

Cabinet

9 June 2014

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

In Attendance: M Almond (Voluntary and Community Sector)
D Bavaird (Business Sector Representative)
P Clow (North Tyneside Clinical Commissioning Group)
A Oghene (Young Mayor)

Councillor S Graham

CAB1/06/14 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor CB Pickard, A Caldwell (Age UK North Tyneside), M Cushlow (North Tyneside Clinical Commissioning Group), R Layton (Joint Trade Union Committee) and S Neill (Northumbria Police).

CAB2/06/14 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest or dispensations reported.

CAB3/06/14 Minutes

Resolved that the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 May 2014 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

CAB4/06/14 Report of the Young Mayor

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

- Arrangements were being finalised for 'The Event'. Tickets were still on sale.
- Arrangements were being finalised for the 'Young Mayor's Summer Games' which would take place on 8 July at Foxhunters Pavilion. Proctor & Gamble had kindly donated a hamper of goods which would be raffled to raise funds. An application for funding made to Community Games had proved successful with £300 being awarded. Capita had also indicated that they were interested in being involved.
- Attendance with the Member of Youth Parliament to an induction for British Youth Council and UK Youth Parliament.
- Over twenty youth councillors and members of the Children in Care Council from North Tyneside had attended the British Youth Council North East Region Convention.
- Attendance at the Chair of Council's volunteer awards meeting, where applications were selected to receive an award.
- Meeting with Nexus to discuss concerns raised by young people. A meeting would also be held with the Cabinet Member for Economic Development. The Young Mayor was eager to be involved in promoting the POP card to young people.
- Funding from the Young Mayor Community Fund had been awarded to Beacon Hill School towards their outdoors gym and West Moor Youth Club for new equipment.
- Visit to the Spanish City Dome. Regeneration of the Dome would be discussed at the next Youth Council meeting.

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- The Young Cabinet Member for Community Safety had attended the Neighbourhood Police Inspectors meeting to give a presentation about the Recycled Teenager project.
- Young Cabinet members from the Environment group had had a meeting with Groundwork Trust staff and were keen to develop a project with them.
- Judging of the No Messing Campaign poster competition.
- Some Youth Councillors and Residents Panel members had taken part in a second member's code of conduct consultation. The views would be collated and passed on to the Standards Committee.
- Youth Councillor James Dutschak Kavanagh received a Youth Achievements Platinum award, the first person in the Borough to receive such an award.
- Consultation event on the Children and Young People's Plan 2014 -2018.

The Young Mayor was thanked for his report and was commended on the work he was doing, especially in relation to the Young Mayor's Summer Games. The Elected Mayor asked that congratulations be conveyed to James Dutschak Kavanagh for his award.

CAB5/06/14 Report from Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Wallsend Customer First Centre (All Wards)

Cabinet received a report from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in relation to the finance and leasing arrangements of the new Wallsend Customer First Centre. Councillor S Graham, Chair of the Committee, was in attendance to present the report.

In undertaking this scrutiny exercise, the Committee had considered reports at two of its scheduled meetings. These reports contained detailed information on the background to this project and the decision making process. Members of the Committee had also visited the Customer First Centre prior to its opening. As a result of the information received, the Committee identified a number of issues and concerns.

The Committee recognised that decisions relating to the Wallsend Customer First Centre had not been taken by the current Cabinet and Administration, but was of the view that Cabinet should reflect on what had happened in relation to the development.

The main concerns raised by the Committee were:

- Cabinet had made a somewhat hasty decision to enter into a very long term leasing arrangement for the Wallsend Customer First Centre and the information requested and considered by Cabinet in making this decision had not been comprehensive enough. The Committee was of the view that evidence was slight and not of the quality and extent expected by this Council.
- Evidence could not be provided to the Committee on the explorations undertaken to find alternative sites or the cost comparisons made to ensure value for money. In addition, no external verification had been undertaken and no benchmarking had taken place to evaluate the costs of the arrangement against those in comparable small towns in the region.
- Concerns in relation to the 2nd floor of the building which was currently not in use. The Committee was disappointed that there were no plans for its use at the time the decision was made to enter into the lease and that 'fitting out' costs were not drawn up at this time, even though this would be a requirement before the 2nd floor could be used. The Committee also questioned the delay in marketing the 2nd floor as a viable work space, as there was no prospect of the space being used in 2014. The Committee highlighted that rent was being paid for unused space, which seemed a waste of resources in these tough times. In addition, access arrangements for this space were very complicated, and would make it very difficult for any independent business to access the top floor. The access arrangements had not been thought through adequately during the development period.

