

Record of Executive Decisions published 04/Nov/2011



Elaine Waugh
Head of Law and Governance

Civic Centre
Sunderland

4 November 2011

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 04/Nov/2011

Decision Taker: Cabinet **Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**
Management Scrutiny Committee

Date decision in force:

02/Nov/2011

Date of decision:

02/Nov/2011

Full description of decision:

To note the comments of the Scrutiny Committee.

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 2012/2013.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

There are no alternative options recommended.

Title and author(s) of written report:

Response from Management Scrutiny Committee – 13th October, 2011 – Budget Planning Framework 2012/2013 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2011/2012 – 2014/2015 - Report of the Head of Law and Governance

Contact Officer:

Sonia Tognarelli

Extension:

561 1851

Email:

sonia.tognarelli@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: 04/Nov/2011

Decision Taker: Cabinet **Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**
Management Scrutiny Committee

Date decision in force:

02/Nov/2011

Date of decision:

02/Nov/2011

Full description of decision:

To note the views of the Scrutiny Committee that they endorsed the budget consultation strategy and framework and acknowledged that the Council was seeking to consult as widely as possible on the budget proposals.

Reasons for decision:

To comply with the constitutional requirements taking account of central government guidance.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

There are no alternative options recommended.

Title and author(s) of written report:

Response from Management Scrutiny Committee –13th October, 2011 –
Proposals for Budget Consultation 2012/2013 - Report of the Head of Law
and Governance

Contact Officer:

Sonia Tognarelli

Extension:

561 1851

Email:

Sonia.Tognarelli@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: 04/Nov/2011

Decision Taker: Cabinet **Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**
Management Scrutiny Committee

Date decision in force:

02/Nov/2011

Date of decision:

02/Nov/2011

Full description of decision:

To recommend to Council that the proposed changes to Polling Places as set out in Appendix 4 are approved.

Reasons for decision:

To comply with Section 16 of The Electoral Administration Act 2006 which requires all local authorities in Great Britain to review their UK Parliamentary polling districts and polling places at least once every four years. The last review was completed December 2007.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

The Council does not comply with Section 16 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006.

Title and author(s) of written report:

Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations - Report of the Chief Executive

Contact Officer:

Bill Crawford

Extension:

561 1144

Email:

bill.crawfor@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: 04/Nov/2011

Decision Taker: Cabinet **Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**
Management Scrutiny Committee

Date decision in force:

14/Nov/2011

Date of decision:

02/Nov/2011

Full description of decision:

To agree to enter into an option agreement for the disposal of approximately 3 acres of Council land at Rainton Meadows, Mercantile Road, Houghton le Spring to Roseberry Club Leisure Limited for the price set out in the report on Part II of this agenda and otherwise on terms to be agreed by the Deputy Chief Executive.

Reasons for decision:

To enable the potential development of a site for a use that will be complementary to adjacent business park uses and to secure further investment in the City.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

The alternative options are: (i) To decline the application whereupon the proposal will not proceed to planning application stage; (ii) To release the site on the open market which may lead to the proposed development not proceeding. Both of these options have been considered and are not recommended.

Title and author(s) of written report:

Disposal of land at Rainton Meadows, Mercantile Road, Houghton le Spring
- Report of the Deputy Chief Executive

Contact Officer:

Colin Clark

Extension:

561 1502

Email:

colin.clark@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: 04/Nov/2011

Decision Taker: Cabinet **Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**
Management Scrutiny Committee

Date decision in force:

02/Nov/2011

Date of decision:

02/Nov/2011

Full description of decision:

To note the comments of the Scrutiny Committee to support the issues of transfers and to request the Council to approve the proposed transfer of funds.

Reasons for decision:

To respond to variations in expenditure and income which have arisen in 2011/2012 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:

Response from Management Scrutiny Committee – 13th October, 2011 - Revenue Budget Second Review 2011/2012 - Report of the Head of Law and Governance

Contact Officer:

Sonia Tognarelli

Extension:

561 1851

Email:

Sonia.Tognarelli@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: 04/Nov/2011

Decision Taker: Cabinet **Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**
Management Scrutiny Committee

Date decision in force:

02/Nov/2011

Date of decision:

02/Nov/2011

Full description of decision:

To note the contents of the Ombudsman's annual review and in particular that there were no findings of maladministration against the council for the municipal year 2010-2011.

Reasons for decision:

It is relevant to note the findings in the context of the council's performance in dealing with complaints.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

There are no alternative options submitted for consideration.

Title and author(s) of written report:

Ombudsman's Annual Review 2010 - 2011 - Joint report of the Chief Executive and the Executive Director of Commercial & Corporate Services

Contact Officer:

Margaret Douglas

Extension:

561 1065

Email:

margaret.douglas@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: 04/Nov/2011

Decision Taker: Cabinet **Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**
Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee

Date decision in force: **Date of decision:**

14/Nov/2011

02/Nov/2011

Full description of decision:

To: -

- a) note and approve the outcomes of the NRA and the proposed actions described in this report,
- b) authorise the Executive Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services to continue with the programme of acquisition and assembly of land at Maudlin Street and the demolition of the street.

