and Mrs H Scott

C135 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

C136 TO HEAR RELEVANT REPRESENTATION (FROM MEMBERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC) ON ITEMS ON THIS CABINET AGENDA.

In respect of Minute C140 below, a representation was made by a Member in attendance at the meeting.

C137 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THIS CABINET HELD ON 3 MAY 2022

Submitted - The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Cabinet held on Tuesday 3 May 2022.

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

REASON – They represent an accurate record of the meeting.

C138 MATTERS REFERRED TO CABINET

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

C139 ISSUES ARISING FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

There were no issues arising from Scrutiny considered at this meeting.

C140 KEY DECISION - DARLINGTON STATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The Leader, Cabinet Member with the Economy Portfolio and the Cabinet Member with the Local Services Portfolio introduced the report of the Group Director of Services (previously circulated) providing an update to Members on the Darlington Station Rail Improvement

Project and requesting that consideration be given to the necessary approvals for the delivery phase of the project.

The submitted report stated that the Darlington Station Rail Improvement Project had been in development for several years and was primarily a strategic transport project that was a fundamental building block, in unlocking capacity on the east coast mainline and local rail network, delivering the actions contained within the Tees Valley Rail Strategy. The project had potential to deliver numerous priorities including economic, social, and environmental benefits to the Borough, as well as to the Tees Valley region; improve rail capacity for both local and long-distance train services; improve facilities at the station and create two transport interchanges to integrate with other modes of transport; and help deliver the regeneration aspirations of the area and former cattle market site.

It was reported that the Council had progressed the design of the scheme and the land assembly through funding from the Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA); Network Rail had progressed design work on the station and rail infrastructure with Department of Transport funding following the submission of a strong Outline Business Case; it was a major capital project being delivered in partnership with several organisations; and that the Final Business Case was now being prepared for submission to Government to fund the final scheme.

A Member in attendance at the meeting addressed Cabinet in respect of the timescales for the project and whether the project would be completed for the 2025 bicentenary railway celebrations; the costs and budget for the scheme; the design of the project and in particular the multi-storey car parks; and whether there was demand for the car parking. Discussion ensued on the benefits of the project; concerns around the withdrawal of HS2 from the North; the proposals, by the Government, to close ticket offices and whether this would impact on the concourse; inflation pressures; labour shortages; and cycle parking at the station. The Leader, Cabinet Member with the Economy Portfolio and the Group Director of Services responded thereon.

RESOLVED – (a) That the progress on the project, be noted, and the submission of the Full Business Case by Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA), be supported, and the delivery of the project, as outlined in the submitted report, be approved.

(b) That delegate authority be given to the Group Director of Services, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Group Director of Operations, to enter into the following agreements, subject to the matters identified in the report being satisfactorily addressed, namely:-

- (i) a Funding Agreement with Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA);
- (ii) works Contracts for the delivery of the Project;
- (iii) an Asset Protection Agreement with Network Rail;
- (iv) a sale agreement to dispose of land on the East side of the current station, in line with paragraph 20(c) of the submitted report, to Network Rail;

- (v) a Temporary Lease Agreement with LNER to use the former Cattle Market site as a temporary car park;
- (vi) station Change Agreement; and
- (vii) any further agreements relating to the above.

(c) That the commencement of demolition and enabling works for the Project, funded through TVCA, be approved, ahead of the main contract to ensure that the main contract can commence as soon as reasonably practicable upon approval of the Full Business Case.

(d) That it be noted that the majority of funding to deliver the scheme be from the Department for Transport (DfT) and TVCA, with a contribution from the Towns Fund Programme for the Victoria Road interchange and that the following, be approved, namely:-

- (i) the release of the funding received from TVCA and DfT to deliver the project; and
- (ii) the release of £980,000 from the Towns Fund Programme.

REASON - To deliver a project that contributes to national, regional and local strategic transport and economic objectives that will bring economic, social and environmental benefits to the Borough, as well as to the Tees Valley Region.

C141 REPRESENTATION ON OTHER BODIES 2022/23

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 2022/23 Municipal Year, to which Cabinet appoints.

RESOLVED – That the appointments to other bodies, as detailed below, for the 2022/23 Municipal Year, be approved, namely:-

Name of Body or Organisation Nomination(s)

Association of Rail North
Partnership Authorities

Rail North Ltd. Councillor Dulston (Leader of the Council)

Transport for the North Councillor Dulston (Leader of the Council)

North East Rail Councillor Dulston (Leader of the Council)
Management Unit

Community Library Councillor Cossins (Cockerton Ward Member)
(Cockerton) Limited

County Durham and Darlington Councillor Tostevin
Foundation Trust – Board of
Governors

