

CABINET MEETING – 16 JULY 2014
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I

Title of Report:

MINUTES, PART I

Author(s):

Head of Law and Governance

Purpose of Report:

Presents the minutes of the last meeting held on 18 June 2014 Part I.

Action Required:

To confirm the minutes as a correct record.

At a meeting of the CABINET held in the CIVIC CENTRE (COMMITTEE ROOM NO. 1) on Wednesday 18 June 2014 at 2.00pm.

Present:-

Councillor Speding in the Chair

Councillors Gofton, Kelly and Mordey

Also present:-

Councillors Shattock, Thompson, T. Martin and N. Wright

The Chairman congratulated Councillor Mordey on his appointment as City Services Portfolio Holder and welcomed him to his first meeting of Cabinet. He also congratulated Councillor Wright on her appointment as the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee and welcomed her and the Scrutiny Lead Members to the meeting.

Part I

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 12 March 2014 Part I (copy circulated) were submitted.

(For copy report - see original minutes).

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Receipt of Declarations of Interest

Councillor Gofton and the Deputy Chief Executive declared an interest in Item 14, "Capital Programme Outturn 2013/2014 and First Revenue Review 2014/2015" as members of the Board of Corporation of the City of Sunderland College and they reported that they would withdraw from the meeting during consideration of the report.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors G. Miller, P. Smith, H. Trueman and P. Watson.

Scrutiny Committee – Policy Review Final Reports 2013/14

The Scrutiny Committee, the Deputy Chief Executive and the Executive Director of People Services submitted a joint report (copy circulated) to set out the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee following its scrutiny policy reviews into Supporting Carers in Sunderland, Flood Risk Management, Volunteering; Unlocking Capacity and the Diversification of the Local Economy.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chairman invited Councillor N. Wright, the Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee, to introduce the report.

Councillor N. Wright reported that four policy reviews would be presented on Supporting Carers in Sunderland, Flood Risk Management, Volunteering; Unlocking Capacity and the Diversification of the Local Economy. She thanked the Scrutiny Lead Members and their panels for the work they had undertaken. In addition she commended the support given to Scrutiny Members from the officers.

Councillor Shattock presented the Health, Housing and Adult Services Scrutiny Panel's review into supporting carers in Sunderland. She reported that in Sunderland approximately 11% of the city's population were identified as being carers, roughly 33,000 people; people who save Sunderland an estimated £706.9m per annum through the care that they provided. She advised that the panel readily acknowledged the valuable, and often unrecognised, work that carers undertook. Members of the panel looked at a number of key issues facing carers as part of the review including identification and recognition, wellbeing, multi-agency approaches and the Sunderland Carers Strategy.

Cabinet Members were advised that the panel had spoken to a wide cross-section of people including Sunderland Carers Centre, Executive Director of People Services, the Health, Housing and Adult Services Portfolio Holder, Age UK, City Hospitals and the carers themselves who helped the panel to develop their evidence and look at potential areas for development. The recommendations were based around:

- Looking at the importance of developing the frontline councillor role in signposting and identification;
- Enhancing the identification of carers as well as recognising and celebrating the role they carry out;
- How we can improve data collection around the carers group to build a more detailed picture of carers within Sunderland which can help to influence or shape future support; and
- Considering the greater involvement of carer groups to help improve policies, strategies and services that may directly or indirectly impact on carers;

The panel also felt it would be beneficial for officers to share information and approaches, with neighbouring authorities, in order to develop resources around carer themes.

Councillor Shattock advised that carers could often be the forgotten group, but in Sunderland this was not the case and the Council along with its partners continued to promote and support carers.

In conclusion Councillor Shattock thanked all the members of the Panel, officers and partner organisations for their commitment to the issue of supporting carers in Sunderland and their contribution to this work.

In response Councillor Kelly advised that not only did the carers save Sunderland an estimated £706.9m per annum through the care that they provided, they were also of emotional value. He and the Health, Housing and Adult Services Portfolio Holder were fully supportive with this work and the volunteer networks.

