

# Cabinet

**10 February 2014**

**Present:** N Redfearn (Elected Mayor) (in the Chair)  
Councillors CA Burdis, EN Darke, F Lott, R Glindon,  
I Grayson, JLL Harrison, CB Pickard, L Spillard and  
JJ Stirling

**In Attendance:** A Caldwell (Age UK North Tyneside)  
L Goodwin (North Tyneside VODA)  
R Layton (JTUC)  
A Oghene (Young Mayor)  
D Rose (Business Representative)  
M Shea (Northumbria Police)  
D Titterton (Voluntary Sector)  
A Young-Murphy (North Tyneside Clinical Commissioning  
Group)

## **CAB172/02/14 Apologies**

Apologies were received from M Cushlow (North Tyneside Clinical Commissioning Group) and S Neill (Northumbria Police).

## **CAB173/02/14 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest or dispensations reported.

## **CAB174/02/14 Minutes**

**Resolved** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2014 and the Extraordinary meetings held on 15 January 2014 and 30 January 2014, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

## **CAB175/02/14 Report of the Young Mayor**

The Young Mayor informed the meeting that he had completed his appointments to his Young Cabinet team. Portfolio positions were based around topics that interested or affected young people. The result of the election for the position of UK Member of Youth Parliament would be known on 4 April 2014.

The Young Mayor reported on the following activities in which he and/or Young Cabinet members had been involved:

- Team building weekend with 35 youth councillors at High Borran.
- Meeting with the House of Objects managers. The Young Mayor was interested in developing sessions for young people who were affected by bullying.
- Organising a celebration event for International Women's day on 8<sup>th</sup> March.
- Involved in the work around improving the Authority's website.
- Initial work had commenced on the Spring edition of TEENZ magazine, with its theme being the Environment and would include articles on recycling and carbon footprint.
- The Community Safety Group had continued their meetings with older people in the community. The intergenerational project was ongoing.

- The Youth Activities Reference Group had started planning 'The Event'. This would be the Festival's fourth year and auditions for bands and performers would take place soon

The Young Mayor was thanked for his report.

### **CAB176/02/14 Beamish Museum Letter of Support (All Wards)**

Cabinet considered a report requesting approval to add the Authority's signature to a letter of support being prepared as part of Beamish Museum's application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for £10.75m funding towards a circa £15m scheme to develop a number of attractions within the Museum over a five year period.

On 9 December 2013 Cabinet had agreed to proposals to withdraw from the existing Joint Committee arrangements governing Beamish Museum and to transfer the existing museum assets to the Beamish Museum Limited (Minute CAB144/12/13 refers). The Authority would in future participate in a newly established Regional Stakeholder Group to advise on the development of the Beamish Museum. It was noted that the re-constitution of the Museum had not been finalised and the current constitutional arrangements in respect of the Museum were still in place.

The Museum had plans to develop the Museum further from 2015 to 2020, extending the period covered by the Museum from 1820 to 1950. Beamish Museum Limited intended to apply for a £10.75m grant from HLF and planned to find around £4.5m of match funding from other grant applications, from The Business Friends of Beamish, existing museum reserves and income to be generated over the life of the project.

The Museum had provided detailed plans of how it would fund the match funding required from its own reserves and projected cash surpluses, which Finance Officers from Sunderland City Council had examined and reviewed and considered to be prudent and realistic. The Museum had also been successful in the past in attracting various grant funding. The Museum Director had indicated that the scale of the programme could be scaled down accordingly in the very unlikely event of lower trading surpluses or a reduction in grant funding. The bid for funding from HLF was still in the early stages and the programme may be modified to match the resources available.

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 Finance and Commercial Services, in consultation with the Head of Law and Governance, be authorised to approve the wording of the letter of support and provide to the funder such necessary letters of support, as appropriate; and (2) if necessary, a further report be submitted to a future Cabinet meeting detailing the financial and legal implications for the Authority of Beamish Museum Limited accepting a grant from HLF if the application is successful.

(Reason for decision – this will allow the application for funding for Beamish Museum Limited to be made to support a circa £15m investment in Beamish Museum.)

### **CAB177/02/14 Tender for the Supply of Goods for Furnished Tenancy Scheme (All Wards)**

Cabinet considered a report requesting approval to carry out a tendering exercise for the establishment of a framework agreement for the supply of goods to the Authority for the Furnished Tenancy Scheme by one provider.

