



**Record of
Executive
Decisions
published
18/Jan/2013**


Sunderland
City Council

Elaine Waugh
Head of Law and Governance

Civic Centre
Sunderland

18 January 2013

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 18/Jan/2013

Decision Taker: Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Scrutiny Committee

Date decision in force:
28/Jan/2013

Date of decision:
16/Jan/2013

Full description of decision:

To: i. approve establishment of the Company as a local authority owned company on terms set out in report ii. authorise Chief Executive & Executive Director of Commercial & Corporate Services to take all necessary steps & to execute all relevant documents as may be required in order to secure establishment of Company iii. authorise Chief Executive to nominate a member/officer of Council to exercise shareholder rights in respect of Company on behalf of the Council iv. recommend that Council appoints 3 directors to the Board v. approve the award of contract & funding arrangements between Council & Company for delivery of agreed events on terms to be determined by the Executive Director of Commercial & Corporate Services & the Director of Corporate Affairs & Communications in consultation with the Leader & the Portfolio Holder vi. authorise the Executive Director of Commercial & Corporate Services to agree appropriate pension arrangements with T&W Pension Fund in respect of transferring Council employees.

Reasons for decision:

The key reasons remain the same as previously the Cabinet report of July 2012. Approval would enable: - build upon its emerging national reputation for events which is being developed through a new approach to partnership working and delivery of a strategic Place marketing campaign. - continue with ambition to build upon opportunities to grow the local economy by developing and attracting visitors to an increased number of targeted events within the city. - Where traditional structures to support the development of events no longer exist, the proposals will allow the Council to devise innovative solutions to capitalise on potential commercial opportunities for the greater benefit of the city's businesses and residents. - To strengthen the promotion of key policies within the Sunderland Economic Masterplan which has recognised the potential for further development of Sunderland as a visitor destination and as an economic driver for job creation, entrepreneurship and existing business growth.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

The option to continue with the current approach to managing events has been considered as part of the ongoing review process. Such an option is considered unsustainable in the current economic climate.

Title and author(s) of written report:

Establishment of Sunderland Events Management Company - Report of the Director of Corporate Affairs and Communications and the Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services

Contact Officer:

Phil Spooner

Extension:

561 1146

Email:

phil.spooner@sunderland.gov.uk

Is this a key decision: Yes

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information: No

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

None

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 18/Jan/2013

Decision Taker: Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Scrutiny Committee

Date decision in force:

28/Jan/2013

Date of decision:

16/Jan/2013

Full description of decision:

To: (i) note the options set out in the report, and (ii) Agree to the proposal that the Council join the WUN Initiative subject to confirmation that the Green Deal Finance Company has been established and has the funds available to support the initiative as proposed.

Reasons for decision:

It is important that the council plays a role in the delivery of the Green Deal. The programme of works that could be progressed through the initiative will contribute to a number of key priorities for the council. Actively engaging in the initiative will also provide the basis on which the council may be able to influence the delivery of the initiative towards priority targets and communicate a clear offer to local people. A number of engagement options are open to the Council and these range from doing nothing through to becoming a provider in its own right. In summary it is recommended that Partnering with a Provider affords the clearest offer to the residents of Sunderland and offers a good degree of influence to the council at a relatively modest cost. The emerging WUN initiative provides a good mechanism for such a partnering approach.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

The alternatives to the recommended option have been considered. These have been rejected because they do not offer a deliverable option within the appropriate timescales or have insufficient levels of control or influence.

Title and author(s) of written report:

Green Deal Options including the Warm Up North Initiative - Report of the Deputy Chief Executive

Contact Officer:

Lee Cranston

Extension:

561 1160

Email:

lee.cranston@sunderland.gov.uk

Is this a key decision: Yes

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information: No

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

None

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 18/Jan/2013

Decision Taker: Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Scrutiny

Date decision in force:

28/Jan/2013

Date of decision:

16/Jan/2013

Full description of decision:

To approve the procurement and award of a new Stores Service Contract to deliver efficiencies and reduced service costs.

Reasons for decision:

To improve the efficiency of the workshop maintenance functions and result in savings of up to £200,000 per annum.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

Maintaining the existing approach would restrict the ability to make significant savings in an area of high spend and constrain options for rationalising Council depot accommodation.

