

Cabinet

11 June 2012

Present: Mrs L Arkley (Elected Mayor) (in the Chair),
Councillors E Hodson, D Lilly, P Mason,
Mrs JA Wallace and GC Westwater

In Attendance: P Hedley (Business Representative)
J Hope (Young Mayor)
S Reddie (Northumbria Police)
C Reed (NHS North of Tyne)

CAB1/06/12 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor L Miller, Mr S Neill (Northumbria Police) and Mr D Titterton (Voluntary Sector).

CAB2/06/12 Declarations of Interest

The following declaration of interest was made:

Mr G Haywood, Interim Chief Executive, declared an interest in the item on Senior Management Arrangements (Minute CAB19/06/12), as it referred to a contract for services which directly affected him.

CAB3/06/12 Minutes

Resolved that the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2012 be confirmed.

CAB4/06/12 Report of the Young Mayor

The Young Mayor presented her report, which included the following:

- The Young Cabinet Member for the Environment had met the newly formed Green Fingers Group and had been involved in a litter pick in Wallsend. The Group were continuing to develop the Adopt a Roundabout Project and were looking for funding for the project. The Group had visited the House of Objects recycling project to find out how they could be more active/involved with recycling.
- Final arrangements were being made for The Event.
- Two of the Young Cabinet Members had attended the Wallsend Park Board meetings where they continued to contribute to the plans for the Park.
- The Young Mayor had attended North Tyneside's Chairman's Commendation Awards.
- Fundraising continued for the European Exchange to Smola in Norway.
- Some of the Young Cabinet and Youth Councillors had attended a British Youth Council Convention at Hartlepool. Young Cabinet members had contributed by asking for awareness raising of young people's mental health to be a campaign.
- Work was to be undertaken with the Participation Team to consider how understanding democracy could be strengthened.
- The Strategic Director of Children, Young People and Learning was thanked for attending a recent meeting of the Young Cabinet and a Children's Council meeting.

It was suggested that some information on mental health issues could be provided by the Director of Public Health and Mr C Reed.

The Mayor thanked the Young Mayor for her report.

CAB5/06/12 Reports from Scrutiny Committees

There were no reports submitted by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

CAB6/06/12 2011/12 Finance Outturn Report (All Wards)

Cabinet considered a report that detailed the provisional outturn for the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account, School balances position, the financial and delivery aspects of the Capital Plan and the delivery of the Treasury Management Strategy, together with the associated prudential indicators for capital and treasury for the financial year 2011/12.

As at 31 March 2012 the provisional General Fund revenue outturn position was an underspend of £0.419m. Approval of the carry forward requests detailed in the report of £0.359m would result in a surplus of £0.060m. The surplus had been transferred to the Strategic Reserve in accordance with the Reserves and Balances Policy. Directorates showed an underspend of £0.473m (after accounting for utility costs centrally) at 31 March 2012, an improvement of £1.365m against the year-end projections reported to Cabinet on 12 March 2012. Utility costs identified as a pressure throughout 2011/12 had ended the year with a £1.568m overspend. Corporate and Non-delegated items, including contingencies applied, showed an underspend against budget of £1.514m.

As part of the 2011/12 final accounts, amounts had been set aside as provision and reserves for known liabilities and uncertainties that still remained in future years. This included the provision for equal pay settlements of £15.128m. For 2012/13 the position regarding the financing of equal pay costs and the likelihood of capitalisation requests to Communities and Local Government for equal pay costs remained uncertain. This increased the risk that costs arising during 2012/13 would necessarily fall on the Strategic Reserve. It was essential, therefore, that the level of the Council's Strategic Reserve continued to be closely managed over the medium term.

The Housing Revenue Account had year-end balances of £4.298m, which was £0.842m above budget.

School balances had increased from £6.424m to £6.726m, although these balances included a significant amount of committed funds and the permitted carry forward of grants for the remainder of the academic year. School balances continued to be monitored closely.

The final capital expenditure for the year was £48.463m, with a proposal to reprogramme £8.869m into 2012/13. The financing of the Capital Plan had been varied during the year to reflect the level of grants received and reprogramming.

The Council had acted prudently during the year, confirming that the security of the Council's resources was of greater importance than returns on investments. To that effect, treasury management activity during the year had focused on reducing the inherent risk to the Council. The level of investments at 31 March 2012 was £1.600m, down £8.000m from the previous year. The level of borrowing (excluding PFI) had

increased from £330.901m to £446.111m, including new borrowing of £128.193m being taken on 28 March 2012 which had been necessary to meet the statutory requirements for the self financing of the Housing Revenue Account from 1 April 2012.

Cabinet considered the following decision options: either to agree the recommendations as set out in section 1.2 of the report, alternatively to disagree with the proposals or agree to only some.

The Mayor and Cabinet Member for Finance thanked everyone involved for their efforts in achieving the outturn position despite the financial pressures faced by the Council.

Resolved that (1) the provisional 2011/12 outturn for the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account and Schools Finance, together with a financial overview of the year, as set out in the report, be noted;

(2) the requests for carry forward of budgets of £0.359m, be approved;

(3) the decisions made under the Reserves and Balances Policy be noted;

(4) the Council's Capital Plan spend during 2011/12 and the financing put in place, be noted;

(5) further reprogramming of £8.869m within the Capital Plan be approved;

(6) the Council's Treasury Management performance be noted; and

(7) performance against the Capital and Treasury prudential indicators be noted.

(Reason for decision – it is important that Cabinet continues to monitor performance against the Council Plan and Budget. Reprogramming of the Capital Plan will ensure that the delivery and financing of the Plan is balanced over the medium term.)

CAB7/06/12 Traffic Regulation Order – Proposed Residential 20mph Zone – East Bailey Area (Killingworth Ward)

Cabinet considered a report detailing one objection received to a proposed 20mph speed limit zone on residential streets in the East Bailey area of Killingworth.

The Council was in the final year of a five-year programme to introduce 20mph zones in residential areas and outside schools in the borough. 20mph zones were an integral part of the Council's Road Safety Strategy approved by Cabinet on 11 January 2010 along with a range of road safety measures including education, enforcement and infrastructure works.

The Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 required that all schemes involving a change in speed limit must be advertised on site and in the local press. This enabled members of the public to object to the proposal. Any objectors were first sent a detailed response and invited to reconsider their objection. Any objections not withdrawn were referred to Cabinet for its consideration.

An objection had been received to the proposed extension of the speed limit throughout the East Bailey area on the grounds that it was unwarranted and unnecessary; that the costs to erect the signs could be spent elsewhere and there was no justification for the proposals.

Officers had responded and explained that as part of the Council's adopted Road Safety Strategy, a programme of 20mph zones in residential areas was being implemented in line with national best practice and that the policy to introduce 20mph zones in residential areas was part of a proactive approach to keep the numbers of accidents low.

The objector had submitted a second response disagreeing with Officer comments and indicated that he did not wish to withdraw his objection.

The full text of the objection and officers' response was included in Appendix 1 to the report.

Cabinet considered the following decision options: either to agree the recommendations as set out in section 1.2 of the report, or alternatively to disagree with the proposals.

Resolved that (1) the objection be set aside in the interests of road safety; and (2) the proposals for a 20mph zone in the East Bailey area, as shown on the plan attached as Appendix 3 to the report, be approved.

(Reason for Decision – The 20mph speed limit zone is needed in the interests of road safety recognising that the proposals are part of the Council's adopted Road Safety Strategy.)