- There was a need for accountability when decisions of this nature were made. The Committee was disappointed with responses suggesting that information was no longer available, as those involved had now left the Authority. It was suggested that a more robust audit trail and evidence of decision making should be available to enable future scrutiny of decisions.
- Value for money of the leasing arrangement given the 30 year financial commitment involved, with no capital asset at the end of the lease, was questioned. There were also concerns about the nature of the 30 year lease at the rent levels given, with no break clause, and with the addition of service charges and internal repair costs. Evidence could not be provided to the Committee on the potential value to New River, the owner of the Forum, of the Council as an entity providing a 30 year anchor tenant paying a rent increase of RPI each year over the lease period. There was no evidence that the Council had sought to use the Council's blue chip status to negotiate incentives from New River, such as rent free periods or other benefits, which could have given more value for money to the council tax payer.
- There were concerns about the 'shelf life' of the building. The Committee had been informed that the building should be good for the period of the term of the lease, but as with any refurbished building no guarantees could be given.
- There were also concerns that the land that was to be cleared at Hedley Court had been dismissed without any great thought about a newly built facility on this land because of the timescales and the need to move quickly. This could and should have been better explained and the arguments for and against given.
- The Committee also had concerns about the review of the use of Council buildings and when this began and when it would be completed. This was given as a reason to the Committee as to why the 2nd floor was not being looked at or marketed at the current time. However the decision to go ahead was taken in December 2012 with no regard to the use of the 2nd floor.

The Committee was of the view that the whole scheme, especially because of high costs, could have been better explained, options explored and debated, and greater consideration given to the project. The Committee also considered that, although it was a good facility, the project reflected a significant amount of expenditure over a long period of time and the Council may not have achieved the best solution possible.

The Committee requested that Cabinet noted the concerns raised by the Committee in relation to this particular project, and consider whether any general lessons could be learnt in relation to decision making on future projects of this nature.

Cabinet was asked to consider the issues raised and recommendations and was required to provide a response to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee within 2 months.

The Mayor thanked the Committee for the report and looked forward to providing a detailed response to Cabinet.

Resolved that the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted and a detailed response to the recommendations be provided at a future Cabinet meeting, no later than August 2014.

(Reason for decision – to respond to the recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.)

CAB6/06/14 2013/14 Provisional 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 2013/14.

As at 31 March 2014 the provisional General Fund revenue outturn position was an under spend of £9.325m. This was an improvement on the £2.162m forecast outturn reported to Cabinet on 10 March 2014 (Minute CAB193/03/14 refers). Services showed an under spend of £1.271m (after accounting for utility costs centrally) at 31 March 2014, an improvement of £1.364m against the year-end projections reported to Cabinet on 10 March 2014. Corporate and Non-delegated items showed an under spend against budget of £9.184m, this included £4.324m unused contingency budget and £1.796m Equal pay provision no longer required. Transfers to reserves of £6.675m would result in a surplus of £2.650m to be carried forward into the Strategic Reserve, as part of the Reserves and Balances Policy.

As part of the 2013/14 final accounts, amounts had been set aside as provision and reserves for known liabilities and uncertainties that still remained in future years.

The Housing Revenue Account had year-end balances of £2.854m, which was £1.148m above budget.

School balances had increased from £6.054m to £6.647m, 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 £50.354m, with a recommendation for Cabinet to approve reprogramming of £12.878m into 2014/15.

The Authority had acted prudently during the year, confirming that the security of the Authority's resources was of greater importance than returns on investments. The level of investments at 31 March 2014 was £18m. The level of borrowing (excluding PFI) was £446.815m.

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.

Resolved that (1) the provisional 2013/14 outturn for the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account and Schools Finance, together with a financial overview of the year, be noted; (2) the decisions made under the Reserves and Balances Policy, be noted; (3) the Authority's Capital Plan spend during 2013/14, and the financing put in place, be noted; (4) further reprogramming of £12.877m within the Capital Plan, be approved; (5) the Council's Treasury Management performance, be noted; and, (6) the 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.)

CAB7/06/14 Response to Overview and Scrutiny Committee Report on Street Lighting (All Wards)

Cabinet considered a report which responded to the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in its report to Cabinet on 7 April 2014, on Street Lighting (Minute CAB216/04/14 refers).

A Sub-Group of the Environment and Culture Sub-Committee had been established in June 2013 to explore the different options for street lighting with a view of reducing energy consumption and to achieve efficiency savings. On completion of the review the Sub-Group presented their findings and four recommendations to Cabinet at its meeting on 11 November 2013 (Minute CAB119/11/13 refers). Cabinet had responded to the report at its meeting on 13 January 2014 and accepted all four recommendations. (Minute CAB165/01/14 refers).

Given the tight timescale for the initial review, the Sub-Group had not had enough time to investigate in detail whether part night switch off was a viable option for selected non residential areas of the Borough, but had agreed that this was something that should be considered as a longer term option. The Sub-Group had recommended that Cabinet give further consideration to the option of part night switch off in non-residential areas (recommendation 4 in the original November 2013 Cabinet report). Cabinet had responded by asking the Sub-Group to reconvene and work with officers to investigate the options available for part night switch off and report back to Cabinet with their findings and recommendations.

The Sub-Group had subsequently been reconvened. It had met with officers on two occasions when it had gathered evidence and discussed the options for part night switch off in non residential areas.

The following two recommendations in support of trialling part night switch off had been identified by the Sub-Group and submitted to Cabinet on 7 April 2014.

