



RECORD OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

The following is a record of the decisions taken at the meeting of **CABINET** held on **Wednesday 16 September 2015**.

The decisions will come into force and may be implemented from **Monday, 28 September 2015** unless the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee or its Committees object to any such decision and call it in.

Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Report 2014/15

Summary

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services which presented the Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Report 2014/15.

The Annual Report outlined a number of achievements of the Health and Wellbeing Board over the past year, including:

- The Health and Wellbeing Board agreed the first Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Delivery Plan, and have undertaken subsequent reviews, which have been informed by the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, The Annual Report of the Director of Public Health County Durham, and feedback from engagement and consultation.
- The hosting of a Health and Wellbeing Board 'Big Tent' engagement event in October 2014 as part of the consultation process for the refresh of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- The agreement of the County Durham Better Care Fund plan which supports seven work programmes to integrate health and social care initiatives locally, details of which were included in the Annual Report.
- The County Durham Mental Health Implementation Plan was developed by the Mental Health Partnership Board and agreed by the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- The agreement of the Dementia Strategy for County Durham and Darlington 2014-17 which has been developed to identify areas of need and priority actions over the next three years to enable people to live well with dementia.

- Supporting the Wellbeing for Life Service to help people to live well and build on their capacity to be independent, resilient and maintain good health for themselves and those around them.

Decision

The Cabinet:

1. Noted the work that has taken place in 2014/15 by the Health and Wellbeing Board
2. Received the Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Report 2014/15 for information

Care Act and Adult Social Care Transformation Update

Summary

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services which provided an update on local and national developments in relation to the implementation of the Care Act 2014 and the transformation of Adult Care services, focussing on changes to deliver Phase 1; the new care and support duties from 1st April 2015. The report also provided an update on the recent announcement by Government to postpone the Phase 2 reforms until 2020 which were due to come into effect from 1st April 2016.

In March 2015, the Cabinet received a report on the national and local developments in relation to implementation of the Care Act and the transformation of Adult Care services. Over the last six months Adult Care services in County Durham have continued to undergo a programme of transformational change to ensure the requirements of the Care Act are met.

The Care Act established the Better Care Fund for the integration of care and support with health services. The £3.8bn Better Care Fund (BCF) was announced by the Government in the June 2013 spending round, to ensure a transformation in integrated health and social care. The BCF is a single pooled budget to support health and social care services to work more closely together in local areas. It brings together NHS and Local Government resources that are already committed to existing core activity and also provides a real opportunity to improve services and value for money. Following publication of the revised BCF planning and technical guidance in July 2014 there was a substantive change in policy which meant that of the £1.9bn NHS contribution to the BCF, £1bn would remain within the BCF but would be either commissioned by the NHS on out-of-hospital services or be linked to a reduction in total emergency admissions. Supplementary guidance published on 20 August 2014 with the expectation of a 3.5% reduction in emergency admissions, stated that every Health and Wellbeing Board Area should set a target for a reduction in emergency admissions.

The Act also introduces a new duty to provide preventative services, a national minimum eligibility threshold and a duty to offer information and advice to help people plan what support they need for the future.

In County Durham a significant amount of work has been undertaken in relation to the implementation of Phase 1 of the Care Act, which was outlined within the report along with the announcement by Government to postpone until 2020 the Phase 2 reforms. This includes the cap on care costs and appeals system until 2020 which was due to come into effect on 1st April 2016.

The Health and Wellbeing Board is committed to promoting integrated working between commissioners of health services, public health and social care to enhance the health and wellbeing of people living in County Durham. County Durham's allocation from the Better Care Fund is £43.735m in 2015/16. As reported to Cabinet on 18th March 2015, the government announced in the June 2013 spending review, that they would make £355 million of national funding available to local authorities in 2015/16. This was to enable preparation for the reforms being implemented as part of the Care Act. The Council received four separate revenue grants totalling £3,134,942 supporting the delivery of the following;

- Additional assessments for the cap on care costs
- Universal deferred payment agreements
- Social care in prison
- Carers

The report outlined the next steps which include:

- The further redesign and improvement of the delivery of Adult Social Care Services.
- Building on the use of new technology to allow more flexibility and responsiveness in the delivery of services to clients.
- Ensuring the duties of prevention and wellbeing run through the whole service system from information and advice to Social Care Direct through to the specialist teams.
- Future national policies and developments to be implemented as and when required.

Decision

The Cabinet:

- Noted the content of the report.
- Agreed to receive further updates in relation to Care Act implementation on a six monthly basis.

Review of Home to School Transport Policy

Summary

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services which sought approval to begin consultation on proposed changes which would be implemented from 1 September 2016, to remove discretionary elements of the existing policy which would bring Durham in line with other authorities and make savings of approximately £740,000 as part of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) across the period 2016/17 to 2018/19.

The Council's Home to School Transport Policy was last reviewed in 2010/11 when changes were made in 2011 and 2012. The changes made at that time were:

- removal of contributions for Post 16 students other than specific circumstances
- introduction of a charge for concessionary travel
- increase the distance limit from 2 to 3 miles for entitlement to free transport to the nearest suitable school
- removal of associated transport
- removal of transport to faith schools

The combined impact of these changes resulted in savings of £5.9m realised across the period 2011/12 to 2015/16. The changes implemented in 2011 and 2012 were phased in, with transitional protection provided to students already in receipt of free transport when the changes were introduced. These changes did not remove all the discretionary element of home to school transport. The report to Cabinet sought the Cabinet's agreement to consult on moving the remaining discretionary elements of the policy.

