

**Record of
Executive
Decisions
published
10/Oct/2013**



Elaine Waugh
Head of Law and Governance

Civic Centre
Sunderland

10 October 2013

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 10/Oct/2013

Decision Taker: Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Scrutiny Committee

Date decision in force:

18/Oct/2013

Date of decision:

09/Oct/2013

Full description of decision:

To approve the contingency transfers proposed at Appendix A and budget transfers set out in the report.

Reasons for decision:

To respond to variations in expenditure and income which have arisen in 2013/2014 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 Second Review 2013/2014 - 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: 10/Oct/2013

Decision Taker: Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Scrutiny Committee

Date decision in force:

18/Oct/2013

Date of decision:

09/Oct/2013

Full description of decision:

To approve the procurement of up to 30 grass cutting and horticultural machines and 2 mechanical road sweeping machines to replace those in use to maintain the efficiency and effectiveness of services as part of the planned equipment replacement programme. There is budgetary provision and no net increase in costs to the Council.

Reasons for decision:

In accordance with the Constitution, Cabinet approval is required to the principle of letting a contract exceeding £250,000 in value.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

To delay the replacement of this equipment would reduce operational efficiency and increase maintenance costs.

Title and author(s) of written report:

Procurement of replacement grass cutting, horticultural and mechanical road sweeping equipment

Contact Officer:

Colin Curtis

Extension:

561 4525

Email:

colin.curtis@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: 10/Oct/2013

Decision Taker: Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Scrutiny Committee

Date decision in force:

09/Oct/2013

Date of decision:

09/Oct/2013

Full description of decision:

To agree to commence the procurement process and award contracts to provide welfare rights advice/information for the period 1 April 2014 - 2017 on the basis that the value of these contracts will be over £75,000 in total. The budget for the contracts is £1,060,000 over a period of 4 years

Reasons for decision:

The Cabinet's decision will ensure that Sunderland residents continue to access support with their benefits, debt and budgeting skills issues, as part of the Council's advice delivery model and welfare reform response.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

1. To discontinue this provision entirely 2. To deliver the service in house These alternative options are not recommended for reasons set out at paragraph 6

Title and author(s) of written report:

Contract Provision for Welfare Rights Advice - Report of the Executive Director of People 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: 10/Oct/2013

Decision Taker: Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Scrutiny Committee

Date decision in force:

18/Oct/2013

Date of decision:

09/Oct/2013

Full description of decision:

To approve the Feed and Food Controls Service Plan for 2013/14.

Reasons for decision:

The Food Standards Agency which monitors and audits the activities of local authorities in respect of feed and food law enforcement requires Feed and Food Controls Service Plans to be approved by authorities in a manner which ensures 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 Feed and Food Controls Service Plan would conflict with the requirements of the Food Standards Agency.

Title and author(s) of written report:

Feed and Food Controls Service Plan 2013/2014 - Report of the Deputy Chief Executive

Contact Officer:

Tom Terrett

Extension:

561 1715

Email:

Tom.Terrett@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: 10/Oct/2013

Decision Taker: Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Scrutiny Committee

Date decision in force:

18/Oct/2013

Date of decision:

09/Oct/2013

Full description of decision:

In relation to the Capital Programme, Cabinet is asked to approve, and where necessary recommend to Council, the inclusion of additional schemes or variations to existing schemes for 2013/2014 detailed at Appendix A, as a variation to the Capital Programme, and In relation to the Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators, Cabinet is asked to note the positive progress made in implementing the strategy for 2013/2014.

Reasons for decision:

To respond to proposed variations in expenditure and funding which have arisen since the First Capital Review 2013/2014 was approved to enable effective budgetary control to be exercised. To note the progress in implementing the Treasury Management Strategy for 2013/2014, this 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:

Second Capital Review 2013/2014 (including Treasury Management) - Report of the exec

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: 10/Oct/2013

Decision Taker: Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Scrutiny Committee

Date decision in force:

18/Oct/2013

Date of decision:

09/Oct/2013

Full description of decision:

To: (i) approve a grant of £30,000 to the new BID company to cover salary and operational costs pre April 2014 to be met from existing economic development budgets; (ii) approve grant funding of £50,000 per annum to the new BID company for the duration of its 5 year term subject to satisfactory performance and annual review to be met from existing and future economic development budgets; and (iii) authorise the Deputy Chief Executive in consultation with the Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services, and the Leader of the Council to conclude the operating agreement with the BID company.

Reasons for decision:

On Thursday 18th July 2013 Sunderland city centre businesses voted 'Yes' to establish a BID company for Sunderland. The 'Yes' vote is a great economic boost for the city centre and will generate at least £3.4 million private investment over the next five years. The support which the council has provided to date has been important in raising the confidence of the private sector and it is considered vital that the council continue to encourage and support the efforts of the private sector to help create investment for the City.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

The alternative option is not to provide the funding detailed above. The consequences of not providing the funding would be detrimental to the next stage of the development of the BID, for example, key staff could not be recruited until April 2014 at the earliest. This would result in a delay in delivery of the business plan. If the annual on going financial support was not provided by the council this would adversely affect the delivery of the 5 year business plan and could potentially damage relationships with the private sector.

Title and author(s) of written report:

Sunderland Business Improvement District (BID) - Report of the Deputy Chief Executive

Contact Officer:

Cheryl Jones

Extension:

561 1209

Email:

Cheryl.Jones@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: 10/Oct/2013

Decision Taker: Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Scrutiny Committee

Date decision in force:

09/Oct/2013

Date of decision:

09/Oct/2013

Full description of decision:

To agree the proposed Budget Planning Framework summarised at Section 10 of the report which will guide the preparation of the Revenue Budget for 2014/2015; and To note that the full Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014/2015 to 2016/2017 will be presented to Cabinet in February

Reasons for decision:

Adoption of the Budget Planning Framework forms an essential part of the process of the preparation and compilation of the Revenue Budget for 2014/2015.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

There are no alternative options recommended.

