



RECORD OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

The following is a record of the decisions taken at the meeting of **CABINET** held on **Wednesday 15 May 2024**. The decisions will come into force and may be implemented from **Tuesday 28 May 2024** unless the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee or its Committees object to any such decision and call it in.

Workforce Strategy – 2024-2027

Summary

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Resources which requested the adoption of the Council's revised Workforce Strategy for the period 2024 - 2027.

Durham County Council's Council Plan for 2024 – 2028 sets out the vision and long-term ambitions for the county. The refreshed Workforce Strategy has been designed to support the delivery of Durham County Council's Council Plan.

The Council Plan aligns to both the council's Medium Term Financial Plan which sets out how our priorities will be resourced and the County Durham Plan which is a spatial representation of our ambitions contained within the Council Plan around housing, jobs and the environment until 2035 as well as the transport, schools and infrastructure to support it. Collectively these documents describe the Council's ambition for the county and sets out how the Council will approach this challenge over the next four years. The Council's Workforce Strategy sets out how the Council will ensure it has a workforce best equipped to effectively deliver its strategic priorities and vision as set out in these plans.

Decision

The Cabinet approved the adoption of the refreshed Workforce Strategy.

Shopfront Design Guide, Energy Efficiency, Renewables and the Historic Environment, Biodiversity and Non-designated Heritage Asset Supplementary Planning Documents

Summary

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth which sought approval to commence consultation on four Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs). These are the second draft of the Shopfront Design Guide SPD and Energy Efficiency, Renewables, and the Historic Environment SPD, and the first draft of the Biodiversity SPD and Non-designated Heritage Asset (NDHA) SPD. All four documents support the County Durham Plan (CDP) adopted in October 2020.

The CDP seeks to ensure that County Durham is a successful place to live, work, invest and visit by focussing on supporting and creating vibrant communities. The plan is a comprehensive document covering all aspects of planning however, to provide more detailed advice or guidance on the policies in the plan, Government guidance allows the preparation of SPDs. SPDs are capable of being a material consideration in planning decisions but are not part of the development plan.

The Shopfront Design Guide SPD provides guidance for shopfront design, restoration, and refurbishment across County Durham. The Energy Efficiency, Renewables and the Historic Environment SPD provides guidance to property owners considering making energy efficiency or renewable energy improvements within the historic environment. The Biodiversity SPD is a key action in the council's Ecological Emergency Action Plan (EEAP). It provides guidance to improve biodiversity delivery within new developments.

The NDHA SPD sets out guidance defining what non-designated heritage assets are in the context of national and local planning policy and establishes a selection criteria against which the county's non-designated heritage assets are to be identified and assessed. The report proposed that consultation be undertaken on the SPDs from 3 June 2024 to 14 July 2024 and that consultation will be undertaken in accordance with the council's Statement of Community Involvement.

Decision

The Cabinet:

- (a) agreed the second draft of the Shopfront Design Guide SPD and the Energy Efficiency, Renewables and the Historic Environment SPD for consultation from 3 June to 14 July 2024;

- (b) agreed to delegate to the Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy, and Growth, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Economy and Partnerships, the power to make minor modifications and adopt the documents following consultation (if significant changes are required then the SPD will need to return to Cabinet for adoption); and
- (c) agreed the first draft of the Biodiversity SPD and the NDHA SPD for consultation from 3 June 2024 to 14 July 2024.

The Cabinet resolved to exclude the press and public by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 during discussions on agenda items 8 and 9.

Speculative Development of North East Assembly Integration and Test Facility on NETPark Phase 3A [Key Decision: REG/2024/006]

Summary

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth which sought approval to progress an inward investment enquiry.

Decision

The recommendations contained in the report were approved.

In accordance with paragraph 19(a) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, the following key decision is exempt from the call-in procedure due to the urgent nature of the decision being made.

Lease of Aykley Heads Southern Car Park, County Hall Durham

Summary

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth and the Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services which sought approval to lease an area of land at the council's main Headquarters (County Hall) building.

Decision

The recommendations contained in the report were approved.

Helen Bradley
Director of Legal & Democratic Services
17 May 2024