

**Record of  
Executive  
Decisions  
published  
18/Jul/2012**



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18 July 2012

## **Record of Executive Decisions Published: 18/Jul/2012**

**Decision Taker:** Cabinet

**Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**  
Scrutiny Committee

**Date decision in force:**

26/Jul/2012

**Date of decision:**

18/Jul/2012

**Full description of decision:**

To note the Children, Young People & Learning Scrutiny Committee's Policy Review Final Report, attached as Appendix A, and approve the recommendations contained within the report. To note the Action Plan for the implementation of these recommendations which has been prepared in consultation with the appropriate Portfolio Holder(s).

**Reasons for decision:**

The Committee has investigated preventative and early intervention services for children, young people and their families in Sunderland, looking at the policy context, the early intervention offer, the common assessment framework and locality based services. The recommendations aim to support, progress and raise awareness to early intervention and locality based services in Sunderland.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

The Scrutiny Committee has gathered detailed evidence and arrived at conclusions and recommendations which are intended to enhance and develop the early intervention offer and processes in Sunderland. There are no alternatives to be considered.

**Title and author(s) of written report:**

As Soon As Possible: Early Intervention and Locality Services in Sunderland - Joint report of the Children, Young People & Learning Scrutiny Committee and the Chief Executive

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**Is this a key decision:** Yes

**Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:** No

**Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:**

None

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**Decision Taker:** Cabinet

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**Date decision in force:**

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18/Jul/2012

**Full description of decision:**

To approve in principle the letting of a Traffic Management Services Contract for the period 2012-2016.

**Reasons for decision:**

In accordance with the Constitution, Cabinet approval is required where the procurement value is equal to or exceeds £250,000.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

No alternative options are offered for consideration.

**Title and author(s) of written report:**

Traffic Management Services 2012-2016 - Report of the Executive Director City Services

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**Is this a key decision:** Yes

**Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:** No

**Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:**

None

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**Decision Taker:** Cabinet

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Scrutiny Committee

**Date decision in force:**

18/Jul/2012

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**Full description of decision:**

To: - consider the contents of this report and agree the proposed Foreign Travel Policy and Guidelines as set out within the report.

**Reasons for decision:**

The current policy was established in 1999. Since that time, the range of foreign travel undertaken by the City Council has changed. Although expenditure on foreign travel has been reduced in each of the last three financial years, a degree of foreign travel is required to continue to generate benefits for the city in line with the International Strategy. The revised policy and guidelines ensure that the objectives of each individual visit are clear at the outset, that these objectives are achieved and that value for money is secured whilst ensuring the safety of Officers and Members travelling abroad.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

The alternative option is to not revise the existing policy on this area. The existing policy dates back to 1999. The context for foreign travel has changed significantly since that date and this is not therefore considered an appropriate option.

**Title and author(s) of written report:**

Foreign Travel Policy - Report of the Chief Executive

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**Is this a key decision:** No

**Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:** No

**Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:**

None

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Scrutiny Committee

**Date decision in force:**

18/Jul/2012

**Date of decision:**

18/Jul/2012

**Full description of decision:**

To: - authorise participation in the EU Covenant of Mayors seminar and the consequential travel by the Leader to Brussels - note the range of initiatives within Sunderland in relation to the city's sustainability commitments

**Reasons for decision:**

As a signatory to the EU Covenant of Mayors, engaging with the Covenant of Mayors' Office and EUROCITIES colleagues as a speaker and panel member at this seminar provides an opportunity to raise Sunderland's profile and strengthen the city's influence within the field of sustainability and the low carbon economy. It is important that the City Council engages effectively within appropriate European networks, in line with the city's International Strategy, to identify and pursue the opportunities they can open up for Sunderland.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

A decision could have been taken not to accept the request to present at this seminar. This would send a negative message about the City's commitment as a signatory to the EU Covenant of Mayors, as well as about its participation in EUROCITIES, and mean that opportunities to strengthen Sunderland's influence in relation to EU policy and legislation, and to develop and exchange good practice in relation to sustainability and the low carbon economy, would be lost.

**Title and author(s) of written report:**

EU Covenant of Mayors – Sustainability - Report of the Chief Executive

**Contact Officer:**

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**Is this a key decision:** No

**Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:** No

**Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:**

None

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**Decision Taker:** Cabinet

**Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**  
Scrutiny Committee

**Date decision in force:**

26/Jul/2012

**Date of decision:**

18/Jul/2012

**Full description of decision:**

To; a) Approve the proposed regeneration programme for Roker and Seaburn, to be funded by the £2.85m capital programme allocation between 2012 and 2015.  
b) Authorise the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Cabinet Secretary, to appoint contractors to deliver future phases of improvements.