Councillor T. Martin was pleased to present the Panel's review into the Council's approach to Flood Risk Management in Sunderland. He advised Cabinet that the findings of the report were based on the Panel's discussions with the main agencies involved; namely the Council, the Environment Agency and Northumbrian Water.

Cabinet Members were advised that the report stressed the importance of joint working and making the most of available resources. Flooding or the potential for flooding could not be prevented or eradicated however the agencies could work together to minimise its effect and severity. In practice residents did not care who was responsible for various aspects of flood defence but they were concerned about the effect on themselves and their property.

Councillor Martin thanked the members of the Panel, officers and partner organisations for their involvement in the review and their vital contribution.

In response Councillor Mordey thanked Cllr Martin and the City Services Scrutiny Panel in carrying out the Policy Review into flood risk management in Sunderland. He reported that the Panel reviewed the impact of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 as it introduced new roles and responsibilities for the Council relating to flood risk management. He added that the Council as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) was now responsible for bringing together all relevant bodies and agencies involved in flood risk management.

Cabinet Members were advised that the Panel looked at the causes and types of flooding; the respective roles and powers of the agencies involved, the current situation with regard to flood risk in the city; the action currently taking place and planned for the future to alleviate these risks; and agreed that it would contribute to the development of the forthcoming Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. The Panel heard that while Sunderland was not a high risk area for flooding, the likelihood of flooding incidents would increase in the future due to climate change, increasing urbanisation, an ageing drainage and sewerage system and increasing surface water run off.

Councillor Mordey reported that what was made clear by the Panel was the need to improve communications with residents to ensure that they are better prepared for flood events. He added that the Panel identified a number of areas of work that Council officers should address and these recommendations were in the report and formed the basis of the associated action plan.

Councillor Mordey thanked colleagues on the City Services Scrutiny Panel and all of the officers and staff involved for their hard work during the course of the review and thanked them for their valuable contribution.

Councillor Martin then presented the Skills, Economy and Regeneration Scrutiny Panel's review into Economic Diversification in Sunderland. He explained that the Panel's report looked at the potential to diversify and the challenges facing the city if it was to diversify its local economy. The review highlighted that to create a broader base to the local economy more focus was needed on both long standing sectors of the economy, such as automotive, manufacturing and contact centres and at the same time to support new and emerging sectors such as digital, media and software.

Cabinet Members were advised that the city should also continue to develop its financial and professional sector as the new developments taking place in the city centre, such as the development of the Vaux site, the Port of Sunderland and off-shore manufacturing opportunities, could all help to diversify and strengthen the city's economy.

Councillor Martin thanked everyone involved in the work of the Panel for their contribution to the report.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Martin and the Scrutiny Panel for Skills, Economy and Regeneration for the policy review into the diversification of the local economy. He advised that the development and continued investment in the Port, software, creative and automotive sectors of the economy together with the physical infrastructure that the Council had developed as part of its support for business could only help to improve diversification. In addition he drew attention to the new delivery vehicles to support the ongoing diversification of the economy and promotional activity to support inward investment.

Councillor Kelly highlighted the cultural offer in the city and reported that the Council continued to work with cultural partners on the city's overall visitor offer. He drew attention to the quality of the projects along the seafront and thanked the officers who had worked on the projects.

Councillor Thompson presented the final review on behalf of the Responsive, Services and Customer Care Scrutiny Panel. He explained that volunteering had been chosen as an inquiry topic partly in response to views that cuts to voluntary sector resources would worsen over the coming years, and yet, voluntary organisations were seen increasingly as a route for delivering public services.

Cabinet Members were advised that Scrutiny members wanted to look into how far both the Council and the sector were able to work more effectively together to get the most out of limited resources. Councillor Thompson reported that the Panel had tried to address openly some of the difficulties facing both the council and voluntary sector organisations in the current economic climate. He added that the overwhelming message which showed up in the evidence was that volunteering came with a price for any community organisation.