Creative Darlington	Councillor Keir (Cabinet Member with Local Services Portfolio) and Chair of Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee as named substitute
Crown Street Library Trustee Board	Councillor Dulston (Leader of the Council)
Darlington Cares	Councillor K Nicholson
Darlington Railway Museum Trust	Councillor Keir (Cabinet Member with Local Services Portfolio)
Darlington Town Centre Deal Board	Councillor Dulston (Leader of the Council)
Durham County Pension Fund Committee	Councillor Durham (Cabinet Member with Resources Portfolio) and Chair of Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee
Family Help Organisation	Councillors Curry, Crumbie and Newall
Fostering Panel	Councillor Layton
Maidendale Nature and Fishing Reserve (Associate Member)	Councillor K Nicholson (Ward Member)
North East Ambulance Service	Councillor K Nicholson (Chair of Health and Well Being Board)
North East Child Poverty Commission	Councillor Clarke (Cabinet Member with Children and Young People Portfolio)
North East Regional Employers Organisation	Councillor Durham (Cabinet Member with Resources Portfolio), Chair of Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee and Vice Chair of Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee
Executive Committee	Councillor Durham (Cabinet Member with Resources Portfolio)
North East Strategic Migration Partnership	Councillor Clarke (Cabinet Member with the Children and Young People Portfolio) (Councillor Dulston (Leader of the Council as named substitute))
Northern Housing Consortium	Councillor K Nicholson (Cabinet Member with

Health and Housing Portfolio)

Northumbrian Regional Flood and Coastal Committee	Councillor Snedker
Poor Moor Fund/Charity	Councillor Marshall (Cabinet Member with Economy Portfolio)
RELATE North East	Councillors Curry and Layton
Teesside International Airport Limited - Board	Councillor Mrs D Jones (to be appointed as Director) (Councillor Culley as named substitute Director)
Teesside International Airport Limited - Consultative Committee	Councillor Keir (Cabinet Member with Local Services Portfolio)
Tees Valley Local Access Forum	Chair of Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee
Tidy North Regional Consultative Committee	Councillor Keir (Cabinet Member with Local Services Portfolio)

C142 HOUSING MANAGEMENT POLICY

The Cabinet Member with the Health and Housing Portfolio introduced the report of the Group Director of Operations requesting that consideration be given to the Housing Management Policy 2022/26 (also previously circulated).

The submitted report stated that the Council provided over 5,300 high quality homes for local residents; to manage those properties effectively, rental and service charge income from Council tenants needed to be maximised in order to provide them with a comprehensive range of good quality housing management and support services; the Housing Management Policy 2022/26 set out how this would be achieved; the policy was divided into two main sections namely Income Management and Tenancy Management; and the Policy had received support from the Tenants Panel and the Health and Housing Scrutiny Committee.

Particular reference was made at the meeting to succession rights and to rent recovery. The Cabinet Member with the Health and Housing Portfolio, responded thereon.

RESOLVED – That the Housing Management Policy 2022/26, as appended to the submitted report, be approved.

REASONS – (a) The Social Housing Regulator’s Consumer Standards places a duty on social housing landlords to provide their tenants with quality, cost-effective accommodation.

(b) The adoption of a formal Housing Management Policy is one of the ways to demonstrate how this will be achieved.

C143 DISABLED FACILITIES GRANT 2022/23

The Cabinet Member with the Adults Portfolio introduced the report of the Group Director of People informing Members of the capital resources available for Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG) during 2022/23 and requesting that consideration be given to the release of those resources, to be utilised in accordance with this Council's Disabled Facilities Grant and Regulatory Reform Order Policy 2021/23.

The submitted report stated that DFG's assisted people to live independently by helping to fund suitable adaptations to their properties; the grants were means tested and were available to owner-occupiers, tenants of private rented properties and Housing Association tenants; and DFG's were governed by housing legislation and had set conditions for payment, within those regulations. The Council had a shared service agreement in place with Durham County Council to provide a Home Improvement Agency service to provide guidance and practical assistance to people who were older, disabled or on low incomes to claim a DFG to repair, improve or adapt their homes and that they also provided support to people until the work was completed and the contractor had been paid.

RESOLVED – (a) That the allocation of £1,063,345, as detailed in the submitted report, to the Council to use for Disabled Facilities Grant adaptations in 2022/23, be noted.

(b) That the capital funding to enable the funding to be allocated in accordance with this Council's Disabled Facilities Grant and Regulatory Reform Order Policy 2021/23, be released.

REASON - To enable the adaptations for those individuals who are eligible to receive a DFG for 2022/23 to proceed.

C144 PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER – DARLINGTON TOWN CENTRE

The Cabinet Member with the Stronger Communities Portfolio introduced the report of the Group Director Services (previously circulated) highlighting the potential benefits from renewing the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in Darlington Town Centre.

The submitted report stated that in 2019 a PSPO was granted for Darlington Town Centre to assist in dealing with issues such as nuisance behaviour, begging and anti-social drinking; the order could only be introduced for a period of three years and expired in February 2022 after which it must be reviewed to consider whether to renew or not; the PSPO had been effectively used over the last three years, however there were still ongoing issues that needed to be addressed; and that the renewal of the PSPO could assist the Council, Police and partners in dealing with some of those issues. The PSPO could place restrictions on behaviour and should individuals breach those conditions, they could be liable to punishment by a fine of up to £1,000 (or £500 in the case of consumption of alcohol) or a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) of up to £100.

