

**Record of  
Executive  
Decisions  
published  
07/Oct/2011**



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Sunderland

7 October 2011



## **Record of Executive Decisions Published: 07/Oct/2011**

**Decision Taker:** Cabinet

**Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**  
Management Scrutiny Committee

**Date decision in force:**

05/Oct/2011

**Date of decision:**

05/Oct/2011

**Full description of decision:**

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

**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:**

Proposals for Budget Consultation 2012/2013 - Report of Chief Executive and Director of Commercial and Corporate Services

**Contact Officer:**

Sonia Tognarelli

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561 1851

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**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: 07/Oct/2011**

**Decision Taker:** Cabinet

**Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**  
Management Scrutiny Committee

**Date decision in force:**

05/Oct/2011

**Date of decision:**

05/Oct/2011

**Full description of decision:**

To approve the contingency transfers proposed at Appendix A of the report.

**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:**

Revenue Budget Second Review 2011/2012 - Report of the Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services

**Contact Officer:**

Sonia Tognarelli

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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: 07/Oct/2011**

**Decision Taker:** Cabinet

**Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**  
Management Scrutiny Committee

**Date decision in force:**

05/Oct/2011

**Date of decision:**

05/Oct/2011

**Full description of decision:**

To: (i) Authorise attendance at the Conference and Annual General Meeting from 2 - 5 November and the consequential travel of the Cabinet Secretary to Genoa, Italy (ii) Note the progress being made and benefits generated through Eurocities membership

**Reasons for decision:**

It is important that the City Council engages effectively within the network to identify and pursue the opportunities EUROCIITIES can open up for Sunderland, and that Sunderland continues to demonstrate its commitment to be an active partner in order to be able to maximise the benefits of those opportunities for the city. The theme of the 2011 Conference and AGM is in line with current priorities for the City Council and wider Sunderland Partnership objectives. The Conference programme will provide an opportunity to share experience in key areas and take part in discussions about the Work Programme for the network for 2012.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

A decision could be taken not to take part in the Conference and AGM. This would send a negative message about the City's commitment to participation in EUROCIITIES and mean that key opportunities to develop and share good practice in important policy areas as well as influence the future Work Programme of the network would be lost.

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

EUROCIITIES - Conference and Annual General Meeting - Report of the Chief Executive

**Contact Officer:**

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**Is this a key decision:** No

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

**Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:**

None

## **Record of Executive Decisions Published: 07/Oct/2011**

**Decision Taker:** Cabinet

**Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**  
Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny  
Committee

**Date decision in force:**

17/Oct/2011

**Date of decision:**

05/Oct/2011

**Full description of decision:**

To authorise the Deputy Chief Executive to award the main works contract for the Vaux Site Interim Works Phase 2 to, Sunderland City Council, City Services, following the completion of a competitive tender process which has been undertaken.

**Reasons for decision:**

The Vaux Site Interim Works project is identified in the Strategic Investment Plan as a key element of the regeneration of the City Centre.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

Now that the site is in Council ownership it is important to make progress to improve the condition of the site. Taking no action would fail to realise the interim benefits that can be achieved on such a prominent site, pending its redevelopment.

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

Vaux Site Interim Works Phase 2- Appointment of Contractor - Report of the Deputy Chief Executive

**Contact Officer:**

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**Is this a key decision:** Yes

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

**Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:**

None

## **Record of Executive Decisions Published: 07/Oct/2011**

**Decision Taker:** Cabinet

**Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**  
Management Scrutiny Committee

**Date decision in force:**

05/Oct/2011

**Date of decision:**

05/Oct/2011

**Full description of decision:**

- To agree the proposed Budget Planning Framework summarised at paragraph 12 which will guide the preparation of the Revenue Budget for 2012/2013;
- To note that the full Medium Term Financial Strategy 2011/2012 to 2014/2015 will be presented to Cabinet in November.

**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:**

Budget Planning Framework 2012/2013 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2011/2012 – 2014/2015

**Contact Officer:**

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**Is this a key decision:** No

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

**Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:**

None

## **Record of Executive Decisions Published: 07/Oct/2011**

**Decision Taker:** Cabinet

**Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**  
Management Scrutiny Committee

**Date decision in force:**

17/Oct/2011

**Date of decision:**

05/Oct/2011

**Full description of decision:**

To:

In relation to the Second Review of the Capital Programme for 2011/2012:

- approve, and where necessary recommend to Council, the inclusion of additional schemes for 2011/2012 detailed at Appendix A and associated resourcing of the Capital Programme since the First Review was reported to June Cabinet;
- approve re-investment of a North East Enterprise Bond.

