

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Special Meeting of **Cabinet** held at the County Hall, Durham on **Wednesday 29 February 2012 at 10.00 a.m.**

Present:

Councillor S Henig in the Chair

Cabinet Members:

Councillors Foster, Hovvels, Napier, Nicholls, Robson, Stephens and Vasey

Other Members:

Councillors Armstrong, Arthur, Bailey, Blakey, Carr, Chaplow, Dixon, Graham, Gray, N Harrison, Hugill, Jopling, D Myers, Naylor, R Ord, Potts, Shuttleworth, D J Southwell, Stradling, Taylor, Todd, Turnbull, Wilkes and Wilkinson

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Plews and B Young

1 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

**2 Community Buildings:
Consultation Feedback and Proposed Strategy
Key Decision: CORP/A/05/11/3**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive that outlined the results of the consultation carried out on the Community Buildings Review and sought agreement for a Community Buildings Strategy (for copy see file of Minutes).

Clarification was provided to Councillor Jopling in response to her question relating to the funding of community facilities in Crook, and to Councillor Bailey's question on the discussions with housing providers about communal rooms such as Hargil Haven. The formula used for calculating costs per session for the use of community centres was explained following the request by Councillor Shuttleworth.

Cabinet members spoke at length about the proposals, and thanked officers and members for their hard work which had led to the development of a strategy and action plan.

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

3 Children and Young People's Services: Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children Services

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Children and Young People's Services that provided the outcomes of the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) inspection of safeguarding and looked after children services (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Corporate Director, Children and Young People's Services thanked members, officers and partner agencies for the work they had been undertaken to achieve the grade of outstanding by Ofsted in this area of work. Councillor Vasey and other cabinet members congratulated the Corporate Director and his staff on this achievement.

Resolved:-

That the report be noted.

4 Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee Report – Under 18 Conceptions in County Durham

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive that presented the findings of Children & Young People's Scrutiny Working Group which reviewed under-18 conceptions in County Durham (for copy see file of Minutes).

Councillor Blakey, Chair of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee presented the report, and welcomed a response from Cabinet within the six month period on the recommendations highlighted. Cabinet thanked the Working Group for their work and would respond in due course.

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

5 Development of Renewable Energy Technologies in County Durham – Scrutiny Review Group

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive that presented the findings and recommendations of a scrutiny review looking at the environmental, economic and social benefits to County Durham of investing in renewable energy technologies (for copy see file of Minutes).

Councillor D Myers, Chair of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee presented the report, and welcomed a response from Cabinet within the six month period for the systematic review of the recommendations highlighted. Cabinet thanked the Working Group for their work and would respond in due course.

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

6 Localism Act 2011

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Assistant Chief Executive, Corporate Director, Resources, and Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development that updated on the final provisions of the Localism Act 2011, considered the implications for the Council and revisited the action plan in the light of the final outcome of this important piece of legislation (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

7 County Durham Partnership Update

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive on issues being addressed by the County Durham Partnership (CDP) Board, the five Thematic Partnerships and all Area Action Partnerships (AAPs), and updates on other key initiatives being carried out in partnership across the County (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:-

That the report be noted.

8 Forecast of General Fund and Housing Revenue Account Revenue and Capital Outturn 2011/12 – Period to 31 December 2011

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Resources that provided a forecast of 2011/12 revenue and capital outturn for the period to 31 December 2011 for the Council's General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

9 Disposal of Oversteads House and Brandon House - Tender Evaluation

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development which detailed the outcome of a tender process for the disposal of two County Council owned sheltered housing schemes at Oversteads

House, Ushaw Moor and Brandon House, Brandon and recommended their disposal (for copy see file of Minutes).

Councillor J Wilkinson advised of his support for the recommendations for Oversteads House which was in his ward. Councillor C Robson, in referring to a letter he had received the previous day, provided assurance that the required standard of accommodation and equipment would be met, and any issues would be addressed.

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

10 Commissioning Strategy for Looked After Children 2012 - 2015

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Children and Young People's Services relating to the Commissioning strategy for Looked After Children in County Durham. The strategy covers the period 2012 – 2015 and is based on good commissioning principles and processes as set out in the Joint Commissioning strategy agreed by the Children's Trust in 2009 (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.