

**DECISIONS SHOULD NOT BE IMPLEMENTED BEFORE  
MONDAY 21 OCTOBER 2024**

**CABINET**

Tuesday, 8 October 2024

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

**INVITEES** – Councillors Snedker

**APOLOGIES** – Councillors McEwan

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE** – Councillors Baker

**C50 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

**C51 TO HEAR RELEVANT REPRESENTATION (FROM MEMBERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC) ON  
ITEMS ON THIS CABINET AGENDA.**

No representations were made by Members or members of the public in attendance at the meeting.

**C52 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THIS CABINET HELD ON 10 SEPTEMBER  
2024.**

**Submitted** – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Cabinet held on 10 September 2024.

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

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

**C53 MATTERS REFERRED TO CABINET**

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

**C54 ISSUES ARISING FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**

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

**C55 KEY DECISIONS**

**(1) SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) STRATEGY 2025/29**

The Cabinet Member with the Children and Young People Portfolio introduced the report (previously circulated) of the Group Director of People presenting the draft Special

Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Strategy 2025/29 (also previously circulated).

The submitted report detailed the key elements of the Strategy; the planned implementation with partners; and outlined the strategic approach to the delivery of SEND services for children and young people in Darlington, ensuring the offer was coordinated and responsive to the needs of the community.

It was reported that the draft strategy set out the shared local area vision, principles, and priorities to ensure that partners across the Darlington local area were working together effectively to identify, assess and meet the needs of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) from birth to the age of 25; had been co-produced with partners and young people across the borough, and was fundamental to implementing partners responsibilities under the Children and Families Act 2014; and that it reflected the ambitions and priorities of the Council Plan and other key strategic documents.

Particular references were made to the principles that would guide the implementation of the strategy; financial, legal, carbon impact and equalities implications; consultation that had been undertaken; and proposed future consultation.

**RESOLVED** – That public consultation be undertaken to seek views on the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategy, as attached to the submitted report.

**REASONS** – (a) The strategy is produced in the context of the statutory requirements set out in the Children and Families Act 2014 together with the guidance in the SEN Code of Practice that was issued alongside the 2014 Act. These provisions include the duty to keep under review the educational provision, training provision and social care provision made in its area for children and young people who have special educational needs or a disability and made outside its area for children and young people for whom it is responsible who have special educational needs or who have a disability (section 27 of the 2014 Act).

(b) Approval of the SEND Strategy contributes to the fulfilment by the Council of these obligations.

## **(2) OFFSET STRATEGY**

The Leader introduced the report (previously circulated) of the Chief Executive requesting that consideration be given to the Council pursuing choices available for offsetting its residual emissions.

The submitted report stated that actions had been drawn up with teams across the Council with the aim of reducing emissions as far as possible; it would not be possible for the Council to reduce its emissions to zero, without impacting its ability to deliver services to residents and businesses; and as a result there would be residual emissions that would need to be offset for the Council to be able to report it as carbon neutral.

It was reported that by 2040 the Council would have approximately 1000 tonnes of carbon remaining each year that would need to be offset and that there were several mechanisms by which this could be done, and these were set out in the Offsetting Strategy (also previously circulated), which could include technical solutions; using Council owned land; or

purchasing credits elsewhere.

Particular references were made to the financial, legal and HR implications; Estates and Property and Procurement advice; equalities considerations; and consultation undertaken.

Reference was made at the meeting to the support required by local authorities from the government in the offsetting of residual emissions; length of time taken to consider the options available for the offsetting residual emissions; and the need to make progress at pace. The Leader of the Council responded thereon.

**RESOLVED** - That the options set out in the 'way forward' section, as detailed in Appendix A of the submitted report, be approved.

**REASON** - The offsetting strategy sets out potential options for the way forward.

## **C56 SCHEDULE OF TRANSACTIONS**

The Cabinet Member with the Resources Portfolio introduced the 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.

## **C57 MEMBERSHIP CHANGES - TO CONSIDER ANY MEMBERSHIP CHANGES TO OTHER BODIES TO WHICH CABINET APPOINTS.**

**RESOLVED** – That Councillor Ray replace Councillor Crumbie as this Council's representative on Family Help.

**REASON** – To enable a change to the Council's representation on Family Help.

**DECISIONS DATED –  
FRIDAY 11 OCTOBER 2024**