Councillor Thompson highlighted that the report contained a number of recommendations which responded to a range of issues which included the council leading by example, ensuring that opportunities were available for council employees to be involved in volunteering, particularly those recently retired employees. The report also recommended further support for elected members to act as local connectors in their wards.

Cabinet Members were advised that the recommendations were intended to support the council in making clear its own priorities for working with the voluntary sector, recognising just how diverse it was and to gain a clearer view of the full range of volunteering activity in the city.

In response Councillor Gofton reported that Sunderland City Council and the voluntary and community sector (VCS) have worked effectively for many years to achieve outcomes that were of mutual benefit for the communities they served. She advised that it was increasingly important that elected members and council officers work more closely with communities to understand not only their needs but to harness the knowledge and unique capabilities of the VCS and the communities in which they often lived and worked.

The attention of Cabinet Members was drawn to an internal review which was carried out earlier in the year as part of the Council's transformation journey. The aim of the review had been to help to re-determine the Council's approach to working alongside the VCS and develop further the relationship with the sector to support the Council's wider objectives. A key aspect of the review had been to widen understanding of local provision and activities already being delivered by VCS organisations, understand the issues in relation to their capacity to continue to deliver those activities and of course encouraging the involvement of volunteers was a key concern for many of those organisations.

Councillor Gofton reported that the specific outcomes in relation to volunteering were currently being finalised. She explained that the role of volunteers in supporting and adding value to the delivery of Council services was being considered in addition to the Council's role in facilitating and promoting volunteering and mutual support in communities.

In conclusion Councillor Gofton welcomed the review and its timeliness in terms of being able to join up the findings with the Council's internal review into facilitating and promoting volunteering, to support delivery of council services and as such endorse the recommendations and the delivery of the action plan.

Cabinet Members having thanked the Scrutiny Committee for their informative and detailed policy reviews, it was:-

2. RESOLVED that the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee and the proposed Action Plans for their implementation be approved.

North East Procurement Organisation (NEPO) Transformation – Introduction of New Arrangements for the Leadership & Governance of the NEPO Service and Regional Collaborative Procurement

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to seek agreement for the revised arrangements for the leadership and management of the NEPO Service and Regional Collaborative Procurement.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Kelly highlighted that NEPO was responsible for organising collaborative contracts on behalf of all Councils in the North East and it was currently hosted by Gateshead Council and managed through a Joint Committee with an Executive Sub Committee. He explained that in order to ensure that NEPO continued to be fit for purpose an extensive review had taken place and a number of proposals had been made to further improve its efficiency and effectiveness.

Cabinet Members were advised that it was proposed that:-

- the NEPO Joint Committee be disbanded,
- the responsibility for providing the service be transferred to ANEC and be overseen by the Leaders and Elected Mayors' Group, and
- strategic direction and advice be made available through a proposed member-led Collaborative Procurement Sub-Committee, which would be advised by two lead Directors of Resources.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) subject to ANEC's formal agreement, the revised governance structure and staffing arrangements as outlined in the report for the administration of the NEPO Service and future collaborative procurement on behalf of the LA12 be approved,
- (ii) the Leader's appointment of the Cabinet Secretary to serve on the Collaborative Procurement Subcommittee of ANEC be noted,
- (iii) it be recommended to Council to authorise the Head of Law and Governance to make any consequential changes to the Constitution to give effect to these revised arrangements, and
- (iv) the Head of Law and Governance, in consultation with the Cabinet Secretary, be authorised to approve such further changes to the agreements envisaged by this report as she may determine and to complete them on behalf of the Council.

