

**Record of
Executive
Decisions
published
12/Mar/2010**



Record of Executive Decisions Published: 12/Mar/2010

Decision Taker: Cabinet

Appropriate Review Committee:

Prosperity and Economic Development Scrutiny
Committee

Date decision in force:

22/Mar/2010

Date of decision:

10/Mar/2010

Full description of decision:

To approve a contribution of £100,000 to The Difference Engine Investment Fund.

Reasons for decision:

Joining with the other partners will help us to develop this innovative concept and grow new Hi-tech businesses and high quality jobs.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

Not to support the project would lose the opportunity to assist new businesses and job creation.

Title and author(s) of written report:

The Difference Engine - Investment Fund - Report of the Chief Executive

Contact Officer:

Janet Snaith

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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: 12/Mar/2010

Decision Taker: Cabinet

Appropriate Review Committee:
Management

Date decision in force:

22/Mar/2010

Date of decision:

10/Mar/2010

Full description of decision:

To:

- (i) Approve the new and revised Local Area Agreement targets as set out in the report.
- (ii) Authorise the Council Leader, Chief Executive, in discussion with the chair of the Sunderland Partnership, to approve any changes in the targets that may result from the negotiations with Government Office North East

Reasons for decision:

The Cabinet's decision will enable the Council to satisfy the requirements of the Local Government and Involvement in Public Health Act in relation to the Local Area Agreement by agreeing targets for the priority indicators included in the document agreed with Government in June 2008.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

The requirement to review and refresh the Local Area Agreement is a legislative obligation and there are no alternative options. The Council is not obligated to renegotiate targets as proposed. However, the alternative of retaining the targets agreed in June may have an adverse impact on the Council's reputation as measured through the Comprehensive Area Assessment and the level of Performance Reward Grant (PRG) generated.

Title and author(s) of written report:

Local Area Agreement Annual Review Process 2009/2010 - Report of the 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

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 12/Mar/2010

Decision Taker: Cabinet

Appropriate Review Committee:

Prosperity and Economic Development Scrutiny
Committee

Date decision in force:

22/Mar/2010

Date of decision:

10/Mar/2010

Full description of decision:

To:-

- a) approve a contribution of £2.6 million to be met from the Working Neighbourhoods Fund;
- b) agree to the location of the building on the site of the Tavistock Place Car Park;
- c) authorise the Deputy Chief Executive to procure the building in accordance with the details set out in this report.

Reasons for decision:

- This project contributes towards addressing the Council's priority for economic growth and developing a diverse economic base.
- The development of the Software City concept has demonstrated excellent partnership's working leveraging in significant external funding.
- The opportunity to secure the funding package will enable the project to be delivered quickly.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

Not to go ahead with the project would mean that the city would not be in a position to develop and grow a new software sector and would lose the potential for new jobs growth.

Title and author(s) of written report:

Development of Sunderland Software Centre - Report of the Chief Executive and Director of Financial Resources

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

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 12/Mar/2010

Decision Taker: Cabinet

Appropriate Review Committee:
Management Scrutiny Committee

Date decision in force:

10/Mar/2010

Date of decision:

10/Mar/2010

Full description of decision:

To approve the use of resources improvement plan.

Reasons for decision:

The Council's use of resources improvement plan will support the council on its improvement journey and enable it to more effectively and efficiently manage and use its resources, thus delivering value for money and better and sustainable outcomes for local people. This should in turn result in the council achieving improved scores within the use of resources assessment, which would enable the council to continue to be recognised as a high performer in the management of its resources.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

The alternative option is to not approve the Council's use of resources improvement plan. The consequences of this would be that the council does not maximise the value for money from its use of resources, which is essential within the current economic climate. Failure to improve upon the Council's use of resources scores will also risk the council being 'left behind' by other improving councils and could lead the AC to arrive at the conclusion that the council is 'coasting'. This would be harmful to the Council's reputation, as it has previously been considered a high performer in the management of its resources.

Title and author(s) of written report:

Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) Use of Resources Improvement Plan -
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:

The following Councillors declared personal interests as members of the bodies indicated:- Councillors P. Watson and D. Wilson - Safer Sunderland Partnership
Councillor F. Anderson - Sunderland Partnership, South Tyne & Wear Waste
Management Joint Executive Committee (substitute) Councillors Blackburn and
Trueman - South Tyne & Wear Waste Management Joint Executive Committee

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 12/Mar/2010

Decision Taker: Cabinet

Appropriate Review Committee:

Prosperity and Economic Development Scrutiny
Committee

Date decision in force:

22/Mar/2010

Date of decision:

10/Mar/2010

Full description of decision:

To approve a contribution of £100,000 to The Difference Engine Investment Fund.