Reasons for decision:

Implementing the outcomes of the NRA in Maudlin Street will provide the Council with the opportunity to deliver an appropriate course of action and robust housing policy for Hetton Downs set in the context of the Hetton Downs Preferred Option Area Action Plan.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

The council could decide not to act on the outcome of the NRA. Without the delivery of the NRA, the Council would not be able to demonstrate that they are implementing the most appropriate course of action for the area and Homes and Communities Agency funding would be lost. This course of action is therefore not recommended.

Title and author(s) of written report:

Neighbourhood Renewal Assessment (NRA) for Maudlin Street, Hetton Downs - Report of the Executive Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services

Contact Officer:

Neil Revely

Extension:

566 1882

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: 04/Nov/2011

Decision Taker: Cabinet **Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**
Management Scrutiny Committee

Date decision in force:

14/Nov/2011

Date of decision:

02/Nov/2011

Full description of decision:

That the Cabinet be requested to note the comments of the Scrutiny Committee, that they accepted the proposed additional scheme as set out in the extract to the report and recognised the opportunities that the purchase of a mobile crane would create for the Port of Sunderland. To request the Council to approve the inclusion of the additional scheme for 2011/2012 costing over £250,000 as set out in Appendix A of the report.

Reasons for decision:

To respond to variations in the Capital Programme which have arisen since the 2011/2012 First Capital Programme Review was approved to enable effective budgetary control to be exercised.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

No alternative options are proposed.

Title and author(s) of written report:

Response from Management Scrutiny Committee – 13th October, 2011 - Capital Programme Second Review 2011/2012 (Including Treasury Management) - Report of the Head of Law and Governance

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: 04/Nov/2011

Decision Taker: Cabinet **Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**
Management Scrutiny Committee

Date decision in force: 14/Nov/2011 **Date of decision:** 02/Nov/2011

Full description of decision:

To agree to the strategic acquisition of the site at Seaburn, Sunderland

Reasons for decision:

The property is strategically located on the Seaburn seafront and its acquisition will give the Council, acting in the wider public interest, a significant degree of control over future development of this site which together with adjacent ownership greatly enhances the ability to deliver the aspirations of the Seafront Strategy. There is also no prospect of the private sector delivering an acquisition or scheme in respect of the property in accordance with the Council's strategy.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

The alternative option is to not acquire the interest. This would mean that the Council would have significantly less control over the delivery of its aspirations for the site and surrounding area which in turn would lead to greater un-certainty when approaching the market place with a proposition for re-development. This option has therefore been considered but is not recommended.

Title and author(s) of written report:

Strategic Acquisition Seaburn Seafront - 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: 03/Nov/2011

Decision Taker: Cabinet **Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**
Management Scrutiny Committee

Date decision in force:

02/Nov/2011

Date of decision:

02/Nov/2011

Full description of decision:

To note the initial proposals of the Boundary Commission for England (BCE) for the review of Parliamentary constituencies in Sunderland.

Reasons for decision:

The Boundary Commission for England is an independent and impartial non departmental public body which is responsible for reviewing Parliamentary constituency boundaries in England. The BCE has the task of periodically reviewing all the Parliamentary constituencies in England. It is currently conducting a review on the basis of new rules laid down by Parliament.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

None

Title and author(s) of written report:

Review of Parliamentary Constituencies - Initial Proposals - Report of the Chief Executive

Contact Officer:

Bill Crawford

Extension:

561 1144

Email:

bill.crawford@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: 03/Nov/2011

Decision Taker: Cabinet **Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**
Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny
Committee

Date decision in force: 14/Nov/2011 **Date of decision:** 02/Nov/2011

Full description of decision:

To approve that:

- (i) Children's Services formally consult on alternative models of Children's Centre delivery such as an area model based on the 5 localities and any other options identified through consultation
- (ii) Children's Services develop a proposal to put in place area based or community boards
- (iii) In consultation with the appropriate groups, service specifications for the procurement of Children's Centre services can be progressed in order that contracts are awarded and in place by 1st April 2012 for a twelve month period
- (iv) Cabinet receive a further report in February 2012 in order to approve the services to be procured and to consider the Children's Centre delivery model following wider consultation.

Reasons for decision:

Current contracts for commissioned service delivery expire in March 2012. Linked to this, national changes in funding and to the previous core offer, and local requirements for improving outcomes through better targeting of services and increased community involvement, require that the whole service area is subject to review and consultation. Financial efficiencies of £1.777m have been anticipated from the review and are included in Children's Services budget for 2011/2012.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

Maintaining all of the current arrangements has been considered and rejected as this would not support the development of an early intervention model which better engages with harder to reach families and improves outcomes. It would not deliver the required efficiencies of £1.777m.

Title and author(s) of written report:

Sure Start Review and an Integrated Early Intervention Service - Report of the Executive Director of Children's Services

Contact Officer:

Sandra Mitchell

Extension:

561 1438

Email:

sandra.mitchell@sunderland.gov.uk

Is this a key decision: Yes

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information: No

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

The following Councillors declared personal interests as members of the undermentioned bodies: - Councillor P. Smith - Early Years and Childcare Partnership/Children's Trust Councillors P. Watson, Trueman and Allan - Children's Trust

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 03/Nov/2011

Decision Taker: Cabinet **Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**
Management Scrutiny Committee

Date decision in force: 02/Nov/2011 **Date of decision:** 02/Nov/2011

Full description of decision:

To note the report of 20 October 2011 & approve the following staffing proposals.