Title and author(s) of written report:

Procurement of a Stores Service Contract - Report of the Deputy Chief Executive

Contact Officer:

Les Clark

Extension:

561 4501

Email:

les/clark@sunderland.gov.uk

Is this a key decision: Yes

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information: No

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

None

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 18/Jan/2013

Decision Taker: Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Scrutiny Committee

Date decision in force:

16/Jan/2013

Date of decision:

16/Jan/2013

Full description of decision:

To respond to the Government consultation on the National Alcohol Strategy indicating its support for the establishment of a Minimum Unit Price for alcohol in the range of 50 - 60p

Reasons for decision:

To provide a response to the Government consultation on the national alcohol strategy indicating its support for the establishment of a Minimum Unit Price (MUP) for alcohol in order to generate better health and wellbeing and community safety outcomes.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

Do Nothing: The Council could decide not to support a minimum unit price for alcohol. However, a letter indicating regional support for a minimum unit price has already been submitted on behalf of the North East local authorities by ANEC and as such this option is not recommended. Support a MUP, but not to provide an opinion as to the level of pricing: This is not recommended as significant evidence exists on the impact of specific MUP levels to support a decision.

Support the proposals in the Home Office consultation of a 45p MUP: This is not recommended as it would have a lower impact on crime and disorder figures and on the health and wellbeing of Sunderland residents that 50-60p rate. It would also reduce the impact of the regional minimum 50p campaign and further consideration would also need to be given to cross-border purchases if a MUP below that proposed for Scotland (50p) is set.

Title and author(s) of written report:

National Minimum Price of Alcohol Consultation - Report of Deputy Chief Executive, Assistant Chief Executive and Director of Public Health

Contact Officer:

Sarah Reed

Extension:

561 1134

Email:

sarah.reed@sunderland.gov.uk

Is this a key decision: No

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information: No

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

None

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 18/Jan/2013

Decision Taker: Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Scrutiny Committee

Date decision in force:

28/Jan/2013

Date of decision:

16/Jan/2013

Full description of decision:

To recommend to Council to- i) note feedback received during consultation period from - precepting authorities, - public, including representatives/representative groups of Council Tax payers & Council Tax benefit claimants, voluntary organisations & community groups, & also consider the implications of the Government's Transitional Grant Scheme; ii) approve proposed Council Tax Support Scheme described in report & now annexed as Appendix C, to take effect from 1st April 2013; iii) authorise Executive Director of Commercial & Corporate Services to administer Local Council Tax Support Scheme including undertaking consideration & determination of applications for support & authorise Head of Law & Governance to amend constitution accordingly to reflect this; & iv) authorise publication of approved Scheme on Council's website & in any additional manner determined by Executive Director of Commercial & Corporate Services in consultation with Leader of the Council & Cabinet Secretary.

Reasons for decision:

a) The council must have a Local Council Tax Support Scheme approved by 31 January 2013, otherwise, the default scheme will be imposed b) The changes referred to in this report result from Government's reduction in funding. Consultation on the scheme as originally proposed by the Council confirmed that the majority of respondents were in support of the proposals. The scheme which is now recommended in this report has been revised to take into account the Government's Transitional Relief Grant Scheme and it is considered that the amended scheme broadly follows the approach of the original proposed scheme, as referred to in section 6 of the report. Impacts will be closely monitored following the scheme's introduction.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

The alternative option of the default scheme has been considered but rejected on the basis of affordability and lack of alignment, the strategy of a fair and equitable solution; everyone paying something, the individual meeting part of the cost and the Council meeting part of the cost.

Title and author(s) of written report:

Localisation of Council Tax Support Scheme - Report of the Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services

Contact Officer:

Fiona Brown

Extension:

561 1811

Email:

fiona.brown@sunderland.gov.uk

Is this a key decision: Yes

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information: No

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

None

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 18/Jan/2013

Decision Taker: Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Scrutiny Committee

Date decision in force:

28/Jan/2013

Date of decision:

16/Jan/2013

Full description of decision:

To recommend Council to amend the current policy on Council Tax discounts for Empty Properties and Second Homes with effect from 1st April 2013 by: 1. Introducing the Empty Homes Premium of 150% on properties that have been empty and unfurnished for more than 2 years 2. Awarding a discount of 25% on properties that have been empty for a period of up to 12 months that require, or are undergoing structural alterations. 3. Awarding a discount of 25% on properties that are empty and unfurnished for up to 6 months with the exception of properties that are empty and unfurnished that are reoccupied within 1 month where the discount awarded will remain at 100%, and 4. Reducing the discount on Second Homes from 10% to zero.

Reasons for decision:

To review the Council Tax Discount policy of the council for 2013/14 in response to changes in legislation.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

None.