Reasons for decision:

Joining with the other partners will help us to develop this innovative concept and grow new Hi-tech businesses and high quality jobs.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

Not to support the project would lose the opportunity to assist new businesses and job creation.

Title and author(s) of written report:

The Difference Engine - Investment Fund - Report of the Chief Executive

Contact Officer:

Janet Snaith

Extension:

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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: 12/Mar/2010

Decision Taker: Cabinet

Appropriate Review Committee:

Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny
Committee

Date decision in force:

22/Mar/2010

Date of decision:

10/Mar/2010

Full description of decision:

To approve to the final version of the CYPP 2010-25 and to present the documents to Council for ratification in March 2010.

Reasons for decision:

The CYPP is an Article 4 plan under the Constitution of the Council and is the primary document for the Children's Trust partnership to set out how it will deliver priorities to deliver better outcomes for children, young people and their families.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

The alternative option is not to produce a CYPP. This would result in a breach of the Council's Constitution and have a negative impact on outcomes for children, young people and their families.

Title and author(s) of written report:

Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) 2010-2025 - Report of 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

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 12/Mar/2010

Decision Taker: Cabinet

Appropriate Review Committee:
Management Scrutiny Committee

Date decision in force:

22/Mar/2010

Date of decision:

10/Mar/2010

Full description of decision:

To:

- approve the expenditure of up to £2,000,000 from the Revenue Budget Contingency provision for Strategic Priorities for the Invest to Save Improvement Programme budget to enable the implementation of a number of efficiency projects;
- authorise the Chief Executive to undertake all necessary procurement and contractual arrangements in consultation with the Leader and Resources Portfolio Holder.

Reasons for decision:

This approach:

- Provides a pragmatic solution to supporting the changing context in which local government is now operating – combining the best of what the council already has and enabling further efficiency and improvement with additional flexibility, pace and challenge.
- Proposes the use of resources to invest in detailed projects in order to deliver both efficiency savings and improved customer services. Will ensure best value is achieved by seeking tenders or by the extension of existing contracts as appropriate.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

- Do nothing – although the council remains high performing and delivers a range of good individual front-line services, the changing context of local government finance, coupled with the changing expectations of our customers, means that doing nothing is not an option as this would neither improve services nor deliver efficiency savings.
- Continue to deliver the efficiency programme without the significant increase in scale and challenge as set out in this report. This is not an option as the uncertainty in public service spending requires an increase in pace and investment.

Title and author(s) of written report:

Supporting the Efficiency Agenda - through the implementation of further key projects - Report of the 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

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 12/Mar/2010

Decision Taker: Cabinet

Appropriate Review Committee:

Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee
and Planning and Highways Committee

Date decision in force:

22/Mar/2010

Date of decision:

10/Mar/2010

Full description of decision:

To recommend to Council to:

- i) Note the representations received to the Core Strategy Alternative Options Consultation and agree the Officer recommendations to each response as set out in Annex 1;
- ii) Approve the attached Sunderland Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options (including the Sustainability Appraisal and Appropriate Assessment reports) for the purposes of public consultation and as a material consideration in assessing planning applications, pending its finalisation following public consultation;
- iii) Authorise the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Prosperous City, to make any required amendments to the attached Sunderland Core Strategy Preferred Options (including the Sustainability Appraisal and Appropriate Assessment reports) as necessary prior to its publication for public consultation.

Reasons for decision:

The decision is required to enable the Core Strategy to proceed to its next stage (statutory consultation) in accordance with the Council's adopted Local Development Scheme. Authority is sought for the Deputy Chief Executive to agree final amendments to the documentation prior to their publication. This is to acknowledge ongoing discussions with Government Office for the North East regarding the wording of policies relating to the city's net additional housing requirement, gypsies and travellers, strategic development sites and green infrastructure. These discussions are recognised as best practice. It should be noted that consultants have been commissioned to complete further evidence in relation to the viability of securing affordable housing. This is due to be completed in late March.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

All local planning authorities are charged under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 with the preparation of a local development framework (LDF), which must include a core strategy. They are also charged with preparing the LDF in accordance with the provisions of an approved Local Development Scheme (LDS). Therefore there are no alternatives to preparing the preferred options of the Core Strategy.

Title and author(s) of written report:

City of Sunderland Local Development Framework: Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options - Report of the Deputy Chief Executive

Contact Officer:

Gary Clasper

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Is this a key decision: Yes

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information: No

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

Councillors P. Watson and F. Anderson declared personal interests as members of the Sunderland Partnership.