The Authority had been providing a Furnished Tenancy Scheme since 1996. The Scheme had first started as a 20 pack pilot, had met with popular demand and had now grown in size to over 1,300 customers. Under the scheme a furnished tenancy could be provided to new tenants for an extra weekly charge.

Under the current arrangements all the furniture items were purchased from a local furniture supplier who provided an 'end to end' service that included delivery, collections, cooker connections and repairs. The Authority then leased furniture packages to tenants in the form of a furnished tenancy.

The contract with the current provider would expire on 29 June 2014. Undertaking a tender process would ensure the continued delivery of the Scheme to tenants and ensure that value for money was achieved by the Authority.

The Scheme aimed to support its customers in sustaining their tenancies by providing an excellent service; meeting the Furnished Tenancy Scheme's customers' basic furnishing needs; and running effectively and efficiently. The Scheme had a current income of approximately £1.25 m.

The proposed contract would be for a term of 2 years with the potential to extend for a further 2 years and would provide the following:

- furniture which met customers' differing needs.
- furniture in a flexible way which allowed for the return and provision of new items when required.
- good quality furniture and white goods.
- adherence to and monitoring of agreed Service Standards reported to North Tyneside Homes quarterly.
- demonstration of commitment to both the equality and diversity of their staff and customers.
- Support for local employment and training.
- A robust environmental policy to minimize negative environmental impact.
- Demonstration of commitment to using customer complaints and feedback to improve.

Officers had looked into the possibility of working with neighbouring councils, details of which were given in the report. Other schemes did not offer value for money when compared against the current/proposed scheme operated by the Authority.

Officers had also looked at two regional Procurement Consortiums (the Northern Housing Consortium and the North East Purchasing Organisation) in relation to the provision of furniture. However, no framework contracts for the types of goods and services required to meet the needs of the scheme existed.

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 commencement of a procurement exercise to appoint a sole supplier to a framework agreement for the supply of goods for the Furnished Tenancy Scheme, be approved; and  
(2) authority be delegated to the Head of Housing, in consultation with the Head of Law and Governance and the Head of Finance and Commercial Services, to approve the tender specification and appoint the supplier who provides the most economically advantageous tender to the Authority on terms and conditions to be agreed by the Head of Law and Governance.

(Reason for decision – procurement will commence immediately to ensure the Authority is ready to award a new contract to start later in 2014. This will ensure continuity of service provision.)

### **CAB178/02/14 Complaints Service Annual Report 2012-13 (All Wards)**

Cabinet considered a report which detailed complaint related activity during 2012-13, in compliance with the requirement to publish an Annual Report on Complaints under the relevant statutory complaint legislation.

The Authority undertook millions of transactions with its 201,400 residents, and substantial numbers of visitors to the Borough, throughout the year. Against that background, the number of complaints received by the Authority remained consistently very low, reflecting the excellent services customers received and the Authority's ability to resolve swiftly any issues that did arise at the first point of contact.

The number of formal complaints had, for the first time in many years, decreased during 2012-13. This was likely to be as staff had resolved issues at the first point of contact therefore negating the need to formalise the complaint. Complaints leaflets tailored to Corporate, Social Care Services and young people were widely available in the Authority's buildings and to download from the Authority's website. It was also now very easy for customers to contact the Authority on-line and Social Care Service users were provided with a complaints leaflet at the first point of contact.

Customer satisfaction with the complaints process remained relatively high and the Authority continued to resolve the vast majority of complaints at Stage 1 of the procedure. The Authority welcomed complaints as valuable feedback from its customers, and complaint outcomes provided valuable lessons learned to further improve and enhance the Authority's services and procedures.

The Authority operated statutory complaint procedures for Adult Social Care and Children and Young People's Services and Public Health. It also provided a Corporate Complaints Procedure for all other services. The Customer and Member Liaison Office (CMLO) Manager was the main contact with the offices of Local Government Ombudsman and Housing Ombudsman, (LGO and HO) responding to initial enquiries, gathering information and arranging access to files and interviews of staff under the instruction of the LGO and HO investigators and the CMLO providing advice and assistance to Council Officers who may be subject of a complaint. All work in supporting the operation of these services was undertaken by the CMLO within Law and Governance.

In 2012-13 the Authority had responded to LGO enquiries in a timely fashion and was well within the required timescale for response of 28 days. The LGO's Annual review of complaints 2012-13 was attached as Appendix 2 of the report.