**Reasons for decision:**

The phase two improvements at Roker and Seaburn and the restoration of the Roker Pier and lighthouse will continue the delivery of the Seaburn and Roker masterplans as part of the wider Seafront Regeneration Strategy.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

The alternative option would be to not progress the works. However funding for the project has been secured and the delivery team is progressing the design stages of the project. To carry out the works contractors must be procured following a competitive tender process.

**Title and author(s) of written report:**

Seafront Regeneration Capital Programme Delivery - Report of the Deputy Chief Executive

**Contact Officer:**

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**Is this a key decision:** Yes

**Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:** No

**Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:**

None

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Scrutiny Committee

**Date decision in force:**

26/Jul/2012

**Date of decision:**

18/Jul/2012

**Full description of decision:**

To: i. Consider the proposal to progress to the first stage of consultation on options to re-organise the existing Bishop Harland CE and Hylton Red House Primary Schools. . ii. Should the recommendation to proceed to the first stage of consultation be agreed, to receive feedback on the outcomes of this at 10th October meeting of Cabinet

**Reasons for decision:**

Both Bishop Harland CE and Hylton Red House Primary Schools are on an improvement journey, having recently been subject to Department for Education (DfE) scrutiny as schools in an Ofsted category of concern. Both have significant levels of surplus places currently which present challenges in the sustainable delivery of effective education moving forward. Informal consultation between the Council, the Church of England Diocese of Durham, and the two governing bodies has indicated support for a local solution.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

This report seeks approval to begin a first stage consultation on options to address the sustainability and performance of both schools. Potential options will be considered as part of the consultation process and taken forward or rejected as a result of this consultation.

**Title and author(s) of written report:**

Hylton Red House Primary/Bishop Harland CE Primary Schools - 1st Stage Consultation on Future Arrangements - Report of the Executive Director of Children's Services

**Contact Officer:**

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**Is this a key decision:** Yes

**Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:** No

**Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:**

None

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**Date decision in force:**

26/Jul/2012

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18/Jul/2012

**Full description of decision:**

In relation to the Capital Programme to approve, and where necessary recommend to Council, the inclusion of additional schemes and variations to existing schemes for 2012/2013 detailed at Appendix A, as a variation to the capital programme, and In relation to the Treasury Management Strategy to note the positive progress in implementing the 2012/2013 Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators.

**Reasons for decision:**

To respond to proposed variations in expenditure and funding which have arisen since the 2012/2013 Capital Programme was approved to enable effective budgetary control to be exercised. To note the progress in implementing the Treasury Management Strategy for 2012/2013, which is 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:**

First Capital Review 2012/2013 (including Treasury Management) - Report of Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services

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**Is this a key decision:** Yes

**Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:** No

**Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:**

None



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**Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**  
Scrutiny Committee

**Date decision in force:**

26/Jul/2012

**Date of decision:**

18/Jul/2012

**Full description of decision:**

To refer the Food Law Service Plan for 2012/13 to Scrutiny Committee for further advice and consideration.

**Reasons for decision:**

The Foods Standards Agency which monitors and audits Local Authority activities requires Food Law Service Plans to be approved by Members to ensure local transparency and accountability. The plan forms part of the Council's policy and budgetary framework as defined in the Constitution.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

There are no practical alternative options as failure to produce a Food Law Enforcement Plan would conflict with the requirements of the Food Standards Agency

**Title and author(s) of written report:**

Food Law Enforcement Service Plan 2012/2013 - Report of the Executive Director of City Services

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**Is this a key decision:** Yes

**Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:** No

**Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:**

None

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**Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**  
Scrutiny Committee

**Date decision in force:**

26/Jul/2012

**Date of decision:**

18/Jul/2012

**Full description of decision:**

To: (i) Approve that Sunderland City Council act as Social Investor for the joint bid with Northumberland County Council to the Department for Work and Pensions Innovations Fund with an initial investment of £300,000 in respect of the Sunderland cohort of 14-16 year olds at risk of becoming NEET; (ii) Consider the implications of this position.

**Reasons for decision:**

NEET figures are rising in Sunderland (10.4%) and current funding mechanisms to support NEET such as the European Social Fund (ESF) are ending in December 2012. This bid provides the potential to reduce NEET figures and the longer term impacts for young people of economic disadvantage. It also provides an opportunity to work in partnership with Northumberland County Council and to trial the social investment model of funding.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

At Expression of Interest stage the proposal was that schools, rather than the two Councils, act as social investors for the Innovations Fund investment. It was very recently confirmed that this approach was no longer possible and there has been insufficient time in preparing for the 29th June submission to attract an alternative social investor. If the tender application is successful it is suggested that there is no alternative option in the first instance to the two Councils acting as social investors. However it may be possible as the project progresses to attract other social investors to invest in the Innovations Fund.

