

**Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Wednesday, 17 July 2013**

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
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**Part A – Items considered in public**

A4	Urban North Staffs Green Space Strategy Annual Progress Report	That the report be received and progress noted.
A5	An Arts Strategy for the Borough	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the Arts Strategy be approved for public consultation.</li> <li>2. That the work of the arts and culture group formed in 2012 be noted.</li> <li>3. That the Council supports the aspirations of partners for the arts.</li> </ol>
A6	Newcastle Economic Development Strategy Year Two Action Plan	<p>The Chair of the Scrutiny Committee agreed with the portfolio holder regarding progress of the plan and highlighted four main areas that the Committee had picked up:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It was requested that a simplified version of the plan be provided to all Elected Members.</li> <li>2. That where possible deadlines be made more robust as it felt that they were somewhat vague at present.</li> <li>3. That good work had been carried out with young people regarding education and enterprise but that enterprise guidance should be made available to everyone.</li> <li>4. That it was good to see work being done with different age groups and requested that care be taken to include those in the 50 plus bracket who had been made redundant and could be struggling with out of date skills.</li> </ol> <p><b>It was agreed that feedback regarding these requests be provided to the next meeting and that updated timescales be reported back to the Scrutiny Committee.</b></p> <p>The Portfolio Holder thanked the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee for the input.</p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> (a) That receipt of comments from the Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.</p>

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		<p>(b) That the review of the Economic Development Strategy Year One Action Plan be noted and that the Year Two Action Plan be approved.</p> <p>(c) That officers continue to seek Members' approval for the annual Action Plans and to keep Members informed of progress made with the same.</p>
<b>A7</b>	Town Centre Car Parking	<p>a) That Members approve the proposals set out in the report and authorise officers to take the necessary steps to implement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. initiatives 2, 3 and 4 on a six-month trial basis commencing 1 October 2013, including liaison with the Town Centre Partnership, and;</li> <li>II. initiative 1 in consultation with the County Council, as soon as practically possible.</li> </ul> <p>b) That Members note the decision taken to accept the proposals from Bemrose Booth Mobile to implement on a 12-month trial basis the three initiatives described in the report and to accept the related Grant offer.</p> <p>c) That the financial implications of the trial upon the Council's revenue and capital budgets be met from the Bemrose Booth Mobile grant offer, as set out in the report.</p> <p>d) That the balance of the Bemrose Booth Mobile grant offer be retained to support any ongoing urgent repair/maintenance works of the former St. Giles and St. Georges School Building.</p> <p>e) That in respect of initiative 2 the trial be established with the understanding that the Town Centre Partnership would work with local businesses to develop the refund element of the double ticketing scheme.</p>

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		<p>f) That Members urge the Town Centre Partnership to establish a retail index scheme to monitor trade in order to evaluate any improvements in, and/or displacement of, trade.</p> <p>g) That officers report back to Cabinet with an evaluation of the trial as soon as practically possible after the end of the 6-month trial period.</p> <p>h) That officers seek to agree with Cabinet Members the most appropriate approach to consulting stakeholders on the matters referred to in this report.</p>
A8	Newcastle-under-Lyme Co-operative Strategy 2013/2015 - Update	<p>The Leader agreed and stated that it was vital for the Council to relinquish control in some areas to enable the people it represents to make decisions about their own communities. A big step forward in relation to this had recently been taken in Kidsgrove where plans to form a Partnership there were starting to take shape and it was agreed that Officers would look into helping this process move forward as a matter of urgency.</p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> (a) That Cabinet notes the contents of the report including the action plan to be found at Appendix B.</p> <p>(b) That Cabinet makes any further amendments or suggestions to the content of the Strategy, noting that this update was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee at its meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2013</p> <p>(c) That the Cabinet requests further circulation of the Strategy to partners and communities as part of an engagement process on the meaning of the 'co-operative' concept for Newcastle and also requests further updates on the Strategy's development at future meetings of the Cabinet.</p>

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A9	Transforming Welfare Benefits and Fairer Charging Services in Staffordshire	<p><b>Resolved:</b> (a) That in principle, the transfer of work currently undertaken by Staffordshire County Council around Welfare Benefits and Fairer Charging Services for the Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council area is transferred to this authority.</p> <p>(b) That subject to the satisfactory conclusion of detailed contract negotiations, the Executive Director (Resources and Support Services) in consultation with the portfolio holders for Finance and Resources and Stronger and Healthier Neighbourhoods be delegated to finally approve the transfer of the service.</p> <p>(c) That the Leader write to the County Council putting the case that the scheme be continued even if other local authorities choose not to participate.</p> <p>(d) That the Leader write to other Local Authorities highlighting the benefits of the scheme.</p>
A10	Revenue Investment and Budget Support Cabinet Panel	<p><b>Resolved:</b> (a) That the intention to put in place arrangements for the portfolio holder for Finance and Resources to make decisions on expenditure from the Revenue Investment Fund, and from the Budget Support Fund in respect of funding “Invest to Save” schemes, in response to recommendations of the cross-party Revenue Investment and Budget Support Cabinet Panel, be noted; and</p> <p>(b) That it be noted that Part 3 of the council’s constitution (Scheme of Delegation) will be amended to show the inclusion of this responsibility in the list of responsibilities for the exercise of Cabinet functions.</p>

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A11	Staffordshire Local Authorities Commissioning and Procurement of a Home Improvement Service	<p><b>Resolved:</b></p> <p>(a) That a Participation Agreement be signed with the County Council to enable them to procure the services of a Home Improvement Agency for Newcastle.</p> <p>(b) That the Executive Director for Regeneration and Development be authorised in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder to agree any minor alterations to the specification and to approve the preferred tender.</p> <p>(c) That the existing contract with Revival Home Improvement Agency be extended beyond March 2014 until the new service provision commences.</p> <p>(d) That the Leader of this Council write to the Leader of Staffordshire County Council highlighting the points raised at this meeting.</p>
A12	Newcastle Town Centre Public Realm Project	<p>The Chief Executive agreed that a comprehensive report be made available for the Cabinet meeting in October detailing how the project had been run to date and the problems that had led to it being behind schedule. This document would be used as a learning tool for future projects.</p> <p><b>Resolved:</b></p> <p>a) That the existing Capital Programme allocation (as detailed in the appendix) for Town Centre Works be allocated to the public realm project.</p> <p>b) That the Executive Director for Regeneration and Development be authorised in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, Regeneration and Town Centres to procure the required contracts to deliver the project within the agreed budget.</p>

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<b>A13</b>	Hardship Relief for Business Rates	<b><u>Resolved</u></b> That the applications for hardship relief detailed at appendix (b) be refused.