The HO came into being on 1 April 2013. The Authority had also assumed responsibility for managing complaints against the Public Health Service from this date. Complaints referred to the HO and relating to Public Health would be referred to in the Annual Report for 2013/14.

The Authority's Complaints Service Annual Report for 2012-13 was attached at Appendix 1 of the report. The overall number of formal complaints had dropped by 9% from 654 in 2011-12, to 602 in 2012-13. The number of Corporate Complaints received had dropped by 10%, from 590 in 2011-12 to 535 in 2012-13.

The decrease in complaints related to several service areas, the main reduction being in areas concerning Kier North Tyneside, where complaints had dropped from 245 to 209, and Environmental Services, where 80 complaints during 2011-12 had decreased to 56 in 2012-13. In addition complaints about Revenues and Benefits had dropped from 31 in 2011-12 to 13 in 2012-13. There had however been an increase from 49 to 76 in Business and Economic Development. Further detail was contained in the Annual report.

The Authority recognised that it was important to deal with complaints well as this was central to providing a good customer service. Services aimed to put things right and learn from the complaints so that the Authority could continually improve its services.

The number of Social Care complaints (relating to both Adult Social Care and Children and Young People's Services) had increased from 64 in 2011-12 to 67 in 2012-13, a rise of 4%. This equated to an increase of 5 cases in Children Social Services and a reduction of 2 cases in Adult Social Care. Further detail was contained in the Annual report.

A survey of complainants' experiences of, and satisfaction with the complaint services undertaken in respect of complaints handled during 2012-13 had revealed that the majority of those responding found it easy to find information about the service and were happy with the length of time taken to respond to their complaint and the content of the response letter.

One key aim of the complaint process was 'learning' from complaints and this was a core driver in all future developments. A number of changes had been made to procedures and practice in services as a result of complaints resolved during 2012-13. Examples were detailed in the Annual Report.

A continuing area of development was partnership working, where services were provided on behalf of the Authority in conjunction with other public, voluntary and private sector organisations. Such change had potential for complaint processes to become complex, so arrangements were in place to ensure the customer's experience was as straightforward as possible. Securing the efficient handling of complaints was a vital component of ongoing arrangements with current and potential future partners.

The Customer Relationship Management System (CRM) had become fully utilised from 1 April 2013, for managing low level complaints, Ombudsman cases and all formal complaints against the Authority, as well as comments and compliments received by the CMLO. The system was highly automated and networked to all service departments of the Authority and partner organisations. The system produced detailed automated monthly reports.

Complaints were now widely recognised as integral to the provision of quality services at both individual and strategic levels. The Authority's successful history and current good practice in effective complaint handling would be an integral service improvement driver in the current rapidly changing culture. The demands of maintaining, and increasing levels of customer satisfaction, coupled with organisational changes across public and partner sectors, would be well supported by the current robust complaint handling procedures and electronic system in place.

There was consensus that the Authority could only know what to address/ improve from the complaints it received. A request was made for Heads of Service to share details of complaints relating to each Portfolio area with the relevant Cabinet Member. Issues could then be discussed and required remedial action implemented.

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 and request further analysis be undertaken and information provided.

**Resolved** that (1) the complaint related activity during 2012-13 as set out in the Complaints Service Annual Report for 2012-13 (Appendix 1 of the Report), be noted; (2) the Complaints Service Annual Report for 2012-13, be approved and the Head of Law and Governance be authorised to publish the Report; and (3) the Local Government Ombudsman's Annual Review of complaints concerning North Tyneside Council for 2012-13 (Appendix 2 of the Report), be received.

(Reason for decision – the Authority is required to publish an Annual Report on Complaints. Publication of an Annual Report also supports community engagement, and promotes transparency and opportunities for organisational improvement.)

### **CAB179/02/14 North Tyneside Surface Water and Drainage Partnership – Quarterly Update (All Wards)**

Cabinet considered a report which gave an update on progress of the North Tyneside Surface Water and Drainage Partnership.

