

## **DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL**

At a Meeting of **Cabinet** held in Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham on **Wednesday 19 December 2012 at 10.00 am**

### **Present:**

**Councillor S Henig (Leader of the Council)**

### **Members of the Committee:**

Councillors N Foster, L Hovvels, M Nicholls, M Plews, C Robson and B Stephens

### **Apologies:**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Alan Napier, Councillor Claire Vasey and Councillor Bob Young

### **Also Present:**

Councillor Joseph Armstrong, Councillor Jan Blakey, Councillor Dorothy Bowman, Councillor Mike Dixon, Councillor Joan Gray, Councillor Neil Harrison, Councillor Garry Huntington, Councillor Reg Ord, Councillor John Shuttleworth, Councillor Paul Stradling and Councillor John Turnbull

### **1 Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest submitted.

### **2 Local Council Tax Support Scheme, Review of Discretionary Council Tax Discount on Unoccupied Properties and Calculation of Council Tax Base 2013/14 - Report of Corporate Director, Resources [Key Decision: CORP/R/12/02]**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Resources which provided detailed of the outcome of the consultation on the Local Council tax Support Scheme (LCTSS) and the proposed changes to Council tax discounts on empty properties, including second homes, plus the withdrawal of the 'double taxation' payments currently provided to some parish and town councils (for copy see file of minutes).

### **Resolved:**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

**3 Medium Term Financial Plan (3), Council Plan and Service Plans 2013/14 - 2016/17 - Joint Report of Corporate Director Resources and Assistant Chief Executive [Key Decision: CORP/A/10/12/1]**

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director, Resources and Assistant Chief Executive which provided and update on the following:

- (i) Autumn Statement and Local Government Finance Settlement.
- (ii) 2013/14 Budget.
- (iii) Development of the 2013/14 – 2016/17 MTFP (3) Model.
- (iv) MTFP consultation to date.
- (v) Equality Impact Assessments.

(for copy see file of minutes).

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

**4 Welfare reform update - Report of Assistant Chief Executive [Key Decision: CORP/A/12/12/2]**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which provided an update on policy developments in relation to Welfare Reform including what action the council is taking to prepare for the implementation of the reforms and sought approval to the proposed approach to the localisation of the Social Fund in County Durham.

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations contained in the report be noted.

**5 Exclusion of the Public**

**Resolved:**

That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the said Act.

**6 Sale of Land at Pont Lane, Leadgate - Report of Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director Regeneration and Economic Development which sought authority to exchange a parcel of land at Watling Wood, Villa Real, Consett which is currently held in a statutory capacity for a parcel of land lying to the north east of Fourth Street, Leadgate which is currently held on charitable trust by the Council.

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.