CAB8/06/12 Procurement Exercise for the Establishment of Framework Agreements for Learning Disabilities and Mental Health Services (All Wards)

Cabinet received a report which requested approval to carry out a tendering exercise in accordance with the Council's procurement rules, for the procurement of two Framework Agreements for care services within Independent Supported Living Schemes; and a range of Community Based Services for adults with learning disabilities that promoted independence and social inclusion.

The Council's vision for Adult Social Care gave a commitment to continuing to promote independence and choice, leading the way on the personalisation of services so that all customers received a personal budget by 2013 and developing commissioning arrangements.

The three key priorities for 2012/13 were Personalisation, Commissioning and Safeguarding. The services detailed in the report were underpinned by this vision and priorities.

Adult Social Care commissioned a range of different services for people with a learning disability and/or mental health problems to help support them to live in the community. These services were integral to maintain their independence and promote social inclusion. The current framework agreements were due to expire on 31 March 2013 and new framework agreements were required to ensure the continuity of services.

It was proposed that new framework arrangements be put in place for learning disability services and also for mental health services. The current supported living arrangements for mental health were currently purchased on an ad-hoc basis and there was an opportunity to secure the commissioning arrangement through this procurement exercise.

In establishing the Independent Supported Living Framework Agreement, the Council was seeking to put in place a structure that allowed for competition for individual contracts to be undertaken more efficiently and expediently. Through the procurement process the Council would have established that the providers on the Framework had demonstrated that they had the financial, technical and professional capability and were

suitably experienced to undertake the requirements of the contract. It was intended that all eligible providers on the Framework would be invited to tender under a “mini-competition” for available work, as and when required on the basis of price and suitability for that contract. This would avoid with the need to advertise the contract and to re-assess financial, technical and professional capability on each occasion, thus ensuring contracts were procured more quickly while still ensuring value for money by fostering opportunity for competition between providers.

The re-commissioning of Independent Supported Living services and community based services would ensure that they provided choice and represent value for money.

The Framework for Community Based Support packages would allow the Council to establish fixed costs for service provision across as broad a range of services as possible, with the intention of attracting new providers to the North Tyneside market who may be able to provide innovative and more cost effective services.

The Framework Agreement would also assist the development of the market for learning disability provision, in preparation for the uptake of personal budgets for all service users, and would offer more choice and control to individual service users where a direct payment was taken and individuals wished to access services that had been through an accreditation process with the Council. Such services would be procured under the Framework on a call-off basis following a selection process and contracts awarded depending on the choice and need of the individuals requiring the support, and the availability and suitability of service providers.

Cabinet considered the following decision options: either to agree the recommendations as set out in section 1.2 of the report, or alternatively to disagree with the proposals.

Resolved that (1) the Head of Adult Social Care, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care, the Head of Legal Governance and Commercial Services, the Strategic Director of Finance and Resources and the Principal Procurement and Commissioning Officer, be authorised to undertake a competitive procurement exercise and establish Framework Agreements, for a period of two years, with an option to extend for up to a further two years, for (i) Independent Supported Living Services for adults with learning disabilities and/or mental health problems, and for (ii) Community Based Services for adults with learning disabilities, as detailed in paragraphs 1.1 and 1.5 of the report, and pursuant to that process award contracts to the preferred providers;

(2) the Head of Adult Social Care in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care, the Head of Legal, Governance and Commercial Services, the Strategic Director of Finance and Resources and the Principal Procurement and Commissioning Officer, be authorised to undertake “mini-tendering” exercises or selection processes with providers on the respective Framework Agreements for procuring individual services pursuant to the Frameworks, and pursuant to those call-off procedures award such contracts as necessary; and

(3) the waiver of the requirement under Contract Standing Order 8(3) to undertake full tendering procedures for contracts/services between the value of £50,000 and £500,000 per annum in relation to such call-off contracts awarded pursuant to the said Framework Agreements, be agreed.

(Reason for Decision – to enable Adult Social Care to put in place contracting arrangements with providers that open service provision up to competition, broaden the provider base and offer more choice and control for service users in line with good practice and the personalisation agenda.)

CAB9/06/12 Personalisation for Adult Social Care – Response to Overview and Scrutiny Recommendations (Previous Minute CAB186/04/12) (All Wards)

Cabinet considered a report on the proposed responses/actions to the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in relation to its study into Personalisation for Adult Social Care, considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 16 April 2012.

Under section 122 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, Cabinet was required to respond to Overview and Scrutiny indicating what (if any) action it proposed to take within two months from the date it received the recommendations.

The Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing Sub Committee had presented a report to Cabinet on 16 April 2012 following a review of Personalisation of Adult Social Care in North Tyneside. The Sub-Committee had established a Sub-Group to review Personalisation and following a number of fact finding sessions found that the introduction of Personalisation was helping some service users have greater choice and control. It also identified a number of issues, such as transparency, timeliness and training, which formed the basis of the 15 recommendations made in its report which were detailed at Appendix A.

The Head of Adult Social Care had presented a report to Cabinet on 14 May 2012 (Minute No. 211/05/12 refers), outlining the progress made on implementing the Personalisation agenda in North Tyneside. It noted that Adult Social Care currently had around 70% of eligible people using a Personal Budget to receive the care and support services they needed. This was in line with the national target set.

The Adult Social Care Local Account for 2012 showed that:

- 76% of users felt that they were positively involved in their assessment and supported planning for a Personal Budget and a further 79% felt their views had been fully taken into account during this process.
- Around 60% of users felt that a Personal Budget was helping them to take more control over their care and support. 81% felt that the care and support they received suited them and their lifestyle.

There were relatively small numbers of users who were taking their Personal Budget as a Direct Payment in North Tyneside and, as a result, this would be a continued area for development in 2012.

Adult Social Care had been working with other North East councils to develop a strong User-led Organisations (ULO) presence in the Borough and, as a result, a North Tyneside ULO network had been established. The Network was the foundation for a new advice and information network for health, social care and wellbeing in the Borough. The Network had been branded as SIGN North Tyneside and had been launched in May 2012 along with a new website and service directory.

An extensive training programme with Adult Social Care staff and those working in the wider health and social care market had been successfully delivered during 2011/ 2012 on the key principles of personalisation, creative support planning and risk taking.

During 2011 / 2012 the Adult Social Care team had piloted the use of a points based Resource Allocation System (RAS) to test out whether the money allocated through Personal Budgets was appropriate. There were now systems in place to ensure that if

the amount of money produced by application of the RAS was too low or too high, that it was adjusted accordingly to meet all eligible needs. The RAS also built in support for carers to ensure they could take a break from their caring role.

Whilst a substantial amount of progress had been made, there was more to do. In some cases services and lives had not yet been changed in the way service users and carers would like, and the challenges to address this were outlined in the report.

Cabinet considered the following decision options:

Option 1 - Accept the recommendations set out in paragraph 1.2 of the report.

Option 2 - Not accept the recommendations set out in paragraph 1.2 of the report.

Option 3 - Accept, reject or amend any of the proposed responses at Appendix A on an individual basis.

Option 4 - Refer the matter back to Officers for further consideration of particular issue(s).

The Mayor thanked the Sub Committee for the report and everyone who had taken part in the scrutiny study.

Resolved that the proposed responses to the recommendations contained in the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Personalisation for Adult Social Care, detailed in Appendix A of the report, be approved, subject to the findings of the review of the process to ensure a service user can receive the financial assessment at the same time as the indicative budget referred to in item 9, also being reported back to Cabinet.