At its meeting on 2 October 2013 the Partnership had:

- received a presentation from the Environment Agency of an overview of their work and responsibilities as a risk management authority. The Partnership welcomed the broad range of work underway and supported the need to continue to work in close partnership to address the ongoing risk of flooding across North Tyneside.
- noted the update on the Flood Season Plan/Preparedness that covered the responses Capita had taken, the lessons learned and what improvements could still be made.
- noted the progress of the North Tyneside Flood Risk Management Strategy. It was a statutory requirement to have such a strategy and it was originally scheduled to be published by the Autumn. There had been some resource and timescale slippage issues that impacted on the progress. The strategy included a section on funding and how schemes would be implemented. The public consultation was to be available on the website from the beginning of January 2014.
- noted the progress of the Flood Risk Implementation Plan which highlighted the major and minor projects that had been completed or a work in progress and the plans for the next quarter.
- received a copy of the flood pack made to support community preparedness and resilience. This included a briefing on the progress being made around Community Preparedness including the flood warden scheme; a copy of the news release that was published on the 6 August; the draft agenda for the Flood Warden orientation event being held on the 23 November; a draft copy of the Flood Warden Handbook; and the leaflet produced by Capita that was on the website – with information on the Flood Risk Implementation Plan schemes.

A copy of the draft minutes from the meeting was attached at Appendix 1 of the report.

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Environment also affirmed the outcome of the Partnership's meeting held on 8 January 2014, particularly in relation to works to be carried out at Fairfield Green, Monkseaton.

Concern was raised that affected residents were not being kept updated on the progress of schemes both underway and proposed in the Borough and Officers were requested to ensure that this happened in the future.

Cabinet considered the following decision option: to agree the recommendations as set out in section 1.2 of the report.

**Resolved** that the North Tyneside Surface Water and Drainage Partnership Quarterly Update, be noted.

(Reason for decision – so that the work of the Partnership can progress.)

### **CAB180/02/14 Safer North Tyneside Community Safety Strategy 2014-2019 (All Wards)**

Cabinet considered a report which presented the final proposals for the Safer North Tyneside Partnership's Community Safety Strategy 2014-2019 and requested approval pursuant to the Council's Budget and Policy Framework rules.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998, as amended by the Police Reform Act 2002, Police and Justice Act 2006, the Police and Crime Act 2009 and Crime and Disorder Regulations 2011, placed a duty on 'responsible authorities' to work together, with other agencies, to tackle crime, disorder, substance misuse and reoffending within the community. The responsible authorities for North Tyneside were North Tyneside Council, Northumbria Police, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority, Northumbria Probation Trust and North Tyneside Clinical Commissioning Group.

It was a statutory requirement for Community Safety Partnerships (known in this borough as Safer North Tyneside) to prepare an annual 'strategic assessment' of crime and disorder issues impacting on the local community and for this to shape how the Partnership responded to emerging issues. This process informed the Community Safety Strategy and an annual review of that Strategy.

The current Community Safety Strategy covered the period April, 2011 to March 2014. The Partnership was now required to undergo a formal review process. Previously Community Safety Partnerships were required, statutorily, to review their strategy every 3 years. However, in 2011 this requirement was repealed. At a meeting of the Safer North Tyneside Board on 17 April, 2013 the Partnership agreed that its next strategy should cover the period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2019.

At its meeting on 10 June 2013 Cabinet had considered a report setting out the initial proposals in respect of the Community Safety Strategy 2014-2019, and detailing the process for the development of the Strategy (Minute CAB22/06/13 refers).

Under the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules the initial proposals had been presented to Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 2 September, 2013. Comments received had been considered by the Cabinet Member and as a result additional engagement took place with school pupils and also with previous offenders to gain an insight to their perceptions and experiences, specifically looking at reasons for reoffending.

The final proposals for the Strategy had been presented to Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 6 January, 2014, when the proposals had been noted.

The draft Strategy had been developed using a robust evidence base that analysed the levels and patterns of crime, disorder, substance misuse, reoffending and behaviour adversely affecting the environment in the area and through engagement with elected members, partner agencies and the public.

The report gave details of the Strategy's priorities, which were based around Crime, Disorder, Offending and Community Concerns and Confidence.

Safer North Tyneside had agreed an Action Plan that detailed how Partners would work together to address the priorities identified by communities. A number of success measures had been included in the Action Plan to help Safer North Tyneside monitor progress. The Partnership had been structured to provide better outcomes and an improved responsiveness to emerging community safety issues, details of which were provided in the report.

Cabinet was informed that North Tyneside remained the safest Metropolitan Borough in England and it was felt that as much publicity as possible should be given to the actions being delivered to address community safety issues in the Borough to promote reassurance and confidence.

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 and request that other proposals are developed for consideration.

**Resolved** that (1) the final proposals in respect of the Community Safety Strategy 2014-2019, in the form of the draft Strategy attached at Appendix 1 and Action Plan attached at Appendix 2, be approved; and  
(2) the final proposals in respect of the Strategy be referred to Council for consideration and approval.