Title and author(s) of written report:

Budget Planning Framework 2014/2015 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014/2015 - 2016/2017 - Joint 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: No

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information: No

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

None

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 10/Oct/2013

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Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Scrutiny Committee

Date decision in force:

18/Oct/2013

Date of decision:

09/Oct/2013

Full description of decision:

To propose a scheme for payment of allowances for caring for children under residence order, special guardianship and adoption arrangements.

Reasons for decision:

To align special guardianship and residence order allowances and future adoption allowances with the Council's arrangements for allowances for foster care.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

To leave allowance rates unaltered.

Title and author(s) of written report:

Allowances For Caring For Children - Joint Report of the Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services and Executive Director of People Services

Contact Officer:

Meg Boustead

Extension:

561 2356

Email:

meg.boustead@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: 10/Oct/2013

Decision Taker: Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Scrutiny Committee

Date decision in force:

18/Oct/2013

Date of decision:

09/Oct/2013

Full description of decision:

To agree the revised Sunderland Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education which has been recommended by the Agreed Syllabus Conference for adoption by Sunderland schools, with effect from 1 November 2013 for a period of five years.

Reasons for decision:

In order to comply with the Education Act 1988, the Education Act of 1996 and the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1988, Local Authorities are required to set up a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) to develop an Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

Failure to have/adopt an Agreed Syllabus would lead to a breach of the Local Authority's statutory duties in relation to religious education in schools.

Title and author(s) of written report:

Sunderland Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education - Report of the Executive Director of People Services

Contact Officer:

Meg Boustead

Extension:

561 1356

Email:

meg.boustead@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: 10/Oct/2013

Decision Taker: Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Scrutiny Committee

Date decision in force:

18/Oct/2013

Date of decision:

09/Oct/2013

Full description of decision:

To agree to the disposal of the Council's freehold interest in 15.189 acres of land at Lambton Lane, Fence Houses, Sunderland to a developer for the sum 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 enable the provision of new residential development and to secure further investment in the City.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

The alternative options are:- (i) To accept the lower bid that has been received. This option would not satisfy the Council's duty to obtain Best Consideration for the land. (ii) To dispose of the Council's land independently of the private land owners. This option would not satisfy the Council's preference to deliver a comprehensive development of the whole site. (iii) Retain the land or choose not to sell at this time. As activity in the residential development market has returned it is considered appropriate to progress a sale now. This option would not provide a significant capital receipt together with a comprehensive development of the area. These options have been considered and are not recommended.

Title and author(s) of written report:

Disposal of land at Lambton Lane, Fence Houses, Sunderland - Report of the Deputy Chief Executive

Contact Officer:

Janet Johnson

Extension:

561 1114

Email:

janet.johnson@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: 10/Oct/2013

Decision Taker: Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Scrutiny Committee

Date decision in force:

18/Oct/2013

Date of decision:

09/Oct/2013

Full description of decision:

To approve the proposal to align special guardianship and residence order allowances, and future adoption allowances to the age related core fostering allowance.

Reasons for decision:

To align special guardianship and residence order allowances and future adoption allowances with the Council's arrangements for allowances for foster care.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

To leave allowance rates unaltered.

Title and author(s) of written report:

Allowances for Caring for Children - Joint Report of the Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services and Executive Director of People Services

Contact Officer:

Meg Boustead

Extension:

561 2356

Email:

meg.boustead@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: 10/Oct/2013

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Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Scrutiny Committee

Date decision in force:

18/Oct/2013

Date of decision:

09/Oct/2013

Full description of decision:

To: i) note the progress in developing a strategic approach to increasing participation in physical activity, sport and leisure; ii) agree to receiving a comprehensive draft strategy in early 2014; iii) endorse the conclusions of the Outline Business Case (OBC) in relation to the City's leisure complexes as summarised in this report; iv) agree to commence the procurement process for a joint venture partner to manage and operate the City's leisure complexes on the terms set out in this report; v) agree to receive a further report in respect of the outcome of the procurement process; and vi) authorise the appointment of external advisers to assist with the procurement process and appointment of the partner.

Reasons for decision:

Establishing a strategic approach for participation in physical activity will enable the Council to achieve its objectives of improving the health and wellbeing of its citizens through increased participation; and the procurement of a partner and formation of a Joint Venture for the management and operation of the leisure complexes will further assist this objective and enable the cost of running the centres to be significantly reduced.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

The option of not establishing a strategic approach to increasing participation in physical activity has been rejected as this would be detrimental to the Council's objective of improving the health and wellbeing of its citizens. The alternative options for the management and operation of the leisure complexes which are not recommended on the basis of the outcome of the options appraisal analysis were set out in section 6 of the report.

Title and author(s) of written report:

A Strategic Approach to Building Participation in Physical Activity, Sport and Leisure and proposals relating to the City's Leisure Complexes - Joint report of the Executive Director of People Services and Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services

Contact Officer:

Paul S Wilson

Extension:

561 1782

Email:

Paul-S.Wilson@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: 10/Oct/2013

Decision Taker: Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Scrutiny Committee

Date decision in force:

09/Oct/2013

Date of decision:

09/Oct/2013

Full description of decision:

To propose the budget consultation strategy and framework to inform the preparation of the Budget for 2014/2015.

Reasons for decision:

To approve the budget consultation strategy and framework as set out in this report and refer it to the Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

No alternative options are proposed.

Title and author(s) of written report:

Proposals for Budget Consultation 2014/2015 – Joint 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: No

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information: No

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

None