It was reported that only one response had been received to the public consultation; the issue of dealing with obstructions to public buildings included in the original order was not considered to be required and therefore proposed to be removed from the new order; the renewal of a PSPO potentially could have negative impacts on certain groups more than

others; and that consideration had been given to better understand the potential impacts and the appropriate steps that needed to be taken to mitigate and ensure that the PSPO was used proportionately, reasonably and fairly.

Particular references were made at the meeting to the engagement of the 700 Club in the process and to the increase in the number of Fixed Penalty Notices issued in 2021/22. The Cabinet Member with the Stronger Communities Portfolio responded thereon.

RESOLVED – (a) That the consultation that had taken place and feedback received, as detailed in the submitted report, be noted.

(b) That the Public Space Protection Order for Darlington Town Centre, as set out in Appendix 2 of the submitted report, be approved, to enable it to be formally made.

REASONS – (a) To enable officers, including Police, PCSOs and Civic Enforcement Officers, to effectively deal with various types of anti-social behaviour with an extended range of powers.

(b) To improve the quality of life of persons visiting and working in the area covered by the PSPO.

C145 CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION (CCTV) REPLACEMENT CAMERA PROGRAMME

The Cabinet Member with the Stronger Communities Portfolio introduced the report of the Group Director of Services (previously circulated) outlining the outcome of a review of the Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) system and requesting that consideration be given to the release of capital funding to upgrade the analogue cameras and transmission equipment to improve the quality and efficiency of the system.

The submitted report stated that the Council operated a Public Space CCTV system throughout the Borough which primarily supported the Council Plan objectives of keeping the Borough safe; the network was linked to a control centre where the range of services provided had developed over the years, including the development of effective partnership working with the Police and other statutory agencies; since the introduction of the system in the 1990's the system had developed and grown with cameras installed at strategic locations to help reduce crime and had expanded from a 30-camera system to 122 public space cameras; and that the recent success in Safer Streets funding rounds had enabled further development of systems and initiatives to help keep the Borough safe to create the conditions and outcomes in the Council Plan.

Particular references were made to the key action in the Council Plan to review the CCTV system, which identified the need to replace 74 older analogue cameras that were obsolete, and to the review, that had identified an efficiency opportunity, to move to a wireless network, to replace the leased fibre circuits which would achieve a financial saving that could be reinvested to part fund the proposals.

It was reported that the Community Safety team had built a strong partnerships with the Police; the system was not just a critical tool to help deliver Council priorities but also contributes to all four key actions in the Police and Crime Plan, Prevent, Protect, Deter and

Pursue; and that the Police and Crime Commissioner had given an in principal agreement to contribute £25,000 a year for 10 years to the project in recognition of the outcomes CCTV provided to the community.

References were made at the meeting to the cameras at North Park and Stanhope Park; whether the replacement cameras would have voice control; and to their use in preventing and stopping anti-social behaviour. The Cabinet Member with the Stronger Communities Portfolio responded thereon.

RESOLVED – (a) That the contents of the report be noted.

(b) That capital of £513,500, be released, to undertake the upgrades to the CCTV system, as outlined in the submitted report.

REASON – To replace the poor quality remaining analogue cameras and update the transmission network to assist in the detection of crime and anti-social behaviour.

C146 PROPOSED HUMPED SPEED TABLE NEWTON LANE - OBJECTION

The Cabinet Member with the Local Services Portfolio introduced the report of the Group Director Services (previously circulated) advising Members of an objection received to a humped speed table on Newton Lane in relation to a 'Safe Route to School Scheme' and to seek a decision on whether to proceed with the scheme.

The submitted report stated that the Council had a programme of speed management and Safe Route to School Schemes as part of the Local Transport Plan; Mount Pleasant Primary School had been identified as a priority school for a school 20 mile per hour (mph) zone; the Council had consulted on a scheme to introduce a 20 mph zone on the Newton Lane frontage of the school with associated changes to the traffic calming measures; the majority of responders were in favour of the proposal and officers proceeded to obtain delegated powers to progress the necessary Traffic Regulation Orders; the statutory legal orders for the proposed 20 mph zone were advertised on 14 March for a period of four weeks, and no objections were received; and that the statutory notifications for the proposed humps were advertised separately and one objection was received.

It was reported that the proposed scheme would improve road safety by managing speeds along the road and improving crossing facilities; the introduction of schemes of this nature were to ensure the infrastructure was in place to encourage more people to make sustainable journeys where possible and provide a safer area in the vicinity of the school; and that having assessed the points raised by the objector, officers considered the benefits of the proposed scheme and wider support for the scheme outweighed the potential impact identified by the objector.

RESOLVED - That the objection to the proposed humped speed table on Newton Lane, as detailed in the submitted report, be set aside, and officers be authorised to proceed and introduce the proposed speed table at the designed location.

REASONS – (a) The scheme complies with Council policy as set out in the current Local Transport Plan.

(b) The Council is committed to providing a safer highway network around schools to reduce the risk of road traffic collisions. The proposed physical measures will increase the safety of the school children and residents in this area and encourage more people to walk and cycle.

C147 LAND AT BLACKWELL - PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AND PARKLAND RESTORATION

The report was withdrawn at the meeting.

C148 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 24 JUNE 2022**