(Reason for decision – it will ensure that an up to date Community Safety Strategy is in place to respond to the priorities of residents and the key issues affecting the community and to further enhance the Borough as a safe and attractive place to live.)

### **CAB181/02/14 Exclusion Resolution**

**Resolved** that under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and having applied a public interest test as defined in Part 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 (Minutes CAB182/02/14, CAB184/02/14 and CAB185/02/14) and Paragraphs 2 and 3 (Minute CAB183/02/14) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

### **CAB182/02/14 Claim For Overpaid Landfill Tax (All Wards)**

Cabinet considered a report which sought approval to progress with a claim against Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) for overpaid Landfill Tax and interest.

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 the Head of Environment and Leisure and the Head of Finance and Commercial Services, in consultation with the Elected Mayor and Cabinet Members for Finance and Resources and Housing and Environment, be authorised to progress the claim against HMRC for overpaid Landfill Tax and interest with external consultants.

(Reason for decision – to allow the process to potentially recover up to £9.1 million in overpaid Landfill Tax and interest from HMRC to commence. To do this requires a claim to be made through the High Court. The Authority does not have the specialist financial and legal resources to mount such a claim in-house and has therefore engaged an external consultant to act on its behalf.)



### **CAB183/02/14 Empty Homes “Lease to Let Scheme” (All Wards)**

The Elected Mayor had agreed to an urgent report being considered at this meeting on the Empty Homes ‘Lease To Let Scheme’.

In accordance with the urgency provisions contained in the Council’s Constitution, approval had been obtained from the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to the report being considered as a matter of urgency and from the Chair of Council that the decision would not be subject to call-in.

The reason for urgency was to ensure the continued co-operation of the empty property owners. This will enable the Authority to ensure that the four long term empty properties referred to in the report were brought back into use for residential purposes and to address ongoing concerns and detriment caused within the local community.

Cabinet considered a report which sought approval for the Authority to enter into leasing or other legal arrangements with private owners to enable four long term empty homes to be brought back into use for residential purposes.

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 delegated authority be granted to the Client Manager (Property) in consultation with the Head of Housing, Cabinet Member for Housing and Environment, the Elected Mayor, the Head of Finance and Commercial Services and the Head of Law and Governance, to agree terms and enter into the leases or other legal arrangements to enable the empty properties as detailed in the report and any other future properties of a similar nature to be brought back into use for residential purposes.

(Reason for decision – it will provide the best possible opportunity for the Authority and the owners of the properties to secure their reuse on a voluntary basis.)

### **CAB184/02/14 Wallsend Town Hall and the Former Wallsend Police Station (Wallsend Ward)**

The Elected Mayor had agreed to an urgent report being considered at this meeting on Wallsend Town Hall and the Former Wallsend Police Station.

In accordance with the urgency provisions contained in the Council’s Constitution, approval had been obtained from the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to the report being considered as a matter of urgency and from the Chair of Council that the decision would not be subject to call-in.

The reason for urgency was that the proposed purchaser of the Town Hall intended to begin work on the Police Station imminently if the Authority did not approve the property transactions detailed in this report.

Once refurbishment work on the Police Station had begun, the developer would be committed financially to the Police Station and therefore the opportunity for the Authority to secure beneficial future uses for the Town Hall and the site of the Police Station would be lost.

Cabinet considered a report which sought approval to agree two property transactions that would secure future beneficial uses for both Wallsend Town Hall (the Town Hall) and the site of the former Wallsend Police Station that would add significant value to the Authority’s commitment to the ongoing regeneration of Wallsend Town Centre.

Cabinet considered the following decision options:

Option 1 – approve the recommendations at paragraph 1.2 of the report and declare the Town Hall surplus to the Authority’s requirements and available for disposal to the owner of the former Wallsend Police Station simultaneously with the acquisition of the Police Station.

Option 2 – not approve the recommendations at paragraph 1.2 of the report, but declare the Town Hall surplus to requirements.

Option 3 – not approve the recommendations at paragraph 1.2 of the report.