Recommendation 1 – Cabinet considers implementing a trial of part night switch off between midnight and 5.30am in the non-residential areas listed in the scheme attached at Appendix Two subject to consultation with Ward Members, and that this is facilitated through extending the Mayflower Central Management System to these areas.

Recommendation 2 – Cabinet ask the Senior Manager of Commercial Partnerships to seek feedback from residents and local businesses once the part night switch off trial has been in operation for three months.

Since 2012, the Authority had been running a part night switch off trial on a section of the A189 dual carriageway covering 46 units. There had been no adverse impacts arising from this initiative and no public complaints.

Cabinet's proposed response to the recommendations was detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

The Cabinet Member for Sustainable Development thanked the Sub-Group for their report

Cabinet considered the following decision options:

- Option 1 – agree the recommendations set out in section 1.2 of the report
- Option 2 – not agree the recommendations set out in section 1.2 of the report
- Option 3 – refer the recommendations set out in 1.2 back for further consideration.

Resolved that the proposed response to the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Street Lighting, as set out in Appendix One of the report, be approved.

(Reason for decision – The part night switch off scheme will reduce energy consumption by 1.3 million kilowatt hours (kwh) per annum. At the current energy cost of 10p per kwh this generates an annual saving in excess of £130,000. The scheme will save 702 tonnes of carbon (CO₂) annually and have a major impact in reducing the Authority's carbon footprint in line with its environmental commitments.

Implementing the scheme set out in appendix two through the use of the Mayflower Central Management System will enable the Authority to vary the lights that are switched off on any particular night in response to any Police, resident or local business concerns and to make alterations for any planned events and to respond quickly to any incidents.)

CAB8/06/14 Traffic Regulation Order –Blanchland Terrace/Drummond Terrace, North Shields (Preston Ward)

Cabinet considered a report detailing an objection received to the proposal to introduce 'no waiting at any time' restrictions on Blanchland Terrace and Drummond Terrace, North Shields at their junctions with a number of adjoining back lanes.

The proposed restrictions had been developed following representation from colleagues in the Authority's waste collection team and local residents and would prohibit parking in the immediate vicinity of the junctions thereby enabling large vehicles to execute the necessary manoeuvres safely to gain access to the back lanes.

One objection had been received in response to the statutory Notice of Intention. The full text of the objection and officer response were included in Appendix 1 of 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 and request that an alternative approach be developed.

Resolved that (1) the objection be set aside in the interests of discouraging obstructive parking at the specified junctions thereby improving vehicular access particularly for refuse collection vehicles; and

(2) the Traffic Regulation Order – North Tyneside (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Loading)(Consolidation) Order 2014 Variation 2014 – Blanchland Terrace/Drummond Terrace, as set out in Appendix 2 to the report, be approved.

(Reason for decision – it will help to discourage obstructive parking in the vicinity of the back lanes in the area thereby improving access particularly for refuse collection vehicles. Although the scheme will result in the loss of a small number of parking places, site observations have shown sufficient alternative provision in the immediate vicinity of the proposed restrictions.)

CAB9/06/14 Traffic Regulation Order –Great Lime Road, Forest Hall (Benton and Killingworth Wards)

Cabinet considered a report detailing an objection received to the proposal to introduce a 'no waiting at any time' restriction on both sides of Great Lime Road between Glebe Road and West Moor Methodist Church in the vicinity of Sambuca Restaurant.

The proposed restrictions had been developed following representation from local residents, ward members and the Police and were intended to address problems created by inconsiderate non residential parking primarily associated with the Sambuca restaurant at this location. This was of particular significance in road safety terms owing to the presence of traffic signals at the junction with Glebe Road, the bus stop adjacent to the restaurant and also the access to the car park at the rear of the restaurant. It was the opinion of officers that vehicles parked at these locations could severely compromise access and road safety.

One objection had been received in response to the statutory Notice of Intention. The full text of the objection and officer response were included in Appendix 1 of 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 and request that an alternative approach be developed.

Resolved that (1) the objection be set aside in the interests of discouraging inconsiderate and unsafe parking in the area specified, thereby improving vehicular access and road safety; and
(2) the Traffic Regulation Order, North Tyneside (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Loading)(Consolidation) Order 2014 Variation Order 2014 – Great Lime Road, as set out in Appendix 2 of the report, be approved.

(Reason for decision - it will help to discourage inconsiderate and obstructive parking on Great Lime Road in the vicinity of Sambuca restaurant thereby improving access and road safety for pedestrians and vehicles in this area. In accordance with the current approach, the restrictions would be reviewed 6 to 12 months after implementation to determine the extent and nature of any potential impact on residential amenity in the surrounding area. An extension of the proposed restrictions will be considered if appropriate.)

CAB10/06/14 Procurement of Banking Services (All Wards)

Cabinet considered a report which sought approval to procure the contract for the provision of banking services for the Authority following the announced withdrawal of the current provider, the Co-operative Bank, from the local authority sector.