In relation to the Treasury Management Strategy for 2011/2012:

- to note the progress in implementing the Treasury Management Strategy for 2011/2012
- to approve amendments to both the Lending List Criteria set out in Appendix B and the Lending List set out in Appendix C.

**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:**

Capital Programme Second Review 2011/2012 (including Treasury Management)

- Report of the Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services

**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: 07/Oct/2011**

**Decision Taker:** Cabinet

**Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**  
Management Scrutiny Committee

**Date decision in force:**

05/Oct/2011

**Date of decision:**

05/Oct/2011

**Full description of decision:**

To note the potential impact of the proposals contained within the consultation and to provide any additional comments or amendments to the main issues included in the proposed consultation response.

**Reasons for decision:**

The reason for the decision is to:

- Note the impact of the proposals to provide local support for Council Tax
- Agree a response to the consultation, by providing any additional comments or amendments to the draft response

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

The only alternative option would be to not respond to the consultation

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

Localising Support for Council Tax in England Consultation Response - Report of the Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate

**Contact Officer:**

Fiona Brown

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**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: 07/Oct/2011**

**Decision Taker:** Cabinet

**Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**  
Management Scrutiny Committee

**Date decision in force:**

05/Oct/2011

**Date of decision:**

05/Oct/2011

**Full description of decision:**

To:

- Note the contents of this report;
- Add any additional points or comments to the draft response;
- Note that the Council is to help inform the responses to the consultation of both ANEC and SIGOMA.

**Reasons for decision:**

To respond to the government's consultation on the Local Government Resource Review.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

No alternative options are proposed.

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

Local Government Resource Review Consultation - Report of the Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services

**Contact Officer:**

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561 1811

**Email:**

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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 Gofton, Kelly, Speding and Trueman - ANEC Councillor P. Watson - ANEC/SIGOMA

## **Record of Executive Decisions Published: 07/Oct/2011**

**Decision Taker:** Cabinet

**Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**

Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny  
Committee

**Date decision in force:**

17/Oct/2011

**Date of decision:**

05/Oct/2011

**Full description of decision:**

Following consultation with various partners, including Cabinet, Children's Trust and the Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee, to recommend to Council to approve the Annual Report.

**Reasons for decision:**

The Children and Young People's Plan is an Article 4 plan under the Council's Constitution and is the primary document for Children's Trust Partnerships to set out how they will deliver improved outcomes for children and young people in the city.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

The alternative option is not to submit the CYPP Annual Report to full Council. This would result in progress not being reported against the actions set in the CYPP.

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

Children and Young People's Plan Annual Report 2010-2011 - Report of the Executive Director of Children's Services

**Contact Officer:**

Keith Moore

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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:- Councillors P. Watson, Trueman and Allan - Children's Trust

## **Record of Executive Decisions Published: 07/Oct/2011**

**Decision Taker:** Cabinet

**Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**  
Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny  
Committee

**Date decision in force:**

17/Oct/2011

**Date of decision:**

05/Oct/2011

**Full description of decision:**

To approve the specific group of schools that meet eligibility criteria, the namely Hetton Secondary School, St. Anthony's RC Girls' School, Hylton Castle Primary School, Shiney Row Primary School and Usworth Grange Primary School and for Children's Services to submit a bid on behalf of those schools to the Department for Education (DfE) to be included in the Priority Schools Building Programme.

**Reasons for decision:**

Submitting an application for the Priority Schools Building Programme is a pragmatic opportunity to tackle the issues in those schools which are deemed to be in the worst condition in Sunderland. An opportunity such as this may not present itself for some time in the future and the capital investment would allow annual capital maintenance monies to then be allocated to a wider group of schools. This in turn would enable the maintenance backlog to be addressed.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

In terms of progressing capital investment priorities for schools within Sunderland, the Priority Schools Building Programme is the only opportunity available at this time. Therefore there are no alternative options suggested.