(Reason for decision – in order that Cabinet’s response can be fed back to the Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing Sub Committee. The Sub Committee will monitor progress with the Head of Adult Social Care.)

CAB10/06/12 New Sports Pavilion – Foxhunters Playing Fields (Collingwood, Cullercoats and Monkseaton South Wards)

Cabinet considered a report detailing up to date information on the proposals for a new sports pavilion at Foxhunters Playing Fields and the financial implications of supporting the scheme.

Foxhunters Playing Fields were the Borough’s single biggest playing field area. In 2005 the changing facilities at the site had been condemned and demolished. Since then there had been no appropriate changing facilities at the site with teams using metal cabins for changing and shelter. Since that time Council officers had been seeking alternative, permanent facilities for the site.

On completion of a feasibility study, a report had been provided to the Major Projects Group in August 2011 who had included the scheme on the Capital Plan reserve list pending a submission to the Football Foundation for grant funding and an associated planning application.

The proposed new facilities included a sports pavilion with six changing rooms, officials’ changing rooms, a first aid room, a large community room, a kitchen, office and meeting rooms, toilets and storage. Additionally, externally, a large all weather pitch and a newly drained grass pitch with a spectator rail would be provided as well as car parking facilities. A drawing of the scheme was attached as Appendix 1. The facility specifications were in line with Football Association guidelines and had been approved by the Football Foundation.

The proposed football partner for this project was Whitley Bay Football Club. Officers had been in dialogue with the Club for a number of years in helping to develop its facilities and in particular seeking a suitable site for all of the Club's current 23 junior teams. The proposal would address the issue, as well as providing high quality facilities and a base for its successful senior ladies team and senior reserve team. Whitley Bay FC was also committed to using the facilities for sports other than football, as well as other youth and community activities.

If the facility was built it was proposed that it would be leased to Whitley Bay FC on a long term basis. As part of the bid to the Football Foundation, Whitley Bay FC had submitted a business plan which indicated that there would be no additional revenue implication for the Council arising from the management and operation of the facility. Whitley Bay FC had also agreed to contribute £50,000 towards the capital cost of the scheme. The Council had previously helped other clubs across the Borough establish similar facilities.

Planning permission for the scheme had been granted on 17 January 2012. Planning conditions included the provision of a light controlled pedestrian crossing on North Preston Road. The crossing had to be in place at the completion of the project.

As well as the £50,000 committed to the scheme by Whitley Bay FC, a successful bid to the Football Foundation for £350,000 had been submitted in December 2011. In addition, written confirmation had recently been received of a further grant of £22,000 for the installation of low level fencing. Over and above this, officers would continue to explore other options for external funding prior to the completion of the project.

A cost of £1,407,000 had been agreed with Kier North Tyneside for the development of the pavilion and associated facilities. In addition, it was anticipated that a new light controlled crossing would cost in the region of £80,000 giving a total cost of £1,487,000. External funding from Whitley Bay FC (£50,000) and The Football Foundation (£372,000) therefore left a balance of £1,087,000 to be funded from the Council's Capital Plan. If further external funding were secured the cost to the Council would reduce proportionately.

Should Cabinet, and subsequently Council, agree to the scheme it was hoped that the project could start in August 2012 with an approximate 38 week building programme.

Cabinet considered the following decision options:

Option 1 - To support the development of a new sports pavilion and associated facilities at Foxhunters Playing Fields and to recommend Council to agree to the scheme being moved from the Capital Plan reserve list on to the main Capital Plan and the additional borrowing of £1.087m; and to accept the grant of £372,000 from the Football Foundation.

Option 2 - Not to support the development of a new sports pavilion and associated facilities and to decline the offer of £372,000 of funding for the scheme from the Football Foundation.

Resolved that (1) the offer of grant from the Football Foundation for a new sports pavilion at Foxhunters Playing Fields be accepted and the Head of Cultural and Customer Services be authorised, in consultation with the Strategic Director of Finance and Resources and the Head of Legal, Governance and Commercial Services, to agree

the terms and conditions of the grant award, finalise the grant agreement and deal with any other matters which may arise;

(2) the implications arising from the Council's financial contribution to the scheme be acknowledged; and

(3) the Council be recommended to endorse the scheme and approve the associated financial implications including approval to borrow £1.087m, and to agree to move the project from the capital reserve list to the main Capital Plan.

(Reason for decision – There have been no proper changing rooms at this site since 2005. This project will provide state of the art changing and community facilities at the Borough's biggest single playing field area and provide a base for Whitley Bay FC Juniors and other teams. In addition to football this facility will provide a flexible space for wider community and youth activities. Similar schemes have been successful in other areas of the Borough.)

CAB11/06/12 North Tyneside Council's Proposed Trading Activity (All Wards)

Cabinet considered a report setting out a draft set of commercial and procurement principles, the conclusions of a review of fees and charges and the proposed next steps toward developing the Council's trading activity.

As part of Theme B of the Change, Efficiency and Improvement Programme Officers had been developing a project to increase the Council's Commercial and Procurement capability and capacity. The project had led to the development of a set of principles to underpin the Council's commercial activity and inform its procurement work. Officers had also reviewed the Council's portfolio of services for which a charge was made. The overall policy position suggested by that review had been included in the Cabinet's proposals for the Council's Strategic Plan and Budget for 2012/13, agreed by Council on 1 March 2012.

Following Cabinet's conclusion that the creation of a Community Based Trust would not deliver sufficient financial benefit, Officers had been asked to consider trading opportunities as an alternative (Minute No. CAB196/04/12 refers).

Like all top-tier local authorities North Tyneside Council was a large organisation with significant commercial interests. For example, each year, around £150m of the Council's General Fund was spent on securing services through another provider. In addition, the Council charged for discretionary services, managed a commercial property portfolio and made significant capital investment on behalf of the tax payer. It was therefore important that the Council's commercial activity had some underpinning principles intended to help consistency of approach and align all the Council's commercial activity towards its strategic objectives on behalf of North Tyneside.

The draft commercial principles were set out in the report in four parts: Strong Commissioning; Our commercial values; Our commercial objectives; and Our commercial intelligence.

The draft procurement principles were in two sections. The first was intended to spell out how procurement would fit with commissioning decisions. The second was intended to look at the key audiences who had an interest in the Council's procurement activity and suggested what was important to each audience. Further details were contained in the report.

Cabinet was asked to agree the draft set of commercial and procurement principles for consultation and the associated next steps on the Council's procurement work. Following that consultation and working with the successful bidder for the Business Package, these steps were to develop a new Procurement Strategy for the Council; implement best practice in line with the procurement service objectives for the Business Package; and plan the next stage of procurement activity for 2013/14 and 2014/15 with associated savings targets.

In relation to fees and charges, the Council's Financial Regulations stated that each Chief Officer should establish a charging policy for the supply of goods and services; review that annually and report any changes, as appropriate, to Members. That activity was generally managed via the annual preparation of the Council's Budget. In 2011/12 that work had been supplemented with some wider thinking about the context in which charges were set. The Council Strategic Plan and Budget for 2012/13 therefore contained some guiding principles that had shaped the approach to the level of charge and how any increases or decreases were managed.

The scope of fees and charges had been drawn around those services for which the Council raised a charge for discretionary services sought by individuals or organisations. It excluded activity associated with regeneration and development where professional services costs were recovered relevant to particular projects. It also excluded personal social services where costs were recovered via statutory agreement with the NHS.