Title and author(s) of written report:

Review of Discretionary Council Tax Discount on Empty Properties and Second Homes - Report of the Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services

Contact Officer:

Sonia Tognarelli

Extension:

561 1851

Email:

sonia.tognarelli@sunderland.gov.uk

Is this a key decision: Yes

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information: No

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

None

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 18/Jan/2013

Decision Taker: Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Scrutiny Committee

Date decision in force:

28/Jan/2013

Date of decision:

16/Jan/2013

Full description of decision:

To recommend Council to amend the current policy on Non-Domestic Rates Discretionary Relief, by removing discretionary relief paid to Academy and Voluntary Aided Schools with effect from 1st April 2013.

Reasons for decision:

To achieve a saving for the authority of approximately £271,000 per year.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

Continue to offer Discretionary Relief in line with our current policy.

Title and author(s) of written report:

Review of the Non-Domestic Rates Discretionary Relief Policy to Academy and Voluntary Aided Schools - Report of the Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services

Contact Officer:

Sonia Tognarelli

Extension:

561 1851

Email:

sonia.tognarelli@sunderland.gov.uk

Is this a key decision: Yes

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information: No

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

Councillors G. Miller and P. Smith declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest as Governors of Academy and Grant Aided Schools and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of the report

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Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Scrutiny Committee

Date decision in force:

28/Jan/2013

Date of decision:

16/Jan/2013

Full description of decision:

To recommend to Council: The report for the calculation of the Tax Bases for the City Council and Hetton Town Council for 2013/2014 be approved. That pursuant to the report and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as amended by Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2012 the amount calculated by Sunderland City Council as its Council Tax Base for the year 2013/2014, shall be £64,094 and for the area of Hetton Town Council shall be £3,122.

Reasons for decision:

To comply with statutory requirements.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

No alternative options are proposed.

Title and author(s) of written report:

Council Tax Base 2013/2014 - Report of the Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services

Contact Officer:

Sonia Tognarelli

Extension:

561 1851

Email:

sonia.tognarelli@sunderland.gov.uk

Is this a key decision: Yes

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information: No

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

None

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 18/Jan/2013

Decision Taker: Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Scrutiny Committee

Date decision in force:

16/Jan/2013

Date of decision:

16/Jan/2013

Full description of decision:

To - (a) note the content of the impact of the provisional Local Government settlement for Sunderland and the potential implications for the development of the Council's Budget for 2013/14, 2014/15 and future years; (b) consider and comment on the key issues and concerns raised in the report, which will be developed into the City Council's formal response by the consultation response date of 15 January.

Reasons for decision:

The outcome of the Local Government Settlement informs the Council of Central government resources to be made available which helps inform the Revenue Budget proposals for 2013/2014.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

No alternative options are proposed.

Title and author(s) of written report:

The Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement for 2013/14 and Indicative Settlement 2014/15 - Report of the Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services

Contact Officer:

Malcolm Page

Extension:

561 1003

Email:

malcolm.page@sunderland.gov.uk

Is this a key decision: No

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information: No

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

None

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 18/Jan/2013

Decision Taker: Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Scrutiny Committee

Date decision in force:

28/Jan/2013

Date of decision:

16/Jan/2013

Full description of decision:

To recommend to Council to approve NNDR1 form of estimated business rates income for 2013/14 in accordance with new regulations which will form basis of necessary allocation of estimated total business rate income for year in the following proportions: - Amount of NNDR to be paid to Central Government - £41,868,381; - Amount of NNDR to be retained by Council - £41,067,939 - Amount of NNDR to be passed to Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority - £838,121 Details of forecast income were set out in NNDR 1 form at Appendix 1 to report which must be submitted to Government following Council approval no later than 31 January 2013. Government notified Councils yesterday of further changes to how income forecast is calculated. Therefore it is recommended that Executive Director of Commercial & Corporate Services be given delegated power to prepare the final version of Appendix 1 if any further amendments are required in consultation with the Leader & Cabinet Secretary, for submission to Council.

Reasons for decision:

To comply with new Government regulations that require Cabinet and full Council to approve the NNDR1 return on an annual basis from 2013/14. The final estimated Business Rates Income Return figures for 2013/14 have also to be formally notified by 31st January 2013 to both the Government and the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

No alternative options are proposed.

