

## **DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL**

At a Special Meeting of **Cabinet** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Chester-le-Street on **Tuesday 24 July 2012 at 10.00 a.m.**

### **Present:**

**Councillor S Henig** in the Chair

### **Cabinet Members:**

Councillors Foster, Napier, Nicholls, Plews, Robson, Stephens, Vasey and B Young.

### **Other Members:**

Councillors Armstrong, A Bell, Johnson and May.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Hovvels.

The Leader of the Council, and Councillor Vasey advised that David Williams, the Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Service was leaving the Authority, and they thanked him for his hard work and dedication, and congratulated him on the achievements that his service had made each year. He was wished well by the Cabinet and every success in his future.

## **1 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

Prior to consideration of items 2 to 5, a presentation was given by the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development, and Head of Planning which provided background to the Regional statement and County Durham plan preferred options (for copy of slides of presentation see file of Minutes).

## **2 County Durham Policy Framework**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration  
and

Economic Development which presented a number of policy documents for approval that sought to outline the shape the approach for Regeneration and Economic Development in County Durham (for copy see file of Minutes).

### **Resolved:-**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

**3 County Durham Regeneration Statement 2012**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development which presented for consideration and endorsement the refreshed County Durham Regeneration Statement (for copy see file of Minutes).

**Resolved:-**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

**4 The County Durham Plan Preferred Options (including supporting documents)  
Key Decision R&ED/O9/12**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development which sought approval to consult on the Preferred Options, the latest stage in preparing the County Durham Plan, the new Local Plan for County Durham and key means of delivering the Regeneration Statement. It further sought approval to consult on a number of Supplementary Planning Documents that accompany the Plan (for copy see file of Minutes).

Clarification was provided to the questions received from Bearpark Action Group on the plan.

Cabinet members spoke at length about the County Durham Plan, and that they would welcome all being involved in the forthcoming public consultation.

**Resolved:-**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

**5 County Durham Infrastructure Delivery Plan and Community Infrastructure Levy Draft Charging Schedule  
Key Decision R&ED/10/12**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development which sought approval for the Council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan and the Community Infrastructure Levy Draft Charging Schedule for consultation alongside the County Durham Plan from 10 September to 2 November 2012 (for copy see file of Minutes).

**Resolved:-**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

**6 Local HealthWatch Transition Plan including NHS Complaints Advocacy Service  
Key Decision AWH 03/12**

The Cabinet received a report of the Corporate Director of Adults, Wellbeing and Health which set out of the proposed procurement process for Local HealthWatch along with providing an update on the progress made with HealthWatch Transition Plan; and set out proposals for the commissioning of an NHS Complaints Advocacy Service (for copy see file of Minutes).

**Resolved:-**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

**7 Community Buildings: Communal Rooms  
Key Decision CORP/A/05/11/3**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which sought agreement to a new approach for approval for the future of 55 Council owned and managed community buildings (communal rooms), which are strongly associated with neighbourhood housing, and which sought delegated authority to the Assistant Chief Executive to pursue negotiations with local housing providers (for copy see file of Minutes).

**Resolved:-**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

**8 Review of Fixed Play Provision  
Key Decision NS/14/11**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services which proposed an approach to reviewing fixed play provision access across the County. The report further set out a basis for considering the future distribution of fixed play resources in the short, medium and long term, and proposed a range of consultation measures in progressing this work (for copy see file of Minutes).

In responding to questions from Ms R Chambers, clarification was provided on the funding processes through AAPs and member imitative fund, and also the consultation process.

**Resolved:-**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

**9 Durham City Business Improvement District**

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development, and Corporate Director, Resources which provided an update on the proposal to establish a Business Improvement District for Durham City Centre, which has been led by businesses in the city (for copy see file of Minutes).

**Resolved:-**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

**10 County Durham Partnership Update**

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

**Resolved:-**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

**11 Transfer of Public Health Functions to Durham County Council**

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director of Adults, Wellbeing and Health, Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services, and Director of Public Health, County Durham that provided an update on recent developments with regard to the transfer of public health functions from NHS County Durham and Darlington to Durham County Council by 1st April 2013 (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Leader advised that the Council were continuing to lobby the LGA for their support against the scale of the proposed cuts in funding for public health.

**Resolved:-**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

**12 Commissioning a 2013 Lumiere Festival**

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director, Adults, Wellbeing and Health, and Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development which provided further information on the evaluation of the 2011 Lumiere programme. It outlined some of the outcomes from a range of discussions and concluded that there is support and enthusiasm for commissioning a 2013 Lumiere Festival amongst a cross section of individuals and organisations (for copy see file of Minutes).

**Resolved:-**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved

**13 NHS Reforms**

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director of Adults, Wellbeing and Health, and Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services that provided an update on recent developments in relation to NHS reforms (for copy see file of Minutes).

**Resolved:-**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.