



Chief Executive's Department
Civic Centre
HARTLEPOOL

21 April, 2009

The Mayor (Stuart Drummond)

Councillors

Councillors Aiken, Akers-Belcher, Allison, Atkinson, Barker, Brash, R W Cook, S Cook, Coward, Cranney, Fenwick, Fleet, Fleming, Flintoff, Gibbon, Griffin, Hall, Hargreaves, Hill, Jackson, James, Kaiser, Laffey, Lauderdale, A E Lilley, G Lilley, London, A Marshall, J Marshall, McKenna, Dr. Morris, Payne, Plant, Preece, Richardson, Rogan, Shaw, Simmons, Sutheran, Tumilty, Turner, Wallace, Wistow, Worthy, Wright, and Young.

Madam or Sir,

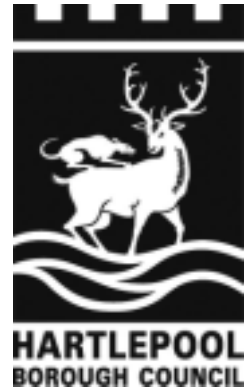
You are hereby summoned to attend an Extraordinary meeting of the COUNCIL to be held on THURSDAY, 30th April 2009 at 7 p.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool to consider the subjects set out in the attached agenda.

Yours faithfully

P Walker
Chief Executive

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COUNCIL AGENDA



Thursday 30th April 2009

at 7.00pm

in the Council Chamber

1. To receive apologies and communications sent to the Chairman or Chief Executive.
2. To receive any declarations of interest from members.
3. To deal with any business required by statute to be done before any other business.
4. To consider report from the Executive:-

Proposal for departures from the budget and policy framework

2009/10 Capital Programme and Prudential Borrowing Limits

EXEMPT ITEM

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs referred to below of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

5. To consider report from the Executive:-

Proposal for departure from the budget and policy framework
Strategic Land Acquisition (paragraph 3)(report to be available prior to the commencement of meeting)

COUNCIL REPORT

30th April 2009



Report of: Executive

Subject: 2009/2010 CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND
PRUDENTIAL BORROWING LIMITS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Council with details of Cabinet's proposed variations to the approved 2009/2010 Capital Programme and Prudential Borrowing Limits.

2. REASON FOR SUBMITTING REPORT

- 2.1 In accordance with the constitution Cabinet is responsible for proposing changes to the approved Budget and Policy Framework, which are then referred to Council for consideration. Cabinet agreed at its meeting on 20 April 2009 to delegate authority to the Neighbourhood and Communities and Finance and Efficiency Portfolio Holders to submit a proposal to this Council meeting. A joint meeting of those Portfolio Holders is due to be held on 27 April 2009 and this report has been prepared subject to the outcome of this joint meeting. Details of the Executive's proposals are set out in the following paragraphs.

3. EXECUTIVE'S PROPOSALS

3.1 BACKGROUND

- 3.2 Members may recall that several years ago the Council made a large investment in converting the former combined waste transfer station and Civic Amenity Site into a high quality Household Waste Recycling Centre. In addition the site adjacent to the Burn Road location was brought into use as the Council's operational Waste Transfer Station which is not open to the public.
- 3.3 Also based on that site is the Council's winter gritting salt storage facility. This facility is currently a wooden barn previously used to store recycling materials.
- 3.4 Investment is now needed in these facilities as outlined in the following paragraphs

Household Waste Recycling Centre

- 3.5 The success of the Household Waste Recycling Centre together with the need to provide different types of recycling receptacles has meant that the site needs to expand. There is also the added complication created by the positioning of the new traffic lights in Burn Road, installed as a result of the Tesco supermarket extension and car park reconfiguration.
- 3.6 Members will no doubt have witnessed the back-up of cars in Burn Road on popular clean-up days such as bank holidays. The positioning of the traffic lights has meant that this back-up of traffic must be avoided.
- 3.7 In order to accommodate this extension a new elevated ramp will need to be installed in this area together with new hand-rail and gantry extensions.
- 3.8 We also intend to increase not only the number of recycling units but also the type of recyclate we can collect. It is hoped that such things as normal glass from windows and hard plastic, such as toys will be recycled.
- 3.9 One of the main recommendations from the Scrutiny investigation into recycling was the introduction of an Education Centre and “green shop” on site. This design accommodates these suggestions. In addition we intend to build a re-use centre where materials that still have a value to charities or other organisations will be stored and sorted for eventual re-use.
- 3.10 Whilst the facility at Burn Road is very good nevertheless we do not re-use or recycle as much of the material collected as we want to or indeed ought to. This reconfiguration coupled with the recent letting of the contract for site operations to a local company will mean our re-use/ recycling from this site will increase.

Winter grit storage facilities

- 3.11 The existing “salt bam” is located on the Waste Transfer Station site. The current “salt bam” is not purpose built and is made from wood. Over the years through high winds and vehicular damage the facility has become unsafe and for Health and Safety reasons must be demolished and rebuilt.
- 3.12 Its current location is not ideal and causes problems for the safe operation of the Waste Transfer Station. It is proposed therefore to relocate the winter grit facility to a piece of Council owned land in Brenda Road on the eastern side of the road virtually opposite the Corus entrance. This land is currently not used and in years gone by was used as a vehicle/machinery training site by our training section.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 An estimate for the works has been provided in the sum of £600K, split £300K for each facility.

- 4.2 Two options for funding these costs are available.
- 4.3 Option 1 – earmark part of the resources achieved from selling LATS permits to fund the developments at the recycling centre and the replacement of the salt barn. This option would commit £600K of the available LATS income and leave an uncommitted amount of £735K which could be allocated to support future year's budgets. This deal to sell the LATS has only recently been concluded and therefore could not be taken into account in the Medium Financial Strategy of the Council. However, because of the certainty of the income this should form part of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy from 2010/11 onwards
- 4.4 Options 2 – earmark all of the LATS money to support future year's budgets as Members are aware the Council faces a challenging financial position over the next few years. This position is anticipated to continue when the next Comprehensive spending review is announced as public sector expenditure will be subject to a period of much lower growth, or even frozen at current levels, as the Government addresses the impact of the recession on the public sector finances. Against this background and local risks to the budget it would be appropriate to earmark the whole of the LATS income to support future year's budgets. This strategy would be in line with the strategy adopted in previous years for using other one off benefits, such as higher investment income and LABGI income.

This option would not provide funding for the developments at the recycling centre and the replacement of the salt barn. Therefore, to enable these schemes to go ahead it is suggested that these costs be funded from Prudential Borrowing. The annual repayment cost would be £50K and would need to be funded from the £2m of headroom included in the 2010/11 budget forecast.

- 4.5 It should be noted that these works need to be completed over the summer months to ensure the facilities, particularly the winter grit storage facility is completed before next winter.

5. PROPOSALS

- 5.1 Council is requested to consider the proposals to adopt option 2 and to amend the approved Capital Programme and associated Prudential Borrowing Limits. Council is also asked to note that detailed proposals for using the LATS funding will be referred to Council for consideration as part of the 2010/11 budget and policy framework proposals.