The Budget Proposals agreed by Council identified six different aspects to the Council's overall approach to fees and charges: fee set by statute; universal services were paid for universally – differentiated services were paid for by the user; matching the market; staying in line with neighbours; considering ability to pay; and differentiated pricing.

Further information relating to the six aspects was contained in the report.

The Annex to the report contained the main areas of service where the Council charged. It also provided an outline of the nature of the service, the basis on which the fee was set, offered some comparisons for Tyne and Wear where relevant, and identified the Head of Service with responsibility for that service area. The intention was to ensure there was a consistent, public set of data related to North Tyneside Council's fees and charges. This would be linked up with changes to the Council's website. It was clear that many authorities chose to produce a list of their fees and charges. Some provided a policy context to that. The proposed approach was to combine a useful list with the policy context.

In relation to trading alternatives, the report indicated that since its creation in 1974 the Council had delivered services for which people and organisations had paid. In a changing climate for public services it was important to ensure the Council had a clear view on how it managed that activity most effectively. The report gave examples of trading structures using existing trading powers, used by other local authorities.

The Council already had a range of commercial activity and contracts, ranging from charging for particular services through to major contracts for services and the Joint Venture with Kier. Later this year the letting of the Technical and Business Packages would see the Council enter into commercial arrangements for a broad range of services.

In terms of any additional commercial activity or “opportunities to expand our service delivery into the public and private sector” as described in the Council Plan the three further options available to the Council were one-off provision of services; consultancy advice; and creating a trading structure.

The Council currently had the ability to carry out the first two approaches to expand commercial activity. Cabinet was requested to give approval to create a trading structure that would also enable the Council to provide appropriate services described in the report to the private sector in addition to the public sector.

The intention was to develop the following:

- A trading company which would own no assets nor employ any staff. It would act as a vehicle to bid for, and deliver, additional work in new markets or new places.
- A business appraisal/gateway process which would ensure that any trading proposal had been properly assessed before entering the trading process and would be linked to Cabinet and Council in the same way current procurement and trading work was handled.
- Subsidiaries of the trading company which would be created as required to reflect the particular opportunities approved through the business appraisal/gateway process and to limit liability as appropriate.

A further report would be submitted to Cabinet in October, in order to agree the appropriate purpose, structure and governance for the Trading Company as well as the process for appraising trading opportunities.

Cabinet considered the following decision options:

- Option 1 - accept all of the recommendations in paragraph 1.2 of the report.
 Option 2 - accept part of the recommendations in paragraph 1.2 of the report.
 Option 3 - reject all of the recommendations in paragraph 1.2 of the report.

Resolved that (1) approval be given to the draft set of commercial and procurement principles for consultation and the associated next steps on the Council’s procurement work, as set out in the report;
 (2) the conclusions of a review of fees and charges and the proposals to improve how that information is made available to the public, as set out in the report, be noted;
 (3) the next steps in developing the Council’s trading activity, outlined in the report, be approved;
 (4) Members, staff and trades unions, Partners and the business community, be consulted on the proposals; and
 (5) further reports on the results of that work be submitted to Cabinet, as appropriate.

(Reason for decision – It is important the Council has a tested and sensible set of principles that underpin all of its commercial and procurement work; and that the Council has consistency and transparency in its approach to fees and charges. Cabinet requested further work to be done to consider where the Council might develop its trading activity and what structures it might develop.)

CAB12/06/12 Council Strategic Plan Quarter 4 of 2011/12 Annual Performance Report (All Wards)

Cabinet received a report on the progress made during the fourth quarter of 2011/12 towards achieving the milestones and performance measures of the Council Strategic Plan 2011-2015.

57 projects had achieved their planned milestones for Quarter 4, and three projects had not. For those projects that had not been achieved, details were given in the report including proposed action.

There were a total of 53 performance measures which could be reported at the end of Quarter 4. Overall 44 targets had been achieved and nine targets had not been achieved across six projects. For those indicators not achieved, a comment on performance and proposed action was given in the report.

It was noted that that some data was provisional and subject to external verification. Any changes to this data would be reflected in future performance reports.

Resolved that the report and circumstances that have caused the lack of progress in the three projects that have not reached their planned Quarter 4 milestones and the action proposed to remedy the situation, and the nine indicators that have not hit the agreed target, be noted.

CAB13/06/12 2012/15 Council Strategic Plan and 2012/13 Budget - Implementation Plan (Previous Minute CAB225/05/12) (All Wards)

Cabinet received a progress report on the delivery of items in the Budget 2012/13 and Council Strategic Plan 2012/15 - Implementation Plan. The Implementation Plan, attached at Appendix 1 to the report, listed (in summary) a number of proposals contained within the agreed Budget 2012/13 and Council Strategic Plan 2012/15.

The report identified where decisions were to be taken at this and subsequent Cabinet meetings and there were separate reports on the agenda that dealt with some of those items. The Implementation Plan, if approved would need to be amended after Cabinet had reached decisions on those reports.

Cabinet considered the following decision options: either to agree the recommendations as set out in section 1.2 of the report, or alternatively to disagree with the proposals.

Resolved that (1) the revised Implementation Plan be approved; and (2) the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Elected Mayor, be authorised to update the Implementation Plan to reflect the decisions in relation to the Plan taken at this meeting.

(Reason for decision - to enable relevant work on the Implementation Plan to be taken forward in accordance with the timescales identified in the Plan.)

CAB14/06/12 Reduction in Officer Mobile Phones (All Wards)

In accordance with the Implementation Plan approved by Cabinet in relation to the Council Strategic Plan 2012-15 and Budget 2012-13, Cabinet considered a report which detailed how the proposed budget saving relating to mobile telephones issued to officers had been achieved.

Council had agreed as part of the budget proposals to reduce the number of officer mobile phones by 20% to deliver a saving of £14,400.

Following a procurement exercise, a new 2 year contract for mobile telephony and data services had been signed in January 2012 with Everything Everywhere (Orange). One of the key aspects of the new contract was the removal of a fixed monthly charge for each mobile telephone. This removal of the fixed monthly charge element across individual mobile phone contracts had delivered the required saving.

Analysis of the forecasted cost of officers' mobile phones against budget had been carried out and service budgets would be reduced to reflect where those savings would arise.

Work was on-going to reduce the overheads and call costs of mobile telephony to the organisation, recent changes included the introduction of a voluntary salary reduction scheme for personal usage for officers. The cost of mobile telephony continued to be monitored as part of the Council's usual budget management practices.

Cabinet considered the following decision options: either to agree the recommendations as set out in section 1.2 of the report, or alternatively to disagree with the proposals.

Resolved that it be noted that the targeted saving of £14,400 in relation to mobile telephones issued to officers can be achieved and that budgets will be adjusted accordingly in year.

(Reason for decision - The saving will be achieved in year. Budgets will be reduced proportionally once consultation with budget holders has occurred.)

CAB15/06/12 Implications of Deferral of the Coastal Development Budget to 2013/14 (Cullercoats, Monkseaton North, St Mary's Tynemouth and Whitley Bay Wards)

Cabinet considered a report which detailed the implications of the deferral by Council within the Council's agreed Budget of 1 March 2012 of a proposed £1m funding allocation for the Coastal Development Budget from 2012/13 until 2013/14 and a further £1m from 2013/14 to 2014/15. The report also included details of a submission of an expression of interest to the Coastal Communities Fund, which formed Stage 1 of the bidding process and sought authority to proceed to Stage 2 should an initial offer be made.