Title and author(s) of written report:

Business Rates Income Forecast 2013/14 - Report of the Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services

Contact Officer:

Sonia Tognarelli

Extension:

561 1851

Email:

sonia.tognarelli@sunderland.gov.uk

Is this a key decision: Yes

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information: No

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

None

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 18/Jan/2013

Decision Taker: Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Scrutiny Committee

Date decision in force:

28/Jan/2013

Date of decision:

16/Jan/2013

Full description of decision:

To recommend to Council to approve the provisional budget proposals, as a basis for the continuation of budget consultation, prior to the receipt of the final Local Government Finance Settlement 2013/2014.

Reasons for decision:

To enable constitutional requirements relating to the development of the Revenue Budget to be met.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

There are no alternative options recommended for approval.

Title and author(s) of written report:

Revenue Budget 2013/2014 Proposals - Report of the Chief Executive and Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services

Contact Officer:

Malcolm Page

Extension:

561 1003

Email:

malcolm.page@sunderland.gov.uk

Is this a key decision: Yes

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information: No

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

None

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 18/Jan/2013

Decision Taker: Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Scrutiny Committee

Date decision in force:

28/Jan/2013

Date of decision:

16/Jan/2013

Full description of decision:

To approve the contingency transfers proposed at Appendix A and to recommend to Council to approve the budget transfers for the third quarter of 2012/2013

Reasons for decision:

To respond to variations in expenditure and income which have arisen in 2012/2013 and enable effective budgetary control to be exercised.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

No alternative options are proposed.

Title and author(s) of written report:

Revenue Budget Third Review 2012/2013 - Report of the Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services

Contact Officer:

Malcolm Page

Extension:

561 1003

Email:

malcolm.page@sunderland.gov.uk

Is this a key decision: Yes

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information: No

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

None

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 18/Jan/2013

Decision Taker: Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Scrutiny Committee

Date decision in force:

28/Jan/2013

Date of decision:

16/Jan/2013

Full description of decision:

To endorse the Strategic Tenancy Policy and the policies outlined within, regards the letting of social housing across the City.

Reasons for decision:

The Council has a statutory duty to adopt a Strategic Tenancy Policy, (under provisions made within the Localism Act 2011). The option to not adopt a Strategic Tenancy Policy was therefore never considered.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

The option of not developing a Strategic Tenancy Policy was not considered as per the above. However other policy approaches within the overall policy were considered and discounted. Allowing flexible tenancies to be adopted widely would; reduce the stability of local communities, create increased transience and instability within family homes especially those of the most vulnerable and impact upon our access to housing function with increased requests for service.

Suggesting that Affordable Rent tenancies could not be used would; prevent Registered Providers from accessing grant funding from the HCA and additional rental income which would stifle the development of new social housing.

Therefore both these options were rejected in favour of the options outlined in the table in section 4.3 of the report

Title and author(s) of written report:

Sunderland City Council Strategic Tenancy Policy.- Report Of The Executive Director Of Health, Housing and Adult Services.

Contact Officer:

Neil Revely

Extension:

561 8947

Email:

neil.revely@sunderland.gov.uk

Is this a key decision: Yes

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information: No

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

None

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 18/Jan/2013

Decision Taker: Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Scrutiny Committee

Date decision in force:

28/Jan/2013

Date of decision:

16/Jan/2013

Full description of decision:

In relation to the Capital Programme for 2012/2013, Cabinet is asked to approve, and where necessary recommend to Council, the inclusion of additional schemes or variations to existing schemes for 2012/2013 detailed at Appendix A, as a variation to the Capital Programme. In relation to the Capital Programme for 2013/2014, Cabinet is asked to note that the allocation of resources as set out in Section 5 will be subject to final resource announcements; and note that Cabinet Members with Portfolios for areas covered by the Children's Services, Adult, Housing, Highways and Other Services Blocks will consider proposals for new starts based on resource allocations to be confirmed in due course in order to incorporate proposed new starts in the 2013/14 Capital Programme to be presented to Cabinet in February 2013. In relation to the Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators, Cabinet is asked to note the continued very positive progress made in implementing the strategy for 2012/2013.

Reasons for decision:

To respond to proposed variations in expenditure and funding which have arisen since the Second Capital Review 2012/2013 was approved to enable effective budgetary control to be exercised. To note the progress in implementing the Treasury Management Strategy for 2012/2013 in line with the approved Treasury Management Policies.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

No alternative options are proposed.