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 12/Mar/2010

Decision Taker: Cabinet

Appropriate Review Committee:

Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee
and Planning and Highways Committee

Date decision in force:

22/Mar/2010

Date of decision:

10/Mar/2010

Full description of decision:

To: a) Approve the Draft St. Peters Riverside and Bonnersfield Planning Framework Supplementary Planning Document and accompanying Strategic Environmental Assessment for the purposes of consultation. b) Approve the Draft St. Peter's Riverside and Bonnersfield Planning Framework Supplementary Planning Document as planning guidance, pending its finalisation following consultation.

Reasons for decision:

To initiate a formal process to progress the St. Peter's Riverside and Bonnersfield Planning Framework to adoption by the Council as a Supplementary Planning Document, by carrying out public consultation on its content. This will inform the completion of a planning framework document that will facilitate the further regeneration of the area in a manner that balances the Sunderland Partnership's aspirations for its development with the need to have appropriate regard for the setting of the prospective World Heritage Site of St. Peter's Church and grounds.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

The alternative option is not to prepare a planning framework. The consequences of this would be a failure to meet the requirement set out in the adopted UDP Alteration No.2 policy ECB5 to prepare a broad framework for each Strategic Location for Change site. In addition, failure to prepare an endorsed framework will reduce the Council's ability to ensure a high quality of development in the Plan area while protecting the setting of the prospective World Heritage Site. The lack of such a planning framework would be detrimental to the Wearmouth-Jarrow Partnership's bid for Inscription of the site on the World Heritage Register.

Title and author(s) of written report:

St. Peter's Riverside and Bonnersfield Planning Framework – Draft Supplementary Planning Document - Report of the Deputy Chief Executive

Contact Officer:

Peter Lawson

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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 bodies indicated:- Councillor P. Watson - Sunderland arc, ANEC Councillor F. Anderson - Sunderland arc (substitute), ANEC Councillors Allan, Trueman and D. Wilson - ANEC

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 12/Mar/2010

Decision Taker: Cabinet

Appropriate Review Committee:

Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny
Committee

Date decision in force:

22/Mar/2010

Date of decision:

10/Mar/2010

Full description of decision:

To approve the:

- i) admission policy and procedures;
- ii) details of the oversubscription criteria; and
- iii) published admission numbers (PANS)

Reasons for decision:

Cabinet approval of the admission arrangements is required prior to submission to DCSF and publication for parents.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

There are no alternative options to be considered at this time.

Title and author(s) of written report:

School Admission Arrangements - September 2011 - Report of the Executive
Director of Children's Services

Contact Officer:

Val Thompson

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Is this a key decision: Yes

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information: No

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

Councillors Anderson, Allan, Blackburn, Charlton, P. Smith, Trueman, D. Wilson and N. Wright declared personal interests as Governors of Primary and Secondary Schools in the City

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 12/Mar/2010

Decision Taker: Cabinet

Appropriate Review Committee:

Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny
Committee

Date decision in force:

22/Mar/2010

Date of decision:

10/Mar/2010

Full description of decision:

To: (i) Approve the BSF Wave 2 Strategy for Change (SfC) Business Case for submission to Partnerships for Schools (PfS) by 12th March 2010; (ii) Authorise the Executive Director of Children's Services, following the Cabinet meeting, to complete the SfC in consultation with the Chief Executive, the Director of Financial Resources, the Leader of the Council and Lead Members for Children's Services and Resources prior to the deadline.

Reasons for decision:

The Strategy for Change Business Case is the first formal stage of the BSF approvals process, requiring Cabinet approval prior to its submission to PfS. Approval will allow the project to progress to the Outline Business Case (OBC) Stage in October 2010.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

If the SfC does not receive approval then the project cannot progress to the OBC stage which will lead to delays in the overall programme plan for BSF.

Title and author(s) of written report:

Building Schools for the Future - Submission of the BSF Wave 2 Strategy for Change (SfC) Business Case

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:

Councillors Anderson and Blackburn declared personal interests as their grandchildren attend Hetton School.

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 12/Mar/2010

Decision Taker: Cabinet

Appropriate Review Committee:

Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny
Committee

Date decision in force:

22/Mar/2010

Date of decision:

10/Mar/2010

Full description of decision:

To approve in principle to progress the Partnership proposal and to receive a further report including the detail of the agreement by July 2010 with the aim of the Agreement being operational from September 2010 if approved.