The North Tyneside coastal offer was an important element of the Borough's economy and a valuable leisure resource for residents. North Tyneside attracted 5.2m day visitors and 524,300 overnight stays per year, which generated around £243m annual spend and supported around 3,700 jobs in the North Tyneside economy. It was therefore a vital resource to the success of the Borough. The Coast had been developed to provide for a generally home based holiday market and much of the infrastructure had been constructed several decades ago. New capital investment in the coast was therefore required to create the right conditions for the private sector to invest in improving the leisure and tourism offer and to provide modern facilities for visitors and residents.

In October 2010, Cabinet had approved a Strategic Development Framework for the Coast to guide future investment (Minute CAB78/10/10 refers). To support a variety of projects identified in the Strategic Development Framework to enhance the offer along the North Tyneside Coast, a £3m budget had been identified in the 2011-2021 Capital

Plan, including £1m allocated in 2011/12. A Coastal Area Action Plan was also being prepared as part of the Local Development Framework to support the regeneration of the coast.

Cullercoats Bay had been identified as the first area that would benefit from the Coastal Development budget in 2011/12. Other projects outside Cullercoats Bay had also been undertaken, including new beach showers at Long Sands South, the refurbishment of toilets at Watts Slope, Whitley Bay and a new Coastal Heritage Trail.

A number of improvements around Cullercoats Bay, detailed in the report, had been completed in 2011/12, taking into account responses received from an extensive consultation exercise.

The opportunity to bid for a Townscape Heritage Initiative scheme for Cullercoats Bay had arisen during 2011. This would have potentially added £0.800m of external grant funding that would have enabled extensive highway improvements to Victoria Crescent; grant schemes to assist businesses and homeowners to reinstate architectural features to their properties; public realm improvements from Cullercoats Metro station to the harbour including work to the station; and restoration of Bank Top cottages to provide an arts based facility linked back to the famous Cullercoats artists. The Council had recently been informed by the Heritage Lottery team that the bid had been unsuccessful. Officers had been advised that it may be possible to submit a substantially revised bid and therefore this would be explored further.

A number of coastal sites owned by the Council had been marketed throughout the year and negotiations were underway with preferred developers following a positive response.

Although Long Sands South was a popular destination for visitors, including a growing surfing culture, the Council continued to receive complaints about the condition and appearance of the former outdoor pool site, regular requests were received to permanently expose the Lions Head fountain, and the public toilet provision at this end of Long Sands beach was considered poor in terms of security for users and disabled access. This area had therefore been identified as the main priority for the proposed £1m budget in year 2 of the Coastal Development budget.

Initial master planning to improve the area of Tynemouth Long Sands South had commenced in early 2012 with the intention of starting work on site in the early autumn so it could be completed by Easter 2013. This work would have included improving pedestrian access throughout and improvements to the public toilet provision. It was intended that public consultation would be undertaken to help shape the final proposals.

As a result of Council's decision on 1 March the profiling of the coastal capital budget had been altered as follows:-

	£m	£m	£m
	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Original Cabinet Proposals	1.000	1.000	0
Approved Council Budget	0	1.000	1.000

The £0.478m balance of expenditure carried forward from 2011/12 had been available within 2012/13 but had been largely allocated to existing projects.

Although it was intended that design work and consultation would continue, works commencing on site would now be held back by 12 months due to the decision of

Council to defer funding allocation for this purpose. This would significantly slow momentum with the proposed improvements to the coastal area and put North Tyneside at a potential disadvantage in relation to leveraging in private sector investment compared to the adjacent coastal areas such as South Tyneside and Sunderland, where significant improvements to the coastal areas had been progressed recently.

Coastal Development funding would enable the authority to bring forward key regeneration projects which in turn would assist the private sector in bringing forward their own projects by creating greater confidence through demonstration of the Council's commitment to redevelopment of the Coast. By deferring the 2012/13 budget the confidence of the private sector would be further undermined at a time when investment was generally weak.

The lack of significant Council capital investment during 2012/13 could also undermine current and future bids by the Council for external funding. North Tyneside had recently submitted an expression of interest as the first stage in a potential bid to the Department for Communities and Local Government who were championing the new Coastal Communities Fund. This was a national fund for coastal towns for schemes which would enhance employment opportunities and improve coastal facilities. A decision on the first stage would be known shortly and if successful, a fully worked up Stage 2 bid was proposed to be submitted for consideration, subject to Cabinet's approval. The extent of the second stage bid and the level of associated grant funding sought would be dependent upon the feedback received at Stage 1. Should the Council's Stage 2 bid be successful, a full report setting out the full financial and legal implications of acceptance of the grant funding would be submitted to Cabinet for consideration and approval prior to any grant award being accepted.

Although not funded from the Coastal Development Budget, the Spanish City Island regeneration scheme was a flagship element of the wider regeneration of the coastline and therefore important to the confidence of private investors at the Coast. The outline planning application was currently being considered and was expected to be heard by Planning Committee in July. A bid for Heritage Lottery funding to assist in reinstating lost architectural features to the Dome had been submitted. A decision on this first stage funding bid would be received in the summer and if successful, a more detailed second stage bid would be submitted. It was anticipated that if the required approvals were received, work would begin on site within the next twelve months. This private sector led scheme was essential to help boost confidence and encourage further private sector investment along the length of the Borough's coastline.

Cabinet considered the following decision options:

Option 1 - To note the issues arising from the deferral of the 2012/13 and 2013/14 Coastal Development budgets of £1m for 12 months; and accept any Stage 1 offer of Coastal Communities Fund grant received, and proceed to take relevant steps to prepare and submit a Stage 2 application.

Option 2 - Not to proceed with the Coastal Communities Fund bid irrespective of whether Stage 1 approval is received.

Resolved that (1) the delay in funding regeneration projects at the Coast and the impact this delay could have on private sector investment as described in paragraph 1.5.6 of the report, be noted;
(2) should a Coastal Communities Fund Stage 1 approval be received, approval be given to the submission of a Stage 2 bid;

- (3) the Head of Regeneration, Development and Regulatory Services, in consultation with the Head of Legal Governance and Commercial Services and the Strategic Director of Finance and Resources, be authorised to procure such professional/specialist services and support as may be required for the purpose of preparation of the Stage 2 bid, in accordance with the Council's Contract Standing Orders and relevant UK/EU procurement requirements, to be funded from existing resources;
- (4) the Head of Regeneration, Development and Regulatory Services, in consultation with the Elected Mayor and the Strategic Director of Finance and Resources, be authorised to undertake all necessary steps to develop and finalise the proposals and submit a detailed Stage 2 application to Coastal Communities Fund for grant aid, as described at paragraph 1.5.7 of the report; and
- (5) a further report be submitted to Cabinet should a Stage 2 offer be made to the Council, including relevant financial and legal implications, prior to acceptance of any offer.

(Reason for decision - to enable further investment to be made in a variety of projects along the length of the North Tyneside coastline which will support employment opportunities, improve facilities which will support the tourism sector by linking directly with the Coastal Strategic Development Framework. If successful, the bid will bring additional financial resource to the Coast and enable more regeneration work to take place than the Council's own capital resource can support alone. This will also help to build private sector confidence to invest in North Tyneside's Coast.)

CAB16/06/12 Improving the Viability of Town and Local Shopping Centres- Progress Report (Previous Minute CAB13/06/12) (All Wards)

Cabinet received a report detailing progress to date with current initiatives to improve the Borough's retail centres; to seek authorisation to accept offers of external funding for new initiatives to improve these retail centres and to expedite the production of the relevant Area Action Plans. The report also requested the approval of proposed financing arrangements to allow the North Shields Customer First Centre to proceed.

