

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Cabinet** held in The Main Hall, Durham Town Hall, Market Place, Durham, DH1 3NJ on **Wednesday 14 January 2015 at 10.00 am**

Present:

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

Members of the Cabinet:

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

Also Present:

Councillor J Armstrong and Councillor J Blakey

1 Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 17 December 2014

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 December 2014 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3 Medium Term Financial Plan 2015/16 to 2017/18 (MTFP5) and 2015/16 Budget - Joint Report of Corporate Director, Resources and Assistant Chief Executive [Key Decision: CORP/R/14/02]

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director, Resources and Assistant Chief Executive which provided an update on the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP (5)) 2015/16 to 2017/18 and the 2015/16 Budget (for copy see file of minutes).

Cabinet members pointed out that the figures were based on the draft financial settlement, with the final settlement being received later each year, with this year now not expected to be known until mid-February, which is leaving the Authority limited time to set the budget for the year ahead. They also referred to the continuation of the unprecedented level of cuts which if forecasting is correct is expected to exceed £250m by 2017/2018. It is the longest period of local government austerity in recent times, which continues to be unfairly distributed between councils. Members commented on the accurate forecasting and robust planning that the Authority had.

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

4 Implications for Durham County Council of the Government's policy programme - Report of Assistant Chief Executive

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which provided an update on the Government's policy programme (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

5 County Durham Partnership Update - Report of Assistant Chief Executive

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which provided an update on the issues being addressed by the County Durham Partnership and other key initiatives being carried out in partnership across the County (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

6 Annual Report of the Director of Public Health - Report of Director of Public Health, County Durham

The Cabinet considered the Director of Public Health's Annual Report for 2014 (for copy see file of minutes).

Cabinet welcomed the detailed report, and that as it would be of interest to all members requested a copy be provided to them.

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

7 Update on North East Combined Authority Delegated Transport Activity - Report of Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development which provided details of the transport activity carried out by the Council under delegation from the North East Combined Authority (NECA) (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the report be noted.