The Authority currently had a contractual relationship with the Co-operative Bank plc for its banking services, which had been in place for several years and would expire on 31 March 2015. The Co-operative Bank also provided payment transmission services via the Post Office and the Pay Point networks under a separate contract.

The Co-operative Bank had informed the Authority that, following a review of their core business, a decision had been made to cease providing services to the local authority sector and that it would not seek to renew, extend or re-tender the existing contract.

The Authority therefore needed to re-tender for banking services that were essential to the operation of all services. The Co-operative Bank would continue to provide payment transmission services via the Post Office and Pay Point.

The Authority had been exploring the best path to ensure a smooth transition to a new provider along with ensuring that a cost effective, efficient and inclusive service that met the Authority's business, customer and service needs was in place by April 2015. Although the Authority had no choice but to re-procure its banking services, there were options regarding the approach and timing of the tender process which were detailed in the report.

Initial local research indicated that there were now only three active participants in the local government banking services market likely to submit a tender.

The tender exercise would be undertaken simultaneously with other local authorities in the Region whose banking services contracts operated within a similar timescale. Each Authority would procure their contracts separately using their own procurement and legal requirements. However, the tender process for each Authority would proceed along parallel paths at broadly the same time.

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

Resolved that (1) the commencement of the tender process for the provision of banking services to the Authority, be approved;

- (2) authority to award the contract for banking services for North Tyneside Council be delegated to the Chief Executive (as Chief Finance Officer), in consultation with the Head of Law and Governance and the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources;
- (3) approval be given for the contract to commence on 1 October 2014 for a period of five years with the option to renew annually for a further two years subject to the performance of the appointed service provider; and
- (4) the Head of Law and Governance be authorised to sign the necessary contract documentation.

(Reason for decision - the Authority requires the services of a banking provider in order to carry out its financial affairs. The decision of the Co-operative Bank to withdraw its services from the local authority market leaves the Authority with no alternative option but to re-procure its banking services. The current contract expires on 31 March 2015. Without delegated powers being approved for the Chief Finance Officer the contract award would be delayed with a risk that the Authority would be without a bank or that less favourable terms may be agreed due to time pressure.)

CAB11/06/14 Procurement of Insurance Contract (All Wards)

Cabinet considered a report requesting approval to carry out a tendering exercise for the Insurance Service.

The current insurance arrangements would expire on 30 September 2014. A three year contract period was proposed as it should allow an insurer to spread its fixed costs over three years rather than one and would also give a greater assurance of cover over a longer period of time. These factors should enable the Council to obtain more competitive terms and/or receive a long-term agreement discount. A contract period of more than one year would also allow the Council to make savings on tendering costs as a tendering exercise would be carried out once every three years rather than every year. The full portfolio of insurance that would be tendered for included:

- Public Liability
- Employers Liability
- Property
- Motor
- Officials Indemnity
- Fidelity Guarantee
- Balance of Perils
- Claims Handling
- Money
- Leasehold/Commercial

Preparation for the tender had already commenced with updates of services delivered and assets held being collated from all services.

Cabinet considered the following decision options:

Option 1 - Proceed with a tender for Insurance provisions with a 3 year Long Term Agreement (LTA) with an option to extend for a further 2 years.

Option 2 - Proceed to tender for insurance provisions for 5 years.

Option 3 - Proceed to tender for insurance provisions for 1 year.

Resolved that the Chief Executive be authorised to carry out a procurement exercise for the procurement and award of the Insurance Service for a period of 3 years with an option to extend for a further 2 years.

(Reason for decision - a three year contract period should allow an insurer to spread its fixed costs over three years rather than one and would also give a greater assurance of cover over a longer period of time. A contract period of 1 year will not allow insurers to evaluate the full extent of risk undertaken and this could lead to premium loading. A 5 year contract does have benefits in terms of LTA discounts, previously this approach has secured a 5% saving, however the option to review the contract after 3 years gives the Council an opportunity to take advantage of existing terms, re-negotiate terms or re-tender.)

CAB12/06/14 NEPO Transformation – Introduction of New Arrangements for the Leadership and Governance of the NEPO Service and Regional Collaborative Procurement (All Wards)

Cabinet considered a report which explained the revised arrangements for the leadership and management of the North East Procurement Organisation (NEPO) Service and Regional Collaborative Procurement, and detailed the implications for the Authority.

NEPO was responsible for organising collaborative contracts through which authorities purchased goods and services. It was governed through a Shared Services Arrangement entered into on 28 October 2010 by the 12 local authorities in the North East (the “LA12”). Gateshead was currently the host authority for NEPO (i.e. employing the NEPO staff and holding its financial assets) and supported NEPO’s work with the provision of a range of professional and support services. The LA12 paid an annual subscription to contribute to NEPO’s costs.

Following an extensive review during 2013 and subsequent reports to the Regional Chief Executives’ Group, the Executive Sub-committee of NEPO, and to the ANEC Leaders and Elected Mayors’ Board it had been resolved to take steps to improve NEPO’s efficiency and effectiveness. This included exploring options, and then to set up arrangements, for the purpose of transforming the way in which regional procurement would be delivered in future.