North Tyneside had a range of shopping provision across the Borough including:

- a) four main retail centres centred on the towns of Wallsend, North Shields, Whitley Bay and Killingworth;
- b) eight smaller district/local shopping centres in Tynemouth, Battle Hill, Preston Grange (including a large Morrisons supermarket), Forest Hall, Longbenton, Whitley Lodge, Northumberland Park and Monkseaton;
- c) two large retail parks at the Silverlink and Royal Quays, which generally catered for car borne visitors and therefore had a catchment area that extended outside the borough boundaries;
- d) large out of centre supermarkets at Benton, Red House Farm and West Chirton; and,
- e) a number of small local shopping centres, such as Howdon and Wideopen, which catered for a smaller local need.

The report provided a detailed summary for each older town centre and progress with regeneration initiatives within Wallsend, North Shields and Whitley Bay and the two district centres of Forest Hall and Whitley Lodge. Regarding the North West of the Borough, work was currently in progress in relation to the analysis of local centres in Wideopen, Seaton Burn, Dudley and Camperdown. This would be subject of a report to Cabinet later in the year.

Plans to refurbish the Central Library and provide accommodation for Customer Services (creating a North Shields Customer First Centre) had been due to commence in 2012/13 but the budget to undertake the works had been deferred by a year by Council on 1 March 2012. This had removed a major generator of footfall through the Beacon Centre for an additional 12 months and would undermine the continued efforts of the owners of the shopping centre to bring forward their reinvigoration scheme.

Following on from the Cabinet meeting on 16 April 2012, officers had undertaken a review to identify financing arrangements that would allow the scheme to proceed. Cabinet could approve reprogramming where borrowing did not exceed £1.000m.

The 2012/13 budget had been prepared on a prudent basis, ensuring that the Council remained within the criteria set out in the Reserves and Balances Policy. At the time of the budget preparations, the forecast outturn report for 2011/12 included financial pressures that would have required the use of the Strategic Reserve in 2011/12. In order to ensure the Strategic Reserve was maintained at the £5.000m level, the 2012/13 budget included a contribution to the Strategic Reserve of £1.436m.

The 2011/12 Financial outturn report considered at this meeting (Minute CAB6/06/12 refers) confirmed that the financial position had improved, with a small underspend being realised at the year end and that the £1.436m contribution from the Strategic Reserve was no longer required in 2011/12 to maintain the Reserve at the required level. It was proposed that £1.400m from the Strategic Reserve be applied to finance the scheme through the Reserves and Balances Policy process during 2012/13.

In addition, it was proposed to allocate £0.750m of New Homes Bonus to finance the scheme. This was an appropriate allocation of a non-ringfenced grant that was supporting investment in improved community facilities which were adjacent to housing development in Northumberland Square, and was expected to encourage further development and regeneration in the surrounding areas.

The remaining financing element would require Cabinet to approve additional borrowing of £0.950m to finance the overall scheme cost of £3.100m. This would allow Cabinet, under their delegated authority, to advance the scheme from its current approved implementation date of 2013/14 to the current financial year.

Current estimations suggested that if approved, due to the advanced level of planning already undertaken for the scheme, the new library would be completed in spring 2013. As well as providing a new and improved facility, it would alleviate some of the financial implications associated with remaining in temporary accommodation, as detailed in the report to the Cabinet meeting on 16 April 2012 (CAB198/04/12 refers).

All three older town centres had been identified as requiring Area Action Plans (AAPs) as part of the emerging Local Development Framework. The AAPs provided policies and proposals within particular areas of North Tyneside identified as a priority, to guide and enable appropriate development, regeneration and investment, as well as conservation. The AAPs provided an approach that was targeted at the particular issues affecting each area.

The AAP Preferred Options had been subject to a consultation exercise which had concluded in March 2012. A report describing the outcome of this process would be published and considered by the Council soon. The Draft AAPs would be prepared in light of the comments and representations made, and taking account of other changing

circumstances such as new Government policy contained within the National Planning Policy Framework. The AAPs would be consulted upon and approved in accordance with the Council's Budget and Policy Framework Rules. Once the final proposals in respect of the AAPs had been approved by full Council, the AAPs would be submitted to the Secretary of State for approval. The AAPs and any formal objections would be reviewed through an Examination in Public by an independent Inspector.

In relation to future initiatives, the Council had recently made an unsuccessful submission to the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) for the recently announced 'Portas Pilots' to invest in the Borough's town centres. However, the Council had already received £100,000 from CLG as part of the High Street Innovation Fund and potential options for the use of this funding were being considered.

Cabinet considered the following decision options:

Option 1 - Approve the recommendations set out in section 1.2 of this report.

Option 2 - Not approve the recommendations set out in section 1.2 of this report.

Option 3 - Approve some, but not all, of the recommendations set out in section 1.2 of this report.

Resolved that (1) the progress made, as detailed in the report, be noted;
 (2) the Head of Regeneration, Development and Regulatory Services be authorised, in consultation with the Strategic Director of Finance and Resources and the Elected Mayor, to accept any offers of external funding to support initiatives to improve retail centres across the borough of North Tyneside, subject to resource implications, including match funding, being confined within existing budgets;
 (3) the Head of Regeneration, Development and Regulatory Services be authorised, in consultation with the Head of Legal, Governance and Commercial Services and the Elected Mayor, to approve a programme for the Area Action Plans and progress the production of the Area Action Plans in accordance with the programme, in order to provide an updated policy framework for investing in and regenerating the three town centres of Wallsend, North Shields and Whitley Bay; and
 (4) In relation to the North Shields Customer First Centre:
 (i) the proposal for the funding the scheme, as detailed at paragraphs 1.5.3 and 2.1 of the report, be approved; and
 (ii) the Head of Cultural and Customer Services be authorised, in consultation with the Strategic Director of Finance and Resources, the Head of Legal, Governance and Commercial Services, the Elected Mayor and the Cabinet Member for Finance, to implement the North Shields Customer First Centre project in accordance with the scheme described in the report to Council dated 24 November 2011 (as cross referred to the Customer Services Centres Delivery Plan approved by Cabinet in November 2007, the Customer First Strategy agreed by Cabinet in December 2010, and the Cabinet report dated 16 April 2012), and take all necessary or appropriate steps associated with such implementation, in compliance with the Council's Constitution, Financial Regulations, Contract Standing Orders and any other applicable requirements.

(Reason for decision - it provides a clear commitment from the Council of the priority given to the Borough's retail centres and a framework for further investment. This will allow officers to continue to deliver improvements to retail centres within a robust planning framework.)

CAB17/06/12 Travel Plan for 16 – 18 Year Olds (All Wards)

Cabinet considered a report which detailed the current Post 16 travel arrangements and other options available in the light of the Implementation Plan agreed by Cabinet at its meeting on 28 March 2012. This related to the loss of the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) grant and the need to ensure a scheme was in place which would minimise the cost of travel for 16 to 18 year olds attending further education and training. The existing Home to School/College Transport Policy was attached as Appendix 1 of the report.

Pupils continuing their education full time in an Authority school qualified for student travel assistance. The chosen course of study must be a full-time course of Further Education (FE) at a publicly funded establishment of at least 30 weeks' duration. To qualify for assistance students must be attending a full time course of study and travelling 3 miles or more between their home and the nearest FE College or school providing the course. Applicants must be aged 16 and under 18 on the 1 September of the year they intended to commence the course.