International Advanced Manufacturing Park (IAMP): Investigatory Studies, Policy Proposals, Planning Permissions And Advance Infrastructure

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to seek approval to undertake a significant number and variety of required investigations, preparations, design works and applications, and acquisition of land and property to support the development of new commercial space to accommodate predicted demand for employer occupation in the area north of the Sunderland Nissan plant, referred to as the International Advanced Manufacturing Park (IAMP). The proposed work included site investigations, the preparation of planning policies and planning applications, traffic modelling and road design. It might also involve initial infrastructure works and land acquisitions.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chairman reminded Cabinet Members that in March the Council had successfully concluded negotiations with Government in support of an ambitious City Deal for Sunderland with economic growth at its heart. He explained that Sunderland's City Deal had been developed in partnership with South Tyneside Council as one of the key assets, the land close to Nissan which spanned the City boundary, was a shared resource.

Cabinet Members were advised that a major priority of the Sunderland City Deal was the creation of a new International Advanced Manufacturing Park on the land to the north of the Nissan plant. This site would become the focus for much of the inward investment activity, centred on the automotive and advanced manufacturing sector and supply chain, for which Sunderland had become renowned. It would provide the City and the wider region with the opportunity to drive significant economic growth.

The Chairman advised that the report sought authority to undertake the necessary investigations, road designs and land acquisitions in order to expedite the implementation of the scheme.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and Cabinet Secretary and the Head of Financial Resources, be authorised to take all necessary actions required for the procurement and delivery of the programme of investigations and preparations and the acquisition of land and property in relation to the delivery of the project.

**Sunderland Strategic Transport Corridor – New Wear Crossing
Scheme under Section 106(3) of the Highways Act 1980 and Licence under
Sections 66 and 67 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009**

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to gain approval to obtain the statutory permissions needed to construct the New Wear Crossing in the River Wear due to its tidal nature. The permissions include *making a scheme* and seeking its confirmation by the Secretary of State for Transport under section 106(3) of the Highways Act 1980; and for making an application to the Marine Management Organisation to vary and extend the approved Marine Licence to accommodate the revised bridge design for the New Wear Crossing.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Mordey highlighted that the City Deal for Sunderland also included confirmation of Government funding for the New Wear Crossing and reminded Cabinet Members that the procurement process through a design and build route had commenced. He explained that the report sought authorisation to apply for two further statutory approvals, namely:-

- to seek permission to construct over navigable water. Approval was required under Section 106(3) of the Highways Act 1980 and was dealt with by the Secretary of State for Transport following a formal consultation managed by the Department for Transport casework team.
- a Marine Licence to provide authority to construct a bridge over navigable water, where the navigable water was tidal. This approval needed to be in place for the construction period only and was dealt with by the Marine Management Organisation. An existing licence was in place, and this must be varied and extended to accommodate the Project.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

5. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) approval be given to the making of a scheme under Section 106(3) of the Highways Act 1980 in relation to the proposed New Wear Crossing and thereafter the submission of the scheme to the Secretary of State for Transport for confirmation;
- (ii) approval be given to the making of an application to the Marine Management Organisation to vary and extend the approved Marine Licence under sections 66 and 67 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009; and
- (iii) the Deputy Chief Executive and the Head of Law and Governance be authorised to take all necessary action to achieve confirmation of the above scheme and variation of the Marine Licence.

Proposal to Develop and Implement a Commissioning Model for the Provision of Apprenticeships for Learners aged 16-18

The Deputy Chief Executive and the Executive Director of People Services submitted a joint report (copy circulated) to seeks approval to a proposed change in the Council's current approach to 16-18 apprenticeships, moving from direct delivery to the development and implementation of a commissioning model and to set out a series of next steps to implement the process, including ceasing direct delivery via the Council's internal training centres (ITeC and Riverside Training) and the procurement of future delivery through third party providers.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Gofton highlighted that the implementation process, which included ceasing direct delivery through the Council's training centres at ITEC and the Riverside and the procurement of delivery through suitable, third-party external providers. She explained that approval was sought to the commissioning of 16-18 apprenticeship delivery under the Council's existing contract with the Skills Funding Agency.

Cabinet Members were reminded of a decision taken in June 2013 to establish an independent Community Interest Company. This was part of an earlier proposal to develop an alternative service delivery model but this option was no longer considered viable in the longer term. It was therefore also recommended to formally dissolve the Community Interest Company.

Councillor Gofton reported that approval of these proposals would enable the Council to influence the growth of skills within the City, and to improve the strategic alignment of 16-18 Apprenticeship delivery with learning provision currently commissioned by the Family, Adult and Community Learning team. It would also allow us to target delivery of 16-18 Apprenticeships to the key economic growth sectors in Sunderland. She assured Cabinet Members that all existing learners who were still in learning during this transition period would be transferred smoothly to their new training provider, ensuring they continued to progress and achieve their qualifications without disruption.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

6. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the commissioning of the delivery of apprenticeships, under the Council's existing Skills Funding Agency (SFA) contract, through external training providers, to ensure quality outcomes for learners aged 16-18 be authorised,
- (ii) the necessary responsibilities associated with ceasing the direct delivery of apprenticeships be delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director of People Services, and
- (iii) the Community Interest Company (CIC) described in paragraph 3.6 of the Cabinet report be formally dissolved.

Alternative Service Delivery Model for ICT– Shared ICT Service Proposal with Durham County Council Update

The Assistant Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to advise of the work undertaken to determine the business case for a potential collaborative ICT service for Durham County Council and Sunderland City Council.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chairman reminded Cabinet Members that over the period October 2012 to March 2014 a joint project had been undertaken to determine if there was a business case to develop a new Shared Service approach to ICT across both Durham County Council and Sunderland City Council. He explained that during the review both councils recognised that there was a need to change the traditional approach to how the ICT service was delivered and to introduce a new approach. The approach would need to create the flexibility to support the increasing diversity in service delivery operating models in future delivery of services regardless of the delivery mechanism that was being used within that service area.

Cabinet Members were advised that the development of the business case identified a number of benefits in such an approach, these included efficiency savings through sharing of ICT Infrastructure, software licenses and staff. It also identified key challenges in areas such as leadership; governance; assets; processes; culture; customer base and growth. Many of the issues identified could be overcome for example the mismatch between the sizes of the two organisations would require appropriate governance arrangements to be in place that would allow decision making to be equitable, consistent and reflect the financial positions of both organisations.

The Chairman reported that as the business case developed it became apparent that both Councils were at different stages in some areas such as

- the pace of change;
- Sunderland's plans to adopt alternative service delivery models including mutualisation of services; and
- detailed business objectives.

He explained that areas where Sunderland and Durham could effectively collaborate on grounds of efficiency and effectiveness had been identified however formal integration would not provide the most effective outcomes. He added that a considerable amount of good had come out of the joint working plans that would not be lost and could be called on at any stage in the future and joint working or knowledge sharing was continuing in some areas such as the Digital Durham project.

7. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the work undertaken to determine the business case for a potential collaborative ICT service for Durham County Council and Sunderland Council be noted,

- (ii) the continued joint working between the authorities in areas where there is mutual benefit be supported, and
- (iii) approval be given to close down the proposed collaborative ICT shared service model with Durham County Council.

Proposal for future Special Education Needs (SEN) provision for pupils with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and sensory needs

The Executive Director of People Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to inform of the process required to develop an ASD provision at Usworth Colliery Primary School, and to discontinue Sensory provision at George Washington Primary School. The report also sought permission to commence the statutory consultation process required in relation to these proposals.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

In highlighting the report, the Chairman advised that in order to progress the development of the ASD Unit at Usworth Colliery and the discontinuation of the sensory unit at George Washington Primary School, a 4 week public consultation exercise was required to formalise the proposals. He informed Cabinet Members that all of the governing bodies of schools impacted by this decision supported the proposals.

Cabinet Members having been requested that approval be given to commence the statutory consultation process and subsequently to convene a meeting of the School Organisation Committee of Cabinet to evaluate the consultation outcomes and agree the way forward, it was:-

8. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the statutory consultation process in relation to the proposal to create ASD provision at Usworth Colliery Primary School be commenced;
- (ii) the statutory consultation process in relation to the proposal to discontinue the sensory provision at George Washington Primary School be commenced; and
- (iii) a meeting of the School Organisation Committee of Cabinet (SOCOC) be convened to evaluate the outcomes of the consultation on these proposals and to reach a decision.

Washington Leisure Centre – Procurement of Equipment

The Executive Director of People Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to seek approval to procure and award contracts for the provision of wellness centre equipment and a Combined Heat and Power Unit (CHU) for the new Leisure Centre at Washington.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Kelly reminded Cabinet Members of the decision to appoint Pellikaan as the preferred bidder to construct the new Leisure Centre at Washington in June 2013. He reported that construction had begun in January 2014 and was progressing as planned. He drew attention to the facilities that the new Centre would provide and added that in order to maintain progress with the development of the centre wellness equipment and a Combined Heat and Power Unit was required to be procured.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

9. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the Executive Director of People Services be authorised to procure and award a contract to supply and install the wellness centre equipment for the new Leisure Centre at Washington,
- (ii) the Executive Director of People Services be authorised to procure and award a contract to supply and install (under a lease arrangement) a Combined Heat and Power unit for the new Washington Leisure Centre, and
- (iii) the Executive Director of People Services be authorised to take all necessary steps to give effect to the matters set out in the report.

Proposed Capital Works at Our Lady Queen of Peace Primary School to respond to demand for Primary School Places in The Coalfields and Washington

The Executive Director of People Services (copy circulated) to seek approval for capital development to increase school places at Our Lady Queen of Peace Roman Catholic (RC) Primary School from 210 to 315 to respond to projected over subscription in the Coalfields and Washington areas from faith based families in both areas.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chairman reported that this proposal would ensure the Council fulfilled its statutory responsibility in relation to pupil place planning. He explained that the proposed works at Our Lady Queen of Peace was a response to the increasing demand for places in Coalfield and Washington, particularly Roman Catholic primary places.

Cabinet Members were requested to approve the capital project at the primary school in order that the planning and procurement processes could commence to start on site from September 2014.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

10. RESOLVED that the capital project at Our Lady Queen of Peace be approved in order that the planning and procurement processes can commence to start on site from September 2014.

Revenue Budget Outturn for 2013/2014 and First Revenue Review 2014/2015

The Head of Financial Resources submitted a report (copy circulated) to detail the Revenue Budget Outturn for 2013/2014 and First Revenue Review 2014/2015.

(For copy report –see original minutes).

The Chairman drew attention to the outturn position and the pressures that had been contained within the overall outturn position for 2013/2014. He reported that this included the increasing demand pressures in respect of Children's Services External Placements resulting in an outturn deficit of £2.4m which continued to be an on-going pressure in 2014/2015. In addition the demand in residential and nursing care and independent home care continued to place very significant pressure on the Health Housing and Adult Services budget. The Chairman explained that one-off mitigating actions in 2013/2014 which had reduced the shortfall to £0.4m however there remained an on-going pressure into 2014/2015 of £3.1m which was being actively managed.

Cabinet Members were advised that all other Portfolio budgets were within delegated budgets at outturn which was an excellent outcome given the significant £37m budget savings targets for the year which Portfolio holders had worked hard to achieve. Their attention was drawn to the savings in contingencies, capital financing costs, and the approach to capturing salaries savings corporately had led to an under spending of £5 million at year end. This would be used to support capital priorities into 2014/15 and future years thus reducing the potential pressure on the revenue budget.

Turning to the position at first review, the Chairman drew attention to a number of challenges in implementing the required £36m of reductions in 2014/2015. He reported that while in overall terms progress was positive, the position in the report reflected the fact that it was getting much more difficult as the Council moved into the fourth year of the spending cuts. He assured Cabinet Members that whilst it was early days robust monitoring processes were in place to ensure that the budget would be delivered. He added that where delays in implementation of savings targets were identified Portfolio holders and Directors were progressing alternative actions to address the position.

Councillor Kelly acknowledged that this had been a very difficult budget to deliver on cost and expressed his appreciation to employees across the Council who had worked hard to achieve the efficiencies. He added that it would be increasingly hard to make the efficiencies in the future and it was vital to enlist the help of voluntary and community action organisations to help deliver services.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

11. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) in relation to 2013/2014 approval be given and where necessary to recommend to Council to approve:-
 - (a) the contingency and reserve transfers proposed at Appendix A, budget transfers and virement at Appendix B; and
 - (b) the final account decisions as set out in the report.
- (ii) in relation to 2014/2015 to approve the contingency transfers at Appendix E and budget transfers.

At this juncture Councillor Gofton and the Deputy Chief Executive withdrew from the meeting in view of their interest in the following item as members of the Board of Corporation of the City of Sunderland College.

Capital Programme Outturn 2013/2014 and First Capital Review 2014/2015 (including Treasury Management)

The Head of Financial Resources submitted a report (copy circulated) which detailed:-

- the Capital Programme Outturn for 2013/2014;
- the outcome of the First Capital Review for 2014/2015 taking account of the Capital Programme Outturn;
- changes made to the Capital Programme 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 since its approval; and
- an update on the outturn position for 2013/2014 and progress in implementing the Treasury Management Borrowing and Investment Strategy for 2014/2015.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chairman reported that the outturn position for 2013/2014 reflected capital investment of £51.0m in the last year on the city's priorities including:-

- a new state of the art Business Centre at Washington that included workshops and office space expected to support 200 jobs;
- works within the city centre which were supporting its regeneration including the former Vaux site;
- highways and transport schemes including cycle routes, bus route improvements, road safety improvements, traffic calming and signal refurbishments;
- capital investments to support the continued improvement of Port's commercial operations;
- a variety of essential works in schools including window and boiler replacements, roofing works and fire detections systems;
- Disabled Facilities Grants to help support disabled people to remain in their own properties for as long as possible.

The attention of Cabinet Members was drawn to the variations in the 2013/2014 programme totalling £17.2m primarily due to reprofiling expenditure into 2014/2015 and future years. This had been necessary largely due to delays in finalising discussions with property owners and contractors and reviewing scheme requirements to minimise costs to the Council.

The Chairman then referred to the first review of the 2014/2015 programme and highlighted that after taking into account slippage from previous years there were a number of additional schemes and variations amounting to £16.3m all of which were fully funded and primarily supporting further regeneration works.

Turning to the 2015/2016 programme, Cabinet Members were advised that a £3.0m contribution to the new college campus on Holmeside could be funded from earmarked resources. This would support the City's Education and Skills strategic priority as well as provide an economic boost through increased footfall.

The Chairman then reported that there continued to be positive performance in relation to Treasury Management.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

12. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) in respect of outturn for 2013/2014 to :
 - (a) approval be given to, and where necessary it be recommended to Council, the inclusion of additional expenditure for 2013/2014 as included at Appendix A, and
 - (b) the overall Capital outturn position for 2013/2014 be noted,
- (ii) in respect of the first capital review for 2014/2015:-
 - (a) approval be given to the amendments in resourcing the Capital Programme since it was approved by Council in March 2014, and
 - (b) approval be given and where necessary recommended to Council, the inclusion of additional expenditure for 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 detailed at Appendix B,
- (iii) the positive progress in implementing the 2014/2015 Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators be noted.

Councillor Gofton and the Deputy Chief Executive were then re-admitted to the meeting.

Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006

At the instance of the Chairman it was: -

13. RESOLVED that in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 the public be excluded during consideration of the remaining business as it was considered to involve a likely disclosure of information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority) (Paragraph 3 of Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

(Signed) M. SPEDING,
Chairman

Note:-

The above minutes comprise only those relating to items during which the meeting was open to the public.

Additional minutes in respect of other items are included in Part II.