Reasons for decision:

The entering into a Strategic Partnership Agreement will recognise the respective roles of both the City Council and the SAFC Foundation in jointly delivering programmes, will improve outcomes across the City and deliver shared priorities

Alternative options considered and rejected:

Existing commissioning arrangements could continue however this would fail to build upon the excellent and unique opportunity to further our objectives. Current arrangements do not reflect the enhancement that the SAFC Foundation bring to the programmes.

Title and author(s) of written report:

Sunderland City Council and SAFC Foundation Strategic Partnership Agreement - Joint report of the Executive Director of Children's Services and the Executive Director of City Services

Contact Officer:

Lynda Brown

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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: 12/Mar/2010

Decision Taker: Cabinet

Appropriate Review Committee:
Management Scrutiny Committee

Date decision in force:

22/Mar/2010

Date of decision:

10/Mar/2010

Full description of decision:

To approve £2.4m capital allocation to develop link between Houghton Sports Complex & Primary Care Centre including access to shared community & catering facilities, provide a contribution towards new purpose built Wellness Facility, improve access to Houghton Sports Complex by establishing new entrance & reception, car parking arrangements, hard surfacing & landscaping, improve customer experience through providing refurbished changing facilities/décor. To delegate authority to Executive Director of City Services in consultation with Deputy Chief Executive, Director of Financial Resources, Chief Solicitor & Resources Portfolio Holder to agree 50yr lease of 108m2 of accommodation in new Primary Care Centre, Houghton le Spring from TPCT for use as a Wellness Centre (together with operating rights in consultation with TPCT) at an annual rent of £1 representing a peppercorn rent & otherwise on terms & conditions to be agreed by Head of Land & Property. To agree terms of contract with TPCT main contractor on site

Reasons for decision:

To enable the proposed capital works to proceed and the associated leasing and procurement arrangements to put in place.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

The alternative options are: - The council could decide not to proceed with the partnership element of the project which would impact on the TPCT investment rationale for proposed council operated facilities, fail to address DDA & access compliance issues at Houghton Sports Complex, dilute the impact that joint facility & service provision has on addressing prevalent health conditions. - To address the access requirements of the existing sports complex through securing funding for a discrete project. This approach could address some of the access issues & improve customer experience it would not represent good value for money & fail to secure access to the additional facilities the partnership proposal brings.

Title and author(s) of written report:

Houghton-le-Spring – Primary Care Centre Development - Report of the Executive Director of City Services

Contact Officer:

Neil Revely

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566 1882

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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: 12/Mar/2010

Decision Taker: Cabinet

Appropriate Review Committee:

Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee and
Health and Well Being Scrutiny Committee

Date decision in force:

22/Mar/2010

Date of decision:

10/Mar/2010

Full description of decision:

To approve the invitation of contractors to tender for a two year contract for the installation of through floor lifts and ceiling tracking hoists with the option to extend a further year by the Council only.

Reasons for decision:

The existing contract has been successful in creating a more efficient service by reducing tender timescales on individual applications. The existing contract is due to expire therefore a new contract is required.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

There are no alternative options for consideration.

Title and author(s) of written report:

Home Improvement Agency - Tender for through Floor Lifts and Ceiling Tracking Hoists - Report of the Executive Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services

Contact Officer:

Neil Revely

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566 1882

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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: 12/Mar/2010

Decision Taker: Cabinet

Appropriate Review Committee:
Management Scrutiny Committee

Date decision in force:

10/Mar/2010

Date of decision:

10/Mar/2010

Full description of decision:

To:

- i) note the report of the 25th February 2010, and
- ii) approve the various establishment changes within Children's Services, Office of the chief Executive, Financial Resources and ICT.

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 Personnel Committee held on 25th February 2010, Part II

Contact Officer:

Kate Cuthbert

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561 7881

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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: 12/Mar/2010

Decision Taker: Cabinet

Appropriate Review Committee:

Prosperity and Economic Development Scrutiny
Committee

Date decision in force:

22/Mar/2010

Date of decision:

10/Mar/2010

Full description of decision:

To approve a grant, as detailed in the report, to the company in respect of fit out costs.

Reasons for decision:

By assisting the company the Council will help the company develop the business and create new job opportunities.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

Not to assist the company would mean that their expansion plans would be delayed and the opportunity for new jobs could be lost.

Title and author(s) of written report:

Request for Financial Assistance - Joint report of the Chief Executive and the Director of Financial Resources

Contact Officer:

Janet Snaith

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Is this a key decision: Yes

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information: Yes

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

None