**Resolved** that (1) the Town Hall be declared surplus to requirements and the Client Manager – Property, in consultation with the Elected Mayor, the Head of Environment and Leisure, the Head of Finance and Commercial Services and the Head of Law and Governance, be authorised to agree final terms for the transfer of the freehold interest in the Town Hall simultaneously with transfer of the freehold interest in the former Wallsend Police Station to the Authority;

(2) the Client Manager – Property, in consultation with the Elected Mayor, be authorised to make minor amendments to disposal boundaries of the Town Hall if necessary, as permissible within the Authority’s legal powers and/or as land owner;

(3) the Client Manager – Property, in consultation with the Elected Mayor, the Head of Environment and Leisure, the Head of Finance and Commercial Services and the Head of Law and Governance, be authorised to complete negotiations for the transfer of each property in accordance with all relevant legal requirements, the Authority’s Constitution and Financial Regulations;

(4) the Client Manager - Property be authorised to agree terms and complete negotiations for a lease back to the Authority of agreed space within the Town Hall for use as an IT server room and associated rooftop transmitter; and;

(5) the Client Manager - Property be authorised to deal with all ancillary matters arising that are consistent with the preceding resolutions.

(Reason for decision – the Town Hall will remain in beneficial use and will be improved with the potential to bring employment opportunities to Wallsend – this will bring positive regeneration and economic benefits for local residents. There will be a saving to the Authority as the ongoing holding costs associated with the Town Hall will be avoided. The building may also be subject to vandalism and deterioration if it closed with no forward use in place. It will alleviate the need for the Authority to market the Town Hall with its listed status potentially limiting future uses. The funding that is in place for the Police Station renovation can be used to improve the Town Hall. The Authority will be able to reconsider the comprehensive redevelopment of property to the north of High Street East, including the Police Station.)

### **CAB185/02/14 Whitley Bay Seafront Regeneration (Whitley Bay Ward)**

The Elected Mayor had agreed to an urgent report being considered at this meeting in relation to Whitley Bay Seafront Regeneration.

In accordance with the urgency provisions contained in the Council’s Constitution, approval had been obtained from the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to the report being considered as a matter of urgency and from the Chair of Council that the decision would not be subject to call-in.

The reason for urgency was that the owner of the properties required the completion of the acquisition by 10 February 2014 and negotiations to acquire the properties had remained ongoing up to the publication of this report.

Cabinet considered a report which sought approval to acquire five properties on Whitley Bay Seafront that would significantly improve the Authority's coastal regeneration proposals for the area.

Cabinet considered the following decision options:

Option 1 – agree to the acquisition and future disposal of all five properties on the terms and conditions outlined in the report.

Option 2 – agree to the acquisition and future disposal of a number of the properties on the terms and conditions outlined in the report.

Option 3 – decline the opportunity to acquire the properties.

**Resolved** that (1) the Client Manager-Property, in consultation with the Elected Mayor, the Head of Environment and Leisure, the Head of Finance and Commercial Services and the Head of Law and Governance, be authorised to complete the acquisition of the properties detailed in the report;

(2) the Client Manager-Property, in consultation with the Elected Mayor, the Head of Environment and Leisure, the Head of Finance and Commercial Services and the Head of Law and Governance, be authorised to agree minor amendments to the final terms and conditions of acquisition as considered appropriate;

(3) the Authority's Contingency budget and its subsequent allocation in the current financial year in order to cover the costs of acquiring the properties, be reinstated;

(4) the properties be held as surplus assets and available for disposal, if required, with a further report to follow detailing the full financial and legal implications of each disposal;

(5) the Head of Law and Governance be authorised to enter into appropriate contractual arrangements in compliance with the Authority's Contract Standing Orders; and

(6) the Client Manager-Property be authorised to deal with all ancillary matters arising that are consistent with the preceding resolutions.

(Reason for decision – the acquisition of all five properties as cleared sites will add immediate and significant value to the Authority's regeneration proposals for Whitley Bay Seafront. It will demonstrate the Authority's commitment to delivering real progress in the regeneration of the area.)

### **CAB186/02/14 Date and Time of Next Meetings**

6.00pm on Wednesday 24 February 2014 (Extraordinary Meeting) (If required).

6.00pm on Monday 10 March 2014 (Ordinary Meeting)

### **Minutes published on Thursday 13 February 2014.**

**With the exception of the decisions set out in Minutes CAB183/02/14, CAB184/02/14 and CAB185/02/143, decisions contained within these Minutes may be implemented (unless called in by 3 Non-Executive Members for consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee) immediately following the expiry of the call-in period; i.e. 5.00pm on 20 February 2014.**

**The decisions contained in Minutes CAB183/02/14, CAB184/02/14 and CAB185/02/14 are not subject to call-in and may be implemented immediately.**