

## DECISIONS OF CABINET

17 February 2010

*\*Councillors Maskery and Mrs Maxfield declared an interest in item 10 and left the meeting during consideration thereof.*

ITEM		RECOMMENDATION(S)	DECISION
1.	Annual Audit Letter 2008/09	That the Audit Commission's Annual Audit Letter be received.	As per recommendation.
2.	Capital Strategy	That the Capital Strategy be agreed and forwarded to Council for approval.	As per recommendation.
3.	Revenue and Capital Budgets and Council Tax 2010/11	That the 2010/11 General Fund Revenue Budget and the Capital Programme 2010/11 as detailed in the report to Cabinet dated 20 January 2010 be recommended to Full Council for approval together with a recommended council tax increase of 1.5%.	As per recommendation.
4.	Scale of Fees and Charges	That the Fees and Charges proposed for 2010/11 as detailed in the report to Cabinet dated 20 January 2010 be confirmed.	As per recommendation.
5.	West Midlands Member Development Charter	(a) That Personal Development Plans for Elected Members be formally adopted by the Council.  (b) That political groups be strongly encouraged to use Personal Development Plans to contribute to Member Development.	(a) As per recommendation.  (b) That Councillors be encouraged to use Personal Development Plans to contribute to Member Development.
6.	Outcomes of the Third Sector Commissioning Boards Review of Applications Received for the Delivery of Community Cohesion Projects	(a) That funding is awarded to the following two projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'B' Arts – 3 Minute Newcastle</li> <li>• New Vic Theatre 'Borderlines – The World on Our Streets</li> </ul> (b) That the residual amount of £15,775 be made available to the Council's Grants Committee for funding further projects below £5,000.	(a) As per recommendation.  (b) That the residual amount of £15,775 be made available to the Council's Events Committee for funding further Community Cohesion projects below £5,000.

	ITEM	RECOMMENDATION(S)	DECISION
7.	Investors in People		See item 24
8.	Third Sector Commissioning Framework – Response to Recommendations of the Active and Cohesive Overview and Scrutiny Committee		See item 25.
9.	Transformation Programme	<p>It is recommended that Cabinet agrees:</p> <p>(a) to give approval for the programme to be developed, progressed and delivered over the next three financial years;</p> <p>(b) to operate as the Programme Management Board;</p> <p>(c) to monitor and oversee progress through the receipt of regular reports; and</p> <p>(d) to note the resource implications and, where necessary, to consider any future requests for additional resources needed to secure the successful delivery of individual projects.</p>	<p>As per recommendation.</p>
10.	Community Chest Management	<p>Cabinet are asked to support:</p> <p>A consultation process exploring the potential for Community Chest funding to be managed within the Local Area Partnership framework in non-parished areas of the Borough.</p>	As per recommendation.
11.	Budget and Performance Management Report		See item 26.
12.	Quarter 3 Monitoring Report on the Corporate Plan 2009/10 to 2011/12	<p>(a) That the progress report in respect of the Corporate Plan 2009/10 be noted.</p> <p>(b) That constructive challenge be given to progress against the plan.</p>	<p>(a) and (b) As per recommendations.</p> <p>(c) That officers review how progress is measured at each stage.</p>


	ITEM	RECOMMENDATION(S)	DECISION
13.	Revenues and Benefits – IT System Software (451/10)		See item 2 (Supplementary Confidential).
14.	Car Park, London Road, Chesterton – Development of Affordable Housing	<p>(a) To agree to the disposal of part of London Road Car Park to Staffordshire Housing Association for the development of affordable housing.</p> <p>(b) To agree that the car park can be redesigned to accommodate a minimum of 49 spaces.</p> <p>(c) To negotiate the value of the land with Staffordshire Housing to enable the scheme to be fully costed and appropriate grant applications to be made to partner agencies.</p> <p>(d) To commence with a planning application.</p> <p>(e) Subject to the above recommendations being delivered to consider another Cabinet report on the actual disposal of the land and financial implications.</p>	As per recommendations.
15.	Choice Based Lettings Update	<p>(a) To adopt the minor amendments to the Joint Housing Allocations Policy.</p> <p>(b) To adopt the Access Strategy.</p> <p>(c) To adopt the Move-On Protocol.</p> <p>(d) To adopt the Equity Protocol.</p> <p>(e) To adopt the Area Sustainability Toolkit.</p>	As per recommendations.
16.	Strategic Housing Service Audit Commission Inspection	<p>(a) To accept the Audit Commission assessment of the Strategic Housing Service as fair with excellent prospects for further improvement.</p> <p>(b) To approve the new Strategic Housing Service Improvement Plan.</p>	As per recommendations.

