

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Cabinet** held in The Main Hall, The Glebe Centre, Durham Place, Murton, Seaham, Co Durham, SR7 9BX on **Wednesday 10 September 2014 at 10.00 am**

Present:

Councillor S Henig (Leader of the Council) in the Chair

Members of the Committee:

Councillors J Brown, N Foster, L Hovvels, O Johnson, A Napier, M Nicholls, M Plews, B Stephens and E Tomlinson

Also Present:

Councillors J Armstrong, J Clare, M Dixon, B Graham, J Maitland, A Surtees and R Todd

1 Minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 2014

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 2014 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2 Declarations of interest

Councillors Plews and Tomlinson declared an interest in items 3 and 4 due to their positions on the County Durham Housing Group Board. They left the room and took no part in the discussion of the items.

3 Housing Stock Transfer: Outcomes of Stage 2 Formal Consultation: Ballot [Key Decision: R&ED/09/14]

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development and Corporate Director, Resources which provided details of the positive ballot result and set out the next steps to meet the target date for transfer in March 2015 (for copy see file of minutes).

The Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development advised that recommendations II and III in the report have been amended to read:

- II. Agreed to proceed with the proposed transfer to the incorporated County Durham Housing Group, subject to Cabinet's final approval of the terms of the transfer and obtaining all necessary statutory consents.
- III. Recommend to the Council that officers be authorised to update the Housing Strategy 2010-2015 is updated to reflect the developments set out in this report.

Cabinet members thanked all those who had been involved in taking this forward.

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the report, amended as above, be approved.

**4 Housing Stock Transfer - Principles of Transfer
[Key Decision: R&ED/08/14]**

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development and Corporate Director, Resources which sought approval to the principles of transfer which would be followed by officers when identifying and agreeing land and assets transfer to the County Durham Housing Group, sought approval to the provision of a Section 25 loan from the council to the proposed new group, and sought delegated authority to negotiate the final transfer agreement (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

5 Forecast of Revenue and Capital Outturn 2014/15 for General Fund and Housing Revenue Account - Period to 30 June 2014

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Resources which provided a forecast of 2014/15 revenue and capital outturn for the period to 30 June 2014 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.

6 County Durham Partnership Update

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which provided an update on issues being addressed by the County Durham Partnership including key issues from the Board, the five thematic partnerships and all area action partnerships. The report also included 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.

7 Flooding - Scrutiny Review Report

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which presented the key findings and recommendations of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee review group report on flooding (for copy see file of minutes).

Councillor B Graham, Chairman of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee presented the report to Cabinet, and provided detail on the scope of the review and its findings.

Cabinet members thanked the scrutiny group for the review work, and would provide a response to their findings.

Resolved:

That the report be noted and a response be formulated within the six month period identified in the report for the systematic review of recommendations.

8 Quarter 1 2014/15 Performance Management Report

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which presented progress against the council's corporate basket of performance indicators and reported other significant performance issues for the first quarter of 2014/15 covering the period April to June 2014 (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

9 Update on the delivery of the Medium Term Financial Plan 4

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which provided an update on the progress made at the end of June 2014 on the delivery of the 2014/15 to 2016/17 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP 4) (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

10 Update on the Community Assets Programme

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which provided an update on the work undertaken on establishing the Community Assets programme and the interest received from organisations and groups following the 'Ask' in February this year, which requested expressions of interest to take over or run assets and services within the county (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the report be noted.