**Title and author(s) of written report:**

Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Innovations Fund Bid - Report of the Executive Director of Children's Services

**Contact Officer:**

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**Is this a key decision:** Yes

**Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:** No

**Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:**

None

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Scrutiny Committee

**Date decision in force:**

26/Jul/2012

**Date of decision:**

18/Jul/2012

**Full description of decision:**

To: i) endorse the conclusions of the Outline Business Case for the LABV as summarised in this report; ii) agree to commence the due diligence and procurement process for the LABV partner on this basis iii) agree to receive a further report in respect of the outcome of the procurement process; and iv) authorise the appointment of external advisers to assist with the procurement process and appointment of the LABV partner.

**Reasons for decision:**

The procurement of a LABV partner will enable the Council to form a public-private partnership utilising the Council's asset base to deliver economic regeneration benefits to the city and financial returns to the Council.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

The alternative options which are not recommended on the basis of the outcome of the options appraisal analysis were set out in section 4 of the report.

**Title and author(s) of written report:**

Local Asset Backed Vehicle Outline Business Case - Joint report of the Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services and the Deputy Chief Executive

**Contact Officer:**

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**Is this a key decision:** Yes

**Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:** Yes

**Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:**

None

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**Date decision in force:**

26/Jul/2012

**Date of decision:**

18/Jul/2012

**Full description of decision:**

To: a) Note the progress and direction of travel in relation to establishing an Events Company. b) Agree to commence a procurement process to appoint the Strategic Partner to participate in the Events Company to support the appropriate commercialisation of the events programme and to provide logistical support in relation to catering, hospitality and stewarding. c) Agree to receive a further report in respect of the outcome of the procurement process prior to the formal establishment of the Events Company.

**Reasons for decision:**

Approval of these proposals would allow: 1. Sunderland to build upon its emerging national reputation for events which is being developed through a new approach to partnership working and delivery of a strong image strategy. 2. The City Council and its partners to continue with their ambition to build upon opportunities to grow the economy by developing and attracting an increased number of major events. 3. The City Council to devise innovative solutions to capitalise on commercial opportunities for the greater benefit of the city's businesses and residents where traditional regional structures to support the development of events no longer exist. 4. Strategic support for 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 following options were considered and rejected as part of this process for the reasons detailed in the report: Option 1 - Continue with current funding and delivery arrangements Option 2 - Contract out elements of management and delivery Option 3 - Establish an arm's length organisation without other core partners.

**Title and author(s) of written report:**

Establishment of an Events Company and Procurement of a Strategic Partner - Joint report of the Executive Director of City Services and the Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services

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**Is this a key decision:** Yes

**Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:** Yes

**Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:**

None

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Scrutiny Committee

**Date decision in force:**

26/Jul/2012

**Date of decision:**

18/Jul/2012

**Full description of decision:**

To :- Approve the development of a full business case to evaluate the proposal of a Local Authority Trading Company model for current in-house care and support provision. Agree to the submission of the full business case to a future Cabinet meeting for consideration. Agree to the formation of a new Community Interest Company comprising of Beckwiths, Bishopwearmouth Nursery and current evening entertainment services. Agree to a social enterprise model for the current Community Opportunities Resource Agency.

**Reasons for decision:**

The commitment to Personal Budgets and new forms of service delivery is confirmed in the Government's "A Vision for Adult Social Care: Capable Communities and Active Citizens", which presses for councils to not only provide personal budgets for everyone eligible for on-going social care by April 2013, but also states that budgets should be deployed as direct payments. Services offered by in-house Care and Support services cannot be purchased using direct payments and many councils' are finding that an increased take up of direct payments will mean that in-house provision in the medium to long term will not remain viable and could potential undermine choice for some individuals to access high quality specialist in-house services. The consideration of alternative options for delivery of in-house adult social care services supports the Directorate's strategy for achieving maximum choice, freedom and flexibility for individuals whilst also focussing on the importance of value for money.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

A number of different service delivery vehicles have been considered and the rationale for those that have been both recommended and discounted, is detailed in the main body of this cabinet report.

**Title and author(s) of written report:**

Future Service Delivery Options for Adult Social Care - Joint report of the Executive Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services and Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services

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**Is this a key decision:** Yes

**Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:** Yes

**Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:**

None