	ITEM	RECOMMENDATION(S)	DECISION
17.	Housing Renewal Assistance Policy 2010-15	That the Housing Renewal Assistance Policy 2010-2015 be adopted to replace the previous policy from 1 April 2010.	As per recommendation.
18.	The Future of Instaffs and Proposals for the Marketing of North Staffordshire for Inward Investment	(a) That the Borough Council provide officers' time to influence and support the Marketing and Inward Investment activities of both Instaffs and the North Staffordshire Regeneration Partnership.  (b) That any requests for financial support be referred to a future meeting.	} As per recommendations.
19.	Asset Management Strategy		That consideration of this matter be deferred to the next meeting of the Cabinet.
20.	Health and Wellbeing Centre		See item 27.
21.	The Future of Leisure and Cultural Services in Newcastle	That a Task and Finish Group be established chaired by the Portfolio Holder for Culture and Active Communities to consider the implications and options for the establishment of a trust to manage all or part of its leisure and cultural services operations.	As per recommendation.
22.	Rural Green Space Strategy	(a) That the information be received.  (b) That Officers be authorised to progress procurement arrangements.  (c) That a report on the outcome of the procurement process is brought to a future meeting of Informal Cabinet.	(a) – (c) As per recommendations.  (d) That officers be requested to assure that the Parish Councils are consulted at an early stage in the process.
23.	Service Review of Public Convenience Provision	(a) That Cabinet approve the proposed revised provision of public convenience provision, including an enhanced service for Sunday opening in Newcastle Town Centre.  (b) That funding opportunities be explored for investment in the improvement of public conveniences in Kidsgrove.	} As per recommendations.

	ITEM	RECOMMENDATION(S)	DECISION
	<b>SUPPLEMENTARY</b>		
24	Investors in People Accreditation	<p>(a) To note the IIP Assessor's report.</p> <p>(b) To implement policies and working practices in-line with the suggested recommendations made by the IIP Assessor and listed within the report attached at Appendix 'H' (cream paper).</p>	<p>(a) and (b) As per recommendations.</p> <p>(c) That the congratulations of the Cabinet be extended to all employees involved in the process.</p>
25	Response to Recommendations Made by the Active and Cohesive Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee Review of the Third Sector Commissioning Framework	<p>(a) That the responses to the recommendations, as outlined in the appended schedule, be agreed.</p> <p>(b) That the Cabinet's response be forwarded to the Active and Cohesive Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee.</p>	<p>(a) &amp; (b) As per recommendations.</p> <p>(c) That, in the future, the Commissioning Board comprise 5 Members (politically balanced) with the appropriate Portfolio Holder invited to attend its meetings.</p> <p>(d) That the Newcastle Council for Voluntary Service (NCUS) be reminded of its responsibilities to represent the Third Sector organisations in making applications under this process.</p>
26	Budget and Performance Management Report to End of Quarter Three (December) 2009	That the contents of the report are noted and that the Council continue to monitor and scrutinise performance alongside budgets.	As per recommendation.
27	Proposed Health and Wellbeing Centre	That the progress in the delivery of the Health and Wellbeing Centre is noted.	<p>(a) As per recommendation.</p> <p>(b) That the materials displayed at the meeting be incorporated in the external design of the building.</p>

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<b>ITEM</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION(S)</b>	<b>DECISION</b>
<b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>		
1. Developing Locality Working	Cabinet are asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Support the disestablishment of the current Locality Support Team and approve the potential consequential redundancy costs.</li> <li>(ii) Support the extension of the current Community Warden Service and establish three additional posts.</li> <li>(iii) Formally request that the Active &amp; Cohesive Scrutiny Committee deliver its findings in relation to the recommendations of the 'Ward Councillors &amp; Community Leadership' proposal for consideration at a future Cabinet meeting.</li> </ul>	(a) As per recommendation.  (b) That a letter be sent to all partner organisations regarding their role in the process and decision making.
<b>SUPPLEMENTARY</b>		
2. Revenues & Benefits IT System Software	(a) That the Council selects Northgate Information Solutions Limited as its preferred supplier for a replacement revenues and benefits IT system and enters into formal contract negotiations to implement their product in accordance with the requirements and timescales outlined in the tender specification document.  (b) That Cabinet notes the continued co-operation with other Councils involved in the original consortium of Local Authorities working together to identify suitable replacement revenues and benefits system solutions.	 <p>As per recommendations.</p>