Office of the Chief Executive: Environment & Planning

- Management

- To delete post of Head of Planning & Environment, JNC Band 2.
- To redesignate post of Head of Land & Property, JNC Band 1 to Head of Planning and Property, JNC Band 1.

- Development Management

- To delete post of Principal Building Control Officer, POG
- To delete post of Principal Planner Development Control, POG
- To delete 5 posts of Chartered Building Control Surveyor, Sc 5/POG
- To delete 4 posts of Building Control Surveyor, Sc 5/POG
- To create 7 posts of Building Control Surveyor, Sc 5/POG
- To delete 6 posts of Senior Planner, POF/G
- To create 4 posts of Principal Development Control Planner, POF/G

- Regeneration (formerly Planning Implementation)

- To delete vacant post of Planning Implementation Manager, POJ/K
- To create post of Planning Implementation Technical Manager, POH
- To delete the post of Deputy Manager, POH

Reasons for decision:

To reflect additional duties and responsibilities being undertaken by the postholders and to provide an appropriate response to the development of services.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

The proposals are an appropriate response to meet the requirements of the services and the proposed grades are commensurate with the duties and responsibilities of the posts.

Title and author(s) of written report:

Report of the meeting of the Personnel Committee Part II held on 20 October 2011

Contact Officer:

Kate Cuthbert

Extension:

561 7881

Email:

kate.cuthbert@sunderland.gov.uk

Is this a key decision: No

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information: Yes

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

None

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 03/Nov/2011

Decision Taker: Cabinet **Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**
Management

Date decision in force:

14/Nov/2011

Date of decision:

02/Nov/2011

Full description of decision:

To approve a grant of to the company in support of their investment in plant, equipment and associated installation costs in order to safeguard 200 jobs.

Reasons for decision:

The project will secure the prototype and new technology investment in Sunderland and will safeguard a minimum of 200 jobs.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

Not to provide grant support will mean that the company would not proceed with the investment in Sunderland and would close down in the city after with the loss of up to 300 jobs and the council would lose rental income.

Title and author(s) of written report:

Request for Financial Assistance - Joint report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services

Contact Officer:

Janet Snaith

Extension:

0191 305 1166

Email:

janet.snaith@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: 03/Nov/2011

Decision Taker: Cabinet **Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**
Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee

Date decision in force:

14/Nov/2011

Date of decision:

02/Nov/2011

Full description of decision:

To:

- a) note and approve the Empty Property Action Plan which will be implemented by partners in the City in order to return empty properties back into use and
- b) agree to the amendments of the Council's Financial Assistance Policy in relation to Empty Homes Assistance as set out in this report.

Reasons for decision:

Implementing the Empty Property Action Plan will provide the Council with the opportunity to look at innovative and proactive ways to reduce the wasted resource of empty properties across the five committee areas in the City. Amending the Council's Financial Assistance Policy, in relation to Empty Homes Assistance, will allow the use of the £577,000 New Homes Bonus "windfall payment" this financial year to return further empty properties back into use and in doing so further perpetuate the New Homes Bonus funding.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

The Council could react to empty property requests from across the City without the aid of an action plan. However, this would not be an innovative approach and solutions would not be area based to meet the needs of particular communities and neighbourhoods. This course of action is, therefore, not recommended. The Council could leave the Financial Assistance Policy relating to Empty Homes Assistance as it is but this would not allow the Executive Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services to utilise the £577,000 New Homes Bonus "windfall payment" and further empty properties would not be returned to use. In turn the New Homes Bonus payments, rewarded for returning empty properties back into use would not be perpetuated in future years. This course of action, therefore, is not recommended.

Title and author(s) of written report:

Empty Property Action Plan and the Financial Assistance Policy in relation to Empty Homes Assistance

Contact Officer:

Neil Revely

Extension:

566 1882

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: 03/Nov/2011

Decision Taker: Cabinet **Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**
Management Scrutiny Committee

Date decision in force:

14/Nov/2011

Date of decision:

02/Nov/2011

Full description of decision:

To agree to enter into an option agreement for the disposal of approximately 3 acres of Council land at Rainton Meadows, Mercantile Road, Houghton le Spring to Roseberry Club Leisure Limited for the price set out in the report and otherwise on terms to be agreed by the Deputy Chief Executive.

Reasons for decision:

To enable the potential development of a site for a use that will be complementary to adjacent business park uses and to secure further investment in the City.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

The alternative options are:

- (i) To decline the application whereupon the proposal will not proceed to planning application stage;
- (ii) To release the site on the open market which may lead to the proposed development not proceeding. Both of these options have been considered and are not recommended.

Title and author(s) of written report:

Disposal of land at Rainton Meadows, Mercantile Road, Houghton le Spring
- 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