

Northumberland County Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Tuesday, 9 April 2024

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
Part A – Items considered in public		
A2	MINUTES	RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the meeting of Cabinet held on Tuesday 12 March 2024, as circulated, be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.
A4	REPORT OF THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR CORPORATE SERVICES	RESOLVED that progress against the three Corporate Priorities, as summarised in the report, be noted.
A5	REPORT OF THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR CORPORATE SERVICES	<p>RESOLVED that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Cabinet note the attached Executive Summary of the Hirst Draft Masterplan and outline options for the long-term regeneration of the area; (b) Cabinet support the aspiration to work towards the ‘Do Maximum’ option, as set out in section 6.1 of this report, during the ongoing development process; (c) Cabinet approve the establishment of a ‘Hirst Partnership Board’, to be Chaired by the Director of Housing & Planning and to comprise stakeholders, partners, and Senior Officers from Northumberland County Council (NCC); (d) Cabinet approve the recruitment to two collaborative Hirst regeneration posts, to be funded equally by key stakeholders NCC Housing, Advance Northumberland, and Bernicia for three years. The posts will be hosted by the Strategic Housing function within the NCC Housing Service. NCC element will be funded through Housing Reserves; and (e) Cabinet note that communications on the Hirst Masterplan will be integrated into the overall communications strategy for the town as linked to the Ashington Town Board.
A6	REPORT OF THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR CORPORATE SERVICES	<p>RESOLVED that:-</p> <p>Berwick Culture and Creative Zone</p>

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		<p>(a) Cabinet accept capital grant funding of £0.330 million for the Berwick Culture and Creative Zone (CCZ) and approve the amendment to the Capital Programme to include the capital grant funding in 2024-25;</p> <p>(b) Cabinet note the reallocation of grant funding from revenue to capital of £0.110 million and approve the amendment to the Capital Programme to include the capital grant funding in 2025-26; and</p> <p>(c) Cabinet approve the amendment to the Capital Programme to reprofile £0.100 for the CCZ project from 2024-25 to 2025-26.</p> <p>Northumberland Playzones</p> <p>(a) Cabinet note the 75% grant contribution of £1.396 million from the Football Foundation for the 6 sites within Portfolio 1 and approve the amendment to the capital programme to include the grant funding in 2024-25;</p> <p>(b) Cabinet note the Section 106 funding of £0.284 million and approve the amendment to the Capital Programme to include the funding in 2024-25;</p> <p>(c) Cabinet note the other external funding of £0.050 million detailed in the report and approve the amendment to the Capital Programme to including the funding in 2024-25;</p> <p>(d) Cabinet note the £0.020 million contribution from Cllr Stewart and Cllr Scott and approve the amendment to the Capital Programme to reallocate £0.020 million from the Member’s Local Improvement Schemes budget to the Northumberland Playzones Project in 2024-25; and</p> <p>(e) Cabinet approve the proposed spend of £0.111 million which will be funded using the existing Northumberland Playzones project in the Capital Programme, which has a current budget of £0.300 million in 2024-25.</p>

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A7	REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SUPPORTING BUSINESS AND OPPORTUNITIES	<p>RESOLVED that:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Cabinet approve the Outline Business Case for the Energy Central Campus Phase 1 – Technical Training Kit to enable progression to Full Business Case; (b) Authority be delegated, in accordance with the Local Assurance Framework, to the Council’s s151 Officer following consideration of the recommendation of the Energising Blyth Programme Board to approve the Full Business Case; (c) Authority be delegated to the Council’s s151 Officer to enter into a Grant Funding Agreement between the Northumberland County Council as the fund Accountable Body and Energy Central Campus Ltd; and (d) Authority be delegated to the Executive Director of Place and Regeneration to enter into any contracts relating to the project up to the value of £1.45m, subject to confirmation of associated funding being in place and the appropriate procurement processes being followed.
A8	REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR LOOKING AFTER OUR ENVIRONMENT	<p>RESOLVED that:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Cabinet approve placing lettings on hold within these low demand blocks; (b) Cabinet approve the prioritisation of customers for rehousing; the issuing of Homeloss and disturbance payments as appropriate; (c) Cabinet approve the removal of the existing void properties from the Housing Revenue Account rent roll; (d) Authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Place and Regeneration to commence negotiations to acquire the two residential leasehold properties and develop a suitable compensation package. Should negotiations not be successful, to compulsorily acquire the properties using compulsory purchase powers as a last resort;

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (e) Cabinet approve Compulsory Purchase Order process for adjacent properties if required; and (f) Cabinet approve the demolition of low demand stock in Blyth as detailed in the report.
A9	REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR INSPIRING YOUNG PEOPLE	<p>RESOLVED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Cabinet note the outcomes of the tender process and approve the delegation to award the contract to Robertsons Construction for the refurbishment works on the South Avenue Site and to Portakabin for the extensions required at the feeder first schools, to the Executive Director for Children, Young People and Education; and (b) Cabinet note that, in order to complete the works within the implementation timescales approved by Cabinet on 17th November 2022, a Letter of Intent was issued for works up to a capped value of £989,194.87 prior to the final award of contract. This was undertaken to prevent any increase in cost or delays in programme until the award of contract is complete in April 2024.