Students who had had a statement of special educational needs up to the age of 16 or where appropriate up to 19 who wished to attend a FE College as a direct continuation of their education may be eligible for free transport if it was appropriate to their needs. The Education Funding Agency (EFA) funded placements for post-16 students with special needs at specialist colleges outside of North Tyneside, where no appropriate provision existed within the local area.

A student may continue to receive help past 21 years of age if a continuing course of study commenced before the age of 21. However, a course was seen to be no longer than 2-3 years. Transport assistance would not be afforded to applicants over the age of 24 years prior to the start of the new term.

In all cases when considering applications for assistance with transport the Local Authority would take account of transport arrangements, distance, journey times, and the efficient use of resources and whether an appropriate alternative course was available at a nearer college. There was no facility for the reimbursement of travelling expenses on an individual basis, or for special transport arrangements unless approved in advance.

The Council provided a 50% discretionary contribution to Post 16 travel for students. North Tyneside was the only local authority in Tyne and Wear which provided this subsidy, the cost of which was approximately £33,000 per annum (based on the 2011/12 academic year).

On 28 March 2011 the Government had announced a new £180 million bursary scheme to help the most vulnerable 16-19 years olds continue in full-time education. This had replaced the EMA, which had an annual budget of £560 million. The scheme had started in North Tyneside in September 2011 and operated as an agreed scheme across all secondary schools in the Borough. Funding was delegated to all secondary schools and following agreement in 2011 to pool resources, the bursary scheme was administered and operated by the Local Authority. This had initially excluded Monkseaton High School but the arrangements for 2012/13 would now include the school providing a Borough wide scheme. The scheme had an agreed bursary payment rate and set of criteria for access to bursary funds.

The purpose of the bursary was to help the most vulnerable young people (detailed in the report) aged 16 to 19 to participate in full-time education or training. The scheme was designed to cover the additional costs of staying in education and could be used by an individual student towards the costs of transport, meals, accommodation, etc. The scheme guaranteed a bursary for the most vulnerable learners and provided for a discretionary element thereafter. Vulnerable learners were guaranteed bursaries of a minimum of £1,200 a year. 26 bursaries had been awarded to young people in North Tyneside in academic year 2011/12. Outside the defined vulnerable group, North Tyneside schools had defined two further categories, which were detailed in the report. All students in receipt of the bursary had also received a bonus where their progress, attainment and attendance had been judged to be satisfactory.

For the 2012/13 Academic Year, all Head Teachers had agreed to continue the North Tyneside 16-19 Bursary scheme, including Monkseaton High School. The bursary rates had been set for next year based on the same categories and were set out in the report:

Cabinet considered the following decision options:

Option 1 - Retain the current arrangements and determine that the Council's Home to School/College Transport Policy should remain unchanged in relation to the Post 16 subsidy as set out at paragraph 1.5 of the report.

Option 2 – Undertake a full review of the current arrangements and authorise the Head of Commissioning and Fair Access to consider all alternative options available to support Post 16 Travel and report back to a future Cabinet meeting.

Resolved that the current arrangements associated with Post 16 Travel, as set out at paragraph 1.5 of the report, be endorsed and the Strategic Director of Children, Young People and Learning be authorised to continue with the arrangements as described.

(Reason for decision - the Post 16 travel arrangements currently offered by the Council provide a valuable financial benefit of 50% of the standard commercial ticket price following initial purchase by the applicant. North Tyneside is the only local authority in Tyne and Wear which provides this subsidy to support the cost of travel for 16 to 18 years olds attending further education and training living in North Tyneside.)

CAB18/06/12 Reducing Energy Consumption, Minimising Energy Costs and Using Renewable Energy (All Wards)

Cabinet considered a report which detailed proposals to take forward items 20 and 21 of the Implementation Plan agreed by Cabinet on 28 March 2012 in relation to the Council Strategic Plan 2012/2015 and the 2012/13 Budget:

Theme C of the Change, Efficiency and Improvement (CEI) Programme had built on previous effective work to reduce energy consumption, minimise energy costs in the face of escalating prices and reduce carbon emissions, partly through the use of renewable energy. Significant savings were being made and carbon consumption had reduced in the Council's operations and across the Borough.

The Council's overall energy consumption had been reduced compared with the same period last year. Whilst the reduction had included a mild winter the underlying trend was a progressive reduction.

The latest published figures (September 2011) from the Department of Energy and Climate Change showed that the Borough's carbon footprint had reduced by 23% from 1.446m to 1.142m tonnes of CO₂ emissions between 2005 and 2009.

There were a number of existing plans and strategies in place which provided the overarching framework for the Council's approach to reducing energy consumption and costs and use of renewable energy including the Sustainable Community Strategy, Council Strategic Plan 2012/15 and Climate Change Strategy.

The report detailed actions, monitored through the CEI Theme C Board, which had helped to deliver these outcomes as follows:

- Developing partnerships to reduce carbon emissions and deliver outcomes for residents of North Tyneside. Specific reference was made to Solar Photovoltaic Panels, North Tyneside Warm Zone and Waste Disposal.
- Understanding and managing energy consumption including the installation of 'smart energy meters' in Council buildings, the introduction of Carbon Budgets for the top 30 consuming buildings for each utility – electricity, gas and water. This totalled 54 buildings in all. Carbon reduction targets had also been introduced.
- Using energy more efficiently. The Council had invested in energy efficiency technology in a number of buildings and schools, including energy efficient lighting, insulation and voltage optimisation. Major financial savings (£0.230) had also been achieved through the reduction of the Council's vehicle fleet by 25%.
- Behaviour change had been identified as an area where significant progress could be made. The report gave details of progress to date and also initiatives planned for the future.
- Purchasing efficiencies. The Council purchased energy through the North East Purchasing Organisation (NEPO) and therefore benefitted from aggregation within a wider consortium, enabling it to secure good value for its energy contracts. Benchmarking information showed that over the past 3 years energy procured through the NEPO framework had been 7.5% lower than the average market price.

The significant progress outlined in the report would be built on and monitored through Theme C of the CEI Programme, with a number of initiatives/projects, detailed in the report, introduced or progressed further.

Cabinet considered the following decision options:

Option 1 - Note the report on the work undertaken to date to reduce energy consumption and minimise energy costs in Council buildings and continue to allocate the existing resources and monitor the progress made through the CEI Theme C Board.

Option 2 - Grant delegated authority to the Head of Environmental Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport and the Environment, to carry out additional research on the use of renewable energy in Council buildings and across the Borough with a budget of £0.025m, in accordance with proposal item 21 of the Implementation Plan agreed by Cabinet on 28 March 2012 in relation to the Council Strategic Plan 2012/2015 and the 2012/13 Budget.

Resolved that the work undertaken to date to reduce energy consumption and minimise energy costs in Council buildings be noted and the allocation of existing resources

continue and monitoring of progress be made through the Change, Efficiency and Improvement Theme C Board.

(Reason for decision – the proposals set out in items 20 and 21 of the Implementation Plan can be achieved using existing resources.)

CAB19/06/12 Senior Management Arrangements (Previous Minute CAB126/01/12) (All Wards)

(Note Mr G Haywood withdrew from the meeting for the consideration of this matter).

Cabinet considered a report on a proposal to extend the current contract for services in respect of the Interim Chief Executive.