Consequently it had been agreed by the NEPO Joint Committee to:

- create a revised accountability structure and strengthen member involvement with the NEPO Service via ANEC (the Association of North East Councils Ltd);
- clarify strategic leadership through ANEC’s management structure and governance;
- improve the operational relationships between NEPO and the LA12;
- improve credibility for NEPO and provide clarity about its new role and agree areas of common purpose managing delivery and harnessing collaboration;
- apply a flexible approach to local sub regional and regional procurement using NEPO or alternatives within or outside the region;
- clarify what activities and procurements should be led under the NEPO branding for the LA12; and
- create sustainability for the NEPO Service via appropriate funding arrangements and business plans.

At its meeting on 9 April 2014 the NEPO Executive Sub-Committee had approved a detailed report outlining new and revised functions and objectives for the NEPO Service and future collaborative procurement activity. It had proposed establishing new arrangements for the governance of the NEPO Service and for regional collaborative procurement generally via ANEC.

It had been agreed that the NEPO Joint Committee should be disestablished and new governance and delivery arrangements be created under ANEC.

Decisions were yet to be considered formally by ANEC and a final meeting of NEPO's Joint Committee had taken place on 2 June 2014.

The changes would require the LA12 to terminate the current Joint Committee arrangement and, through ANEC, agree a new arrangement under the Leaders and Elected Mayors' Group (as ANEC's Member Management Board). This would make strategic direction and advice available through the proposed member-led Collaborative Procurement Sub-Committee advised by two lead Directors of Resources from the LA12 on behalf of the Directors of Resources Group. Under this proposal issues could, if necessary, be referred to the Regional Chief Executives' Group.

Local Authorities would appoint members to the NEPO Collaborative Sub-Committee as appropriate.

The report provided details of the responsibilities of the Leaders and Elected Mayors' Group of ANEC and the Collaborative Procurement Sub-Committee.

Following completion of a staffing review, transfer of NEPO staff to ANEC would be undertaken in accordance with TUPE regulations. All existing assets and contracts would be passed to ANEC Ltd under the terms of an agreement to be entered into between the 12 constituent authorities of NEPO and ANEC Ltd. The intention was for the new structure and governance to come into effect on 1 July 2014 and for TUPE to apply from 1 August 2014.

North Tyneside was required to appoint an elected member to the Procurement Sub-Committee. The Authority was also required to agree to the changes set out in the report, which would allow it to participate in intended benefits from the new NEPO Structure and governance framework.

Cabinet considered the following decision options:

Option 1 – Approve the recommendations as detailed in paragraph 1.2 of the report.

Option 2 – defer the decision and seek further information regarding the recommendations detailed in paragraph 1.2 of the report.

Option 3 – reject the recommendations detailed in paragraph 1.2 of the report.

Resolved that (1) subject to the Association of North East Council's (ANEC's) formal agreement, the revised governance structure and staffing arrangements as outlined for the administration of the NEPO Service and future collaborative procurement on behalf of the 12 local authorities in the North East, be approved;

(2) Councillor R Glindon, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources be appointed to serve on the Collaborative Procurement Sub-Committee of ANEC;

(3) full Council be recommended to approve any consequential changes to the Constitution to give effect to these revised arrangements; and

(4) the Head of Law and Governance, in consultation with the Elected Mayor, be authorised to approve such further changes to the Shared Services Arrangements as are necessary and to complete them on behalf of the Authority.

(Reason for decision - these proposals will serve to improve the capacity and capability of the LA12 collectively and North Tyneside individually to maximise the benefits of engagement in collaborative procurement both regionally and locally. In so doing they contribute to North Tyneside's own ambitions to generate the local economy and make the best use of resources. This will be rooted in good understanding of individual parties and local/sub-regional communities in order to promote economic growth.)

CAB13/06/14 North Tyneside Local Account for Adult Social Care (All Wards)

Cabinet considered a report which gave an update on the production of the third Local Account for Adult Social Care and sought endorsement before its publication.

Every council in England had been advised to produce an annual report, called the Local Account about the social care services they provided.

The Local Account identified the Authority's priorities for quality and improving outcomes in Adult Social Care. It also replaced the Care Quality Commission's annual assessment of councils as commissioners and instead would be scrutinised and endorsed by both the Health and Wellbeing Board and Healthwatch.

Adult Social Care had worked hard to develop the ideas and content of its first and second Local Accounts, published in 2012 and 2013 respectively, to ensure that its third Local Account was more informative and provided more information about performance during the year.

The Local Account would mirror the key priorities from the Strategic Plan for Adult Social Care and provide an overview of how the service would continue to care and safeguard the most vulnerable residents in a climate of having less money available and the pressure of having an increasing and ageing population, many with complex care needs.

With rising demand for adult social care services, at a time of declining resources, the goal of promoting empowered individuals and communities, able to take control of their own health and wellbeing needs, had never been more important. Developing more models of self care by continuing to support more people to take greater control of their health and wellbeing was a key priority for the Strategic Plan.