Title and author(s) of written report:

Capital Programme - Third Review 2012/2013, Provisional Resources 2013/2014 and Treasury Management Review 2012/2013 - Report of the Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services

Contact Officer:

Malcolm Page

Extension:

561 1003

Email:

malcolm.page@sunderland.gov.uk

Is this a key decision: Yes

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information: No

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

None

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 18/Jan/2013

Decision Taker: Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Scrutiny Committee

Date decision in force:

28/Jan/2013

Date of decision:

16/Jan/2013

Full description of decision:

To: (i) approve the proposal to extend external contracts for service delivery in Children's Centres for a further 12 months from April 2013 in line with the request of Children's Local Area Boards. (ii) receive a further report on the outcomes of the review of the commissioning arrangements at the appropriate time.

Reasons for decision:

The extension to external contracts will allow the Children's Area Local Boards to make a thorough assessment of the current external commissioning arrangements and the impact that these services are having on outcomes for children and their families.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

The Boards could propose to de-commission external contracts from April 2013 and to undertake a full re-commissioning exercise for future years. However the Boards have requested extension arrangements in order to undertake a full review of current provision.

Title and author(s) of written report:

Sure Start Review and Integrated Early Intervention Service - Proposals to extend Childrens Centre Commissioning Arrangements for a further 12 months from 1 April 2013 - Report of the Executive Director Children's Services

Contact Officer:

Beverley Scanlon

Extension:

561 1965

Email:

beverley.scanlon@sunderland.gov.uk

Is this a key decision: Yes

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information: No

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

None

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 18/Jan/2013

Decision Taker: Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Scrutiny Committee

Date decision in force:

28/Jan/2013

Date of decision:

16/Jan/2013

Full description of decision:

To agree: a) The review of the maximum contribution a customer can make towards their personal budget for non residential social care. b) The removal of the maximum contribution cap to bring this in line with the standard rate of residential care (currently £394.80). c) To update the contributions policy in line with Department of Health Guidance

Reasons for decision:

i. Greater equity for customers. ii. Facilitate the implementation of Personalisation
iii. Bring Sunderland in line with many National and Regional Authorities.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

Do not review the maximum contribution. Review the maximum contribution to a figure between the current rate and the standard rate of residential care.

Title and author(s) of written report:

Maximum Contribution for Social Care Charging - Report of the Executive Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services

Contact Officer:

Neil Revely

Extension:

561 8947

Email:

neil.revely@sunderland.gov.uk

Is this a key decision: Yes

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information: No

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

None

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 18/Jan/2013

Decision Taker: Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Scrutiny Committee

Date decision in force:

28/Jan/2013

Date of decision:

16/Jan/2013

Full description of decision:

To agree to the acquisition of Endurance House, High Street East, Sunderland for the price detailed in the report and otherwise on terms to be agreed by the Deputy Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader and Cabinet Secretary..

Reasons for decision:

To increase Port income by way of proposed letting of premises, and by increasing the warehouse space available at the Port and allow an improvement to be made to the appearance of the principal entrance to the Port. To secure a key strategic site within the Port.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

The alternative option is to not acquire the property. This would result in the loss of additional income to the Port and the lost potential for the additional warehouse space to be let on commercial terms and a lost opportunity to build upon the recent port gatehouse works to improve upon the image and first impressions of the Port. This option has been considered and is not recommended.

Title and author(s) of written report:

Acquisition of Endurance House, High Street East, Sunderland - Report of the Deputy Chief Executive

Contact Officer:

Colin Clark

Extension:

561 1502

Email:

colin.clark@sunderland.gov.uk

Is this a key decision: Yes

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information: Yes

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

None

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 18/Jan/2013

Decision Taker: Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Scrutiny Committee

Date decision in force:

28/Jan/2013

Date of decision:

16/Jan/2013

Full description of decision:

To approve the funding arrangements detailed in the report to support the procurement of a heavy lift mobile crane for the Port in order to undertake specialist cargo handling operations.

Reasons for decision:

The acquisition of the new heavy lift crane will assist the Port to protect its current market share, facilitate the continued commercial development of the Port and provide capacity to take advantage of inward investment opportunities for the offshore renewable energy and subsea engineering sectors.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

The alternative is not to acquire the crane. This would have an immediate impact on the Port's current commercial development and detrimental impact on the Port securing inward investment opportunities for the offshore renewable energy and sub sea engineering sectors.

Title and author(s) of written report:

Acquisition of a heavy lift harbour mobile crane - Report of the Report of the Deputy Chief Executive

Contact Officer:

Matthew Hunt

Extension:

553 2131

Email:

matthew.hunt@sunderland.gov.uk

Is this a key decision: Yes

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information: Yes

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

None