The current contract for the Interim Chief Executive was in place up to 30 September 2012 and Cabinet would therefore need to consider the arrangements post September in terms of the Senior Leadership Team of the Council, particularly given the significant changes which would be taking place over the coming months in relation to new models of service delivery and restructuring of the Council.

It was suggested that Cabinet might wish to consider a further extension to this contract in order to provide stability during a period of significant change for the Council. This extension would be based upon the current hours of the Interim Chief Executive and would run for the period 1 October 2012 to 31 May 2013.

Alternatively Cabinet may wish to end the current arrangements and seek to appoint to the permanent post of Chief Executive. This was not felt to be practical given the period of change the Council was in and the timescales which would be involved in such a recruitment exercise.

A final option would be to end the current arrangements, and to choose not to fill the post on either an interim or permanent basis. Given the immediate challenges facing the Council this option was not considered feasible.

Taking all of the options into account, an extension to the current Interim Chief Executive contract was thought to be the most appropriate solution, continuing to provide consistency, stability and certainty for the Council during a period of significant change and enable the Council to undertake appropriate planning in relation to the Council's future.

Those services currently within the Strategic Services Directorate would continue to report to the Chief Executive throughout the duration of the contract.

The Mayor referred to consultation that had taken place with the Group Leaders on the proposals set out in the report, and a copy of a response from the Leader of the Labour Group was circulated at the meeting, indicating that the Group were not supportive of the continuation of the current arrangements and that they would welcome a permanent solution to be found.

Cabinet considered the following decision options:

Option 1 – Agree the revised arrangements and extend the contract of the Interim Chief Executive as described in the report.

Option 2 – Allow the current contract in respect of the Interim Chief Executive to terminate on conclusion of its current term (on 30 September 2012), and to recruit a permanent Chief Executive.

Option 3 – End the current arrangements, upon expiry of the contract, and not fill the post of Chief Executive.

Resolved that the extension of the current contract for services in respect of the Interim Chief Executive from 1 October 2012 to 31 May 2013, be approved.

(Reason for decision – to ensure ongoing stability during significant change, the failed attempt to recruit to a full time, employed Chief Executive and the timescale which would be involved in making such an appointment.)

CAB20/6/12 North Tyneside Strategic Partnership – Annual Performance Report 2011/12 (All Wards)

Cabinet received a report which provided details of the 2011/12 end of year performance against the priorities outlined in the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) 2010-13.

The end of year 2011/12 performance report, attached at Annex 1, reviewed progress at the end of March 2012 against a set of measures which were being used to judge progress against the priorities within the SCS 2010-13 and showed how the Council was performing both overall and also by priority area in relation to achieving its targets and direction of travel.

At the end of March 2012, overall 34 (74%) of targets had been achieved and 12 (26%) of targets had not been achieved. In relation to direction of travel, overall performance in relation to 25 (54%) measures had improved, with performance in relation to 15 (33%) measures deteriorating. Six (13%) measures had remained the same.

Part 2 of Annex 1 provided detail behind the individual performance measures used to monitor progress against the priorities and aims outlined in the SCS 2010-13. For those measures which had not achieved their annual target, a comment on performance and proposed action was given in the report.

Cabinet considered the following decision option: to note progress at the end of 2011/12 on delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategy priorities, aims and targets and authorise officers to continue working with partners on joint delivery areas.

Resolved that (1) the progress made in delivering the priorities, aims and targets as outlined in the North Tyneside Strategic Partnership Annual Performance Report 2011/12 and detailed at Annex 1 to the report, be noted; and (2) the proposed actions described in Part 2 of Annex 1, to bring back on track those targets which are the Council's direct responsibility, be approved and officers be authorised to work with partners to jointly deliver partnership targets.

(Reason for decision – as the Accountable Body for the Sustainable Community Strategy 2010-13 the Council has a responsibility to ensure adequate governance arrangements are in place to manage performance and resources to deliver the agreed targets. Cabinet must therefore receive monitoring information on a regular basis and be

assured that progress is being made to achieve the required outturn within available resources.)

CAB21/06/12 North Tyneside Council Strategic Partnership – Quarterly Update (All Wards)

Cabinet considered a report, presented by Mr Peter Hedley, Vice Chair of the North Tyneside Strategic Partnership (NTSP), which provided an update on the work of the Partnership.

In 2011, the Executive had reviewed how they should operate and had agreed a new model for working which would allow them to influence and support the work of the Theme Partnerships more effectively. It had been agreed that future meetings would take a workshop format focused on the following parts of the Sustainable Community Strategy: Regeneration; Quality of Life; Best Start in Life; and Sense of Place.

The first of those workshops had taken place in March 2012 and looked at the Sense of Place theme with a specific focus on tourism. The report gave a background to what had been discussed, including challenges and opportunities, the refresh of the North Tyneside Tourism Strategy.

In this new climate the challenge for tourism was to be able to effectively promote the local offer, while not becoming detached from the wider promotion of the region. The opportunities presented by the establishment of a business led approach through the Local Enterprise Partnership would be to focus upon greater entrepreneurship in the sector and a more coordinated approach to destination management.

It had been agreed that the future tourism strategy for the borough should emphasise ownership across the wider tourism business sector and build upon the existing strengths based upon regular contact with the sector from the Council's tourism team. In order to deliver this it had been agreed that the next tourism strategy should be owned and driven by the NTSP.

The key objectives in the current strategy were to promote the cultural coast; world class events; and gateways from the past and to the future.

The NTSP discussion had considered the strategy in the context of North Tyneside's relationship to the Port of Tyne, as a major conduit for visitors to the area; the promotion of Hadrian's Wall, as a World Heritage Site of international renown; the relationship of tourism to the regeneration agenda; and the relationship of tourism in North Tyneside to the Newcastle/Gateshead Initiative, as the major destination management organisation for the sub-region.

The NTSP Executive had agreed that there was much to build on from the current strategy and more opportunities to work more closely together as partners both within the borough and beyond. The Executive had agreed that a consultation period should be embarked upon to explore further these new opportunities.

The report also provided information in relation to progress/next steps, which had included discussions with North Tyneside Business Forum focusing on the need for local business to be involved in the development of the tourism strategy. As a result a consultation with local businesses would be undertaken. A regular visitor and business survey was now an established part of the annual programme of the Council's tourism team, while regular contact with businesses, hoteliers, attractions and Chambers of

Trade was core to the team's schedule. The annual visitor guide for the Borough was funded by the advertising income from local tourism businesses, reflecting a high degree of confidence in the publication.

It was anticipated that the consultation initiated as a result of the NTSP workshop would shape the priorities for the development of a Tourism Strategy for the Borough for the period 2013-20.

The topic for discussion at the June workshop was the impact of the proposed Welfare Reforms on the delivery of the Quality of Life theme of the Sustainable Community Strategy. A report would be submitted to the August Cabinet meeting.

Cabinet considered the following decision options: either to agree the recommendations as set out in section 1.2 of the report, or alternatively to disagree with the proposals.

The Mayor thanked Mr Hedley for his presentation.

Resolved that (1) the report be noted; and
(2) quarterly updates be submitted to Cabinet on the progress of the work of the North Tyneside Strategic Partnership.

(Reason for decision – to ensure that the delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategy 2010-2013 and the work of the Council's partners is best aligned to the work of the Council.)

CAB22/06/12 Date and Time of Next Meeting

6.00 pm on Monday 9 July 2012

Minutes published on Thursday 14 June 2012.

The effective date for implementation of decisions contained within these Minutes (unless called in by 3 Non-Executive Members for consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee) is 22 June 2012.