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

Capital Investment in Schools - Opportunity to bid for priority schools building programme - Joint report of the Executive Director of Children's Services and Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services

**Contact Officer:**

Keith Moore

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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 and prejudicial interests as Governors of schools affected by the proposals and with drew from the meeting during consideration of the report:- Councillor Allan - Thorney Close Primary School  
Councillor Kelly - Usworth Grange Primary School  
Councillor Speding - Shiney Row Primary School

## **Record of Executive Decisions Published: 07/Oct/2011**

**Decision Taker:** Cabinet

**Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**  
Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee

**Date decision in force:**

17/Oct/2011

**Date of decision:**

05/Oct/2011

**Full description of decision:**

To:

- Approve the new Allocations Scheme for the city to be implemented early 2012
- Agree that a full re-registration process be progressed for all applicants in line with the new Allocations Scheme to assess applicants' needs in accordance with the scheme.
- Agree that Council's existing housing register be closed, except for those customers who have an urgent housing need.
- Agree that Council nominations should continue to be made from the existing housing register until the new Allocations' Scheme comes into effect.
- To agree that the Sunderland scheme is part of a sub-regional approach across Tyne and Wear.
- To authorise the execution of the relevant agreements, protocols and other documents in relation to the Council's participation in the Tyne and Wear sub-regional approach, in each case in a form approved by the Head of Law and Governance.

**Reasons for decision:**

To enable customers to have a single point of entry to access housing within the City and across the sub region by virtue of a common application form and website.

To have an Allocations' Scheme based on housing need making it fairer, open and transparent for customers to use and understand.

Create efficiencies by removing the need for the Council to provide nominations in many cases. The new scheme will allow all Registered Providers to advertise properties directly on system to be monitored by Council to ensure compliance and meeting needs of those living within the City.

To ensure better accessibility for customers

To provide a clearer picture of housing need

To help those who have to move across boundaries to do so.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

To continue with the existing scheme, however the change proposed provides the opportunity to improve allocating available housing to those most in need and introduces a consistent single approach for customers to apply for housing.

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

Access to Housing Project - Allocations Scheme - Report of the Executive Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services

**Contact Officer:**

Neil Revely

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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: 07/Oct/2011**

**Decision Taker:** Cabinet

**Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**  
Health and Well Being Scrutiny Committee

**Date decision in force:**

17/Oct/2011

**Date of decision:**

05/Oct/2011

**Full description of decision:**

To approve the commencement of the procurement process and award contracts to provide welfare rights advice / information for the period 2nd August 2012 - 31st March 2014 on the basis that the value of these contracts will be over £75,000 in total. The budget for the contracts is £192, 000.00 per annum.

**Reasons for decision:**

To ensure that Sunderland residents continue to access support with their benefits, debt, employment and housing issues, as part of the councils overall approach to advice / information being implemented through the ongoing Information, Advice & Guidance Review.

**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 of the report.

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

Contract Provision for Welfare Rights Advice. - Report of the Executive Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services

**Contact Officer:**

Neil Revely

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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: 07/Oct/2011**

**Decision Taker:** Deputy Chief  
Executive

**Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**  
Management Scrutiny Committee

**Date decision in force:**

17/Oct/2011

**Date of decision:**

05/Oct/2011

**Full description of decision:**

To agree best consideration and terms for the disposal of St Mark's Garage, St Mark's Road, Millfield, Sunderland, to the Pakistani Islamic Community Centre.

**Reasons for decision:**

The premises are considered to be surplus to operational requirements and their disposal will meet a need for a local community facility and secure a capital receipt for the Council.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

1 Retain the premises for operational use. The premises are used to garage transport vehicles but have previously been identified as potentially surplus to requirements as part of the property rationalisation programme. Existing capacity elsewhere in the Council property portfolio can be better utilised so as to enable the release of this building. 2 Release the premises to the open market. An opportunity has arisen through this disposal that clearly meets a local community need. Independent valuation advice has confirmed that the terms that have been provisionally agreed are at market value and as a consequence the Council's duty to secure best consideration can be met without the property going to the market. Both of these options have been considered but for the reasons set out above are not recommended.

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

Disposal of St Mark's Garage, St Mark's Road, Millfield, Sunderland - Report of the Deputy Chief Executive

**Contact Officer:**

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**Is this a key decision:** Yes

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

**Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:**

None

## **Record of Executive Decisions Published: 07/Oct/2011**

**Decision Taker:** Cabinet

**Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**  
Management Scrutiny Committee

**Date decision in force:**

05/Oct/2011

**Date of decision:**

05/Oct/2011

**Full description of decision:**

To note the report of the 22 September 2011 and to approve the following staffing proposals:-

Office of The Chief Executive Surveying Services

To delete the post of Surveying Services Manager, JNC Band 3.

To create the post of Technical Services Manager, POI/J.

To re-designate the post of Principal Building Surveyor, POJ to Building Surveying Manager, POJ.

**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 22 September 2011

**Contact Officer:**

Kate Cuthbert

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**Is this a key decision:** No

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

**Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:**

None