Durham County Council has continued to provide free transport to some groups of students beyond the statutory requirements. The council has recently reviewed the non-statutory elements of the Home to School Transport Policy to consider a range of options which would lead to continued support with home to school transport costs for families in exceptional circumstances and those in low income groups, at the same time as bringing the Council's policy in line with neighbouring authorities and realising savings for the Council.

The Report proposed that the council consult on changes in three specific areas of discretionary financial support from the Council:

- (i) Free transport for students in Years 10 and 11 who move house during these important exam years;
- (ii) Free transport for Post 16 students who have no access to public transport;
- (iii) Free transport for Post 16 students who cannot travel independently due to a medical condition / disability;

(i) – Year 10 and 11 Exam Movers

The report proposed that the Council seek the views of key stakeholders through consultation on a proposal to remove automatic entitlement to free transport if families move house when their children are in Year 10 or 11. Currently, 70 pupils benefit from this provision. There are likely to be exceptional circumstances where families have had to move house and may still need support with transport costs to enable a child/children to remain at the same school. Criteria (attached to the report at Appendix 2) would be used to consider exceptional circumstances. The council would continue to provide support to these families. A Hardship Fund would be established to enable financial support to be provided, where appropriate.

(ii) – Post 16 Students with no access to public transport

The report proposed to remove automatic entitlement to free transport where a student lives in an area with no access to public transport. Currently, there are 24 pupils who benefit from this provision. There may be exceptional circumstances where families will not be in a position to fund transport for their child and will still require support from the Council. In such circumstances criteria will be used to consider these exceptional circumstances (attached to the report at Appendix 3). The proposed Hardship Fund will be used to provide funding, where appropriate in such circumstances.

(iii) – Post 16 Students who cannot travel independently due to a medical condition / disability

The report proposed that the council should seek the views of key stakeholders through consultation, on a proposal to remove automatic entitlement to free transport through the Council's Home to School Transport Policy where it may be possible to support these students in other ways (attached to the report as Appendix 4). 240 students benefit from this provision currently. The requirements of the Children and Families Act 2014 and Section 508B of the Education Act 1996 would continue to be met irrespective of any proposed changes to transport arrangements. The Council would make early contact with families when their child is in Year 11, through the established Special Educational Needs and Disability review process, prior to decisions being made about Post 16 education and training.

The proposed changes to the Home to School Transport Policy which will be subject to consultation have the potential to realise MTFP savings of between £740,000 across a three year period.

It is proposed that consultation would begin in autumn 2015. A further report would be presented to Cabinet in spring 2016. As it is a statutory requirement to publish Post 16 transport arrangements by the end of May each year, the statement for May 2016 will take account of the consultation. The Council's Home to School Transport Policy for all students will be reviewed and a revised policy would be published for implementation from 1 September 2016, by 31st May 2016.

Decision

The Cabinet:

- (i) Agreed to begin consultation on proposed changes to three elements of non-statutory provision:
 - a) Year 10 and 11 pupils whose families move house during these exam years
 - b) Post 16 students with no access to a viable public transport system
 - c) Post 16 students who cannot travel independently due to a medical condition / disability.
- (ii) Agreed to receive a further report in spring 2016 following consultation.

Quarter 1 2015/16 Performance Management Report

Summary

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which presented progress against the council's corporate basket of performance indicators (PIs), Council Plan and service plan actions and reported other performance issues for the first quarter of the 2015/16 financial year, covering the period April to June 2015. During the first quarter period 67% of target indicators have shown either an improvement or have maintained current performance and 75% are approaching, meeting or exceeding target. Good progress has been made during the quarter, however significant challenges continue in the level of unemployment and in the underlying health picture in the County.

Decision

The Cabinet:

- a. Noted the performance of the council at quarter one and the actions to remedy under performance.
- b. Agreed all changes to the Council Plan outlined below:

Altogether Wealthier

- i. Obtain planning consent for the Western Relief Road in Durham due March 2016. Revised date: August 2017.
- ii. Deliver traffic flow improvements in Durham City due October 2016. Revised date: September 2017.

- iii. Complete redevelopment at St Johns Square, Seaham due June 2015. Revised date: July 2015.
- iv. Carry out a feasibility study into the vision and purpose of Bishop Auckland Town Hall and its links to Auckland Castle due April 2015. Revised date: November 2015.
- v. Development of infrastructure at Merchant Park 2, Newton Aycliffe due March 2017. Revised date: March 2018.

Altogether Greener

- i. Procurement and implementation of a new contract for dealing with recyclable material collected at the kerbside has been delayed from June 2015 until April 2016.
- ii. The action to review operational practices around allotments to harmonise standards and embed enforcement has been delayed from April 2015 to April 2016.

Altogether Better Council

- i. The action to review customer service standards due June 2015. Revised date: October 2015.
- ii. Develop SIRO and information asset owner due May 2015. Revised date: October 2015.
- iii. Map our information assets to identify asset owners and the risk associated with those assets due June 2015. Revised date: October 2015.
- iv. Review performance management indicators in relation to welfare reform and poverty due June 2015. Revised date: October 2015.
- v. Deliver a Centre for Volunteering and Social Enterprise in partnership with Durham Community Action due November 2015. Revised date: January 2016.
- vi. Publish timely data in line with the new Local Government Transparency Code requirements (quarterly) original dates: June, 2015, September 2015, December 2015 and March 2