Adult Social Care would increasingly converge with other Authority services to ensure that the access or gateway points for support were coordinated and available at the right place and at the right time. This would ensure that support was targeted at those who needed it and would enable a multi-disciplinary approach to the identification and management of vulnerability for those at risk.

The Authority was committed to commissioning quality services that were tailored to the needs of local people and achieved value for money while also delivering positive sustainable outcomes. To achieve this, the Authority would explore a wide range of options for service delivery and make selections based on the greatest whole life value. The Council would continue its commissioning approach to Adult Social Care and would directly provide services when appropriate within the market.

The Local Account detailed Adult Social Care's commitment to customers, their carers and residents of North Tyneside, as well as the work carried out during the year, key performance measures, relevant facts and figures, and the planned work for the year ahead.

Case studies would also be included, focusing on issues around independent living, welfare support, and accessing employment.

Some changes and additions had been made to the Local Account as a result of a national review of Local Accounts, which had identified the areas of strength and weakness for Authorities to consider.

The Local Account for Adult Social Care would include key service delivery and performance highlights from 2013/ 2014 and would include:

- Supporting people to be independent and in control of their lives

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- Adopting a 'gateway' approach, working with other services, to ensure services were accessible and targeted to the right people at the right time
- Providing the right support to the right people at the right time
- Effective Commissioning: Working with Services to provide the care and support
- Financial Performance
- Commitment to engagement

The report also outlined the service delivery aims for 2014/15

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.

The Mayor thanked staff in Adult Social Care for their excellent work in a time of decreasing resources.

Resolved that the publication of the North Tyneside Local Account for Adult Social Care be endorsed.

(Reason for decision – National guidance on the Local Account states that councils are advised to publish and share their performance for 2013/14 and outline plans and priorities for the year ahead to residents, adult social care customers and other stakeholders.)

CAB14/06/14 Road Safety Strategy 2014-18 (All Wards)

Cabinet considered a report which detailed the preparation of the draft North Tyneside Road Safety Strategy for 2014-2018 and sought approval to undertake a process of public consultation in respect of the draft Strategy, prior to returning to Cabinet to request approval of the final Strategy.

North Tyneside Council's current Road Safety Strategy, adopted in January 2010, covered the period 2010-13 and was now due to be renewed. New targets for reducing road casualties at Tyne and Wear level had been set in July 2013 by the former Tyne and Wear Integrated Transport Authority (ITA). The revised draft Road Safety Strategy which had been prepared for North Tyneside, for the period 2014-18, set the framework for meeting these new targets.

North Tyneside's first Road Safety Strategy, introduced in 2004, set out the Authority's commitment to improving safety for all road users, including pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders, motorists and public transport users, and minimising casualties arising from road traffic accidents.

Over the last decade the Authority had continued to promote road safety and measures to encourage road safety continued to be implemented. In particular, since the current Road Safety Strategy was adopted in 2010, the Authority had completed the process of introducing 20mph zones in residential areas and around schools throughout the Borough.

The long-term average number of casualties in road traffic accidents had shown a decreasing trend over the ten years since the adoption of the Council's first Road Safety Strategy.

It was intended that the new strategy would reinforce the Authority's commitment to having a Road Safety Strategy in place which provided a framework to meet the challenging targets set at Tyne and Wear level

The new draft Road Safety Strategy set out the Authority's priorities for road safety for the period 2014-18. The following five draft objectives had been identified as the means to continue to promote and improve road safety in the Borough:

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1. to help people to keep themselves safe and promote road safety, including road safety education;
2. to engage with local residents, communities and partners to develop and implement road safety solutions;
3. to reduce road traffic casualties in line with the challenging targets in the Tyne and Wear Local Transport Plan;
4. to provide an Annual Information Report to Cabinet on road safety which will consider performance, road safety engineering and education issues for the financial year and reviews of works carried out; and
5. to support initiatives which improve healthy and active travel.

The objectives would be supported by a number of actions, which were detailed in the report.

The proposed public consultation would seek the views of a wide range of stakeholders on aspects of the draft Strategy. It was anticipated that the consultation process would commence in July 2014 and continue until around September 2014. Details of the anticipated approach to public engagement on the draft Road Safety Strategy were given in the report and also set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

All comments made as part of the public consultation process would be carefully considered and used to inform the preparation of the final draft Road Safety Strategy, which would be submitted to Cabinet for approval.

A copy of the draft Road Safety Strategy 2014 - 2018 was attached as Appendix 2 of the report.

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.

Resolved that the proposed public engagement process for the draft North Tyneside Council Road Safety Strategy as detailed in the report, be approved.

(Reason for decision – it will enable an up-to-date Strategy to be put in place which demonstrates compliance with the Authority's duty to promote road safety.)

CAB15/06/14 Metro Strategy 2030 Consultation (All Wards)

Cabinet considered a report which requested approval to submit a response from the Authority to the consultation 'Metro Strategy 2030', which was being undertaken by Nexus. The Strategy would deal with the future development of the Metro system to the year 2030. The closing date for receipt of responses was 30 June 2014. Two consultation documents made up the draft strategy: a summary document and a detailed background document.

A demand study undertaken for Nexus, based on low, core and high demand scenarios, predicted that passenger numbers on the existing Metro system, excluding any potential network extensions, would increase by between 28% and 74% by 2030, to between 49 million and 66 million passenger journeys per year. The draft Strategy recognised that passenger growth would be partly dependent on economic development and land use planning in areas served by Metro.

The draft Strategy set out how the Metro fleet could continue to meet current and future passenger demand. It then considered some of the technical aspects of Metro operation. Further topics considered were how Metro could best meet customer requirements in the future; potential arrangements for Metro operation after the end of the current concession;

potential network extensions and possible options for financing of Metro operations in the future.

The report detailed the nine key recommendations of the draft Strategy, which Nexus stated would guide further work towards the development of full business cases and the identification of appropriate future funding sources.

The aims and objectives of the draft Strategy and the full list of recommendations were detailed as Appendix 2 of the report.

The draft strategy did not commit to promoting any extensions to the Metro network, as the continued delivery of service on the existing lines was considered to be paramount. It did however detail seven potential network extensions which Nexus regarded as having the greatest outline potential based on predicted demand and technical feasibility. The costs of any such scheme would be substantial and its future progress would be dependent on a robust business case being developed and a funding package assembled.

One of the seven potential extensions was in North Tyneside: the Northumberland Park to Howdon route would leave the northern loop of the Metro line east of Northumberland Park and run along an existing north-south corridor to join the southern loop of the Metro east of Howdon station, with level crossings at Middle Engine Lane, Silver Fox Way and Earsdon Road. This would pass close to Cobalt Business Park, Silverlink, Tyne Tunnel Trading Estate and West Chirton Industrial Estate, significant employment destinations with prospects for future growth and increased travel demand.

The draft strategy suggested that this potential extension would be built as a segregated off-street alignment similar to the existing Metro network (rather than using street-running trams, as for some other potential extensions) and hence could be served by the same Metro trains used on the existing network. As services could extend onto the existing Metro network, it could also lead to higher service frequencies between Howdon and Newcastle via Wallsend.

The draft strategy detailed other potential network extensions which had been examined at a baseline technical level by Nexus but not included among the seven routes selected: these include Four Lane Ends to Killingworth in North Tyneside. Reference was also made to the Ashington, Blyth and Tyne line, which passed through Northumberland Park, and was the subject of separate proposals being promoted by Northumberland County Council for the possible re-introduction of passenger services.

The draft Strategy also stated that there was 'some potential' for new stations on the existing Metro network, and referred briefly to three sites identified in South Tyneside and Sunderland's development plans as longer-term possibilities, while recognising that other sites may be considered in the future.

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.

Resolved that the Authority submits a response to the consultation; and the draft response attached as Appendix 1 to the report be approved in principle and the Head of Environment and Leisure, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Development, be authorised to make any final amendments to the draft response and submit the final response to the consultation.

(Reason for decision – it will allow the Authority's views on the future development of the Metro system to be taken into account.)

CAB16/06/14 Lockey Park, Wideopen – New Artificial Grass Pitch and Car Parking (Weetslade Ward)

Cabinet considered a report which requested approval to accept the offer of a grant of £99,000 from the Football Foundation to contribute towards the provision of a new Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP), improved car parking and grass pitch improvements at Lockey Park in Wideopen. The report sought approval to proceed with the scheme to improve the facilities as described and as required under an existing section 106 agreement for new sports facilities in Wideopen.

In February 2011, a section 106 agreement between the Authority and Bellway Homes Ltd, in respect of a new housing development in Wideopen, had allocated £210,000 for sports facilities. The allocation had to be spent on new drainage for existing pitches and for sports facilities at Lockey Park and/or alternative sport facilities that the Authority considered necessary to serve any demand arising from the development.

In addition Bellway Homes Ltd had also granted the Authority an additional £64,000 for car parking improvements at Lockey Park.

A consultation exercise with the local community and ward councillors had been carried out and it had been agreed that the sports contribution would be spent on the provision of a new AGP which would link to the existing sports pavilion. The need for the APG was identified in the Authority's Playing Pitch Strategy. Additionally the agreed proposals included an additional 22 car parking spaces and improved drainage to the grass pitches.

Further consultation had been carried out with the Football Association who had encouraged a joint application with Wideopen Juniors FC for match funding from the Football Foundation to help enable the project. A joint bid had been submitted and subsequently £99,000 had been granted towards a 33m x 43m AGP. Wideopen Juniors FC was the football partner for this application and grant offer. Planning approval for the scheme was granted on 26 July 2013. The offer of grant from the Football Foundation had to be accepted before 3 July 2014.

The construction partner for the proposals was Kier North Tyneside. A guaranteed maximum price of £320,000 had been agreed for the AGP and car parking elements of the project. This would leave £53,000 which would initially be set aside as contingency and then subsequently for grass pitch improvements in 2015/16.

Once the new facilities were constructed it was proposed that the resident football club at the sports pavilion (Wideopen Juniors FC) would adopt them and the lease that currently existed between the club and the Authority would be varied to include them. As such there would be no revenue implications for the Authority.

If approved it was anticipated that the project would begin in the summer of 2014 and take approximately four months to complete. The improvements to the existing grass pitches would begin in early summer 2015 and be completed in time for the new football season starting in late summer 2015.

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.

Resolved that (1) the Head of Environment and Leisure in consultation with the Head of Law and Governance and the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture and Tourism, be authorised to accept the offer of the grant of £99,000 from the Football Foundation and to deal with any matters arising from the terms and conditions of the grant offer; and

(2) the Head of Environment and Leisure be authorised to proceed with the development of a new Artificial Grass Pitch, additional car parking and grass pitch improvements at Lockey Park, Wideopen.

(Reason for decision – it will enable an Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) to be funded and provided at Lockey Park, Wideopen. In general terms, this facility will mean that the football club members will not need to travel as far as they currently do to take part in training sessions. Reducing the existing outgoings relating to training at other venues will also have a positive impact on the club's finances and this will help sustain the maintenance and management of the new facilities. The AGP facility will also be available for hire to the local community.

The proposed additional 22 car park spaces will accommodate the increased demand arising from the new AGP and help alleviate existing problems with parking in this area.

The proposed work to the grass pitches will improve drainage and will increase their carrying capacity allowing more activity to take place.)

CAB17/06/14 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 item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

CAB18/06/14 Swans Site Redevelopment (All Wards)

The Elected Mayor had agreed to an urgent report being considered in relation to the Swans Site Redevelopment. In addition, in accordance with the Urgency Provisions contained in the Constitution, the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had agreed to the report being considered at less than five clear days notice and the Chair of Council had agreed to the decisions not being subject to Call-In.

The reason for urgency was as follows:

To enable a significant step forward to be taken to secure the first two new occupiers on the Swans Enterprise Zone site. If negotiations are not concluded with both end users at the earliest opportunity there is a significant risk that they will locate to an alternative site and business rates growth income will not be generated.

Cabinet considered a report which sought approval to the principles for securing the first two new occupiers onto the Swans Enterprise Zone site. The first two negotiations with potential end users had reached a critical point where key decisions by the Authority were required. The report also provides an update regarding the North Eastern Local Enterprise Partnership (NELEP) and Business Rates Growth Income retention.

Members were given the opportunity to ask questions which were responded to appropriately. During discussion a request was made for any decisions relating to the Swans site to be taken by Cabinet as a whole.

Cabinet considered the following decision options:

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

Option 2 – not approve the recommendations as set out in paragraph 1.2, but proceed with borrowing to cover site development costs in order to reduce rental levels to a level acceptable to the market.

Option 3 – Cabinet may not approve the recommendations as set out in paragraph 1.2 and not proceed with borrowing to reduce the rental levels.

Resolved that approval in principle be given to Resolutions (1) to (4) below:

- (1) the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Elected Mayor, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, Head of Business and Economic Development, Head of Environment and Leisure and Head of Law and Governance, be authorised to negotiate and enter into a design and build contract with the Developer Partner, Kier Property, to construct a building fulfilling the requirements of End User 1, the build cost to be funded on completion by the Authority as detailed in the report subject to approval as part of the Authority's 2015-2018 Financial Planning process;
- (2) the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Elected Mayor, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, Head of Business and Economic Development, Head of Environment and Leisure and Head of Law and Governance, be authorised to agree the final terms of a lease for End User 1 as tenant of the Authority;
- (3) the Chief Executive in consultation with the Elected Mayor, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, Head of Business and Economic Development, Head of Environment and Leisure and Head of Law and Governance, be authorised to agree the final heads of terms for a lease from Kier Property to the Authority and the sub-lease for End User 2;
- (4) the Chief Executive in consultation with the Elected Mayor, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, Head of Business and Economic Development, Head of Environment and Leisure, and the Head of Law and Governance, be authorised to deal with all ancillary matters arising consistent with the above Resolutions;
- (5) the update and financial implications in relation to the North Eastern Local Enterprise Partnership (NELEP) and Business Rates Growth Income (BRGI), be agreed and noted; and
- (6) the final decisions in relation to Resolutions (1) to (4) above be taken by Cabinet and an Extraordinary Meeting be convened for this purpose if necessary.

(Reason for decision – this will indicate a clear commitment from the Authority to the Developer Partner and End Users that the required units can be delivered in accordance with requirements. If negotiations are not concluded in a timely fashion with both end users this will delay other occupiers coming to the site and reduce BRGI.)

CAB19/06/14 Date and Time of Next Meetings

6.00pm on Monday 14 July 2014.

Minutes published on Thursday 12 June 2014.

With the exception of Minute CAB18/06/14, the 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 19 June 2014.

The decisions contained within Minute CAB18/06/14 are not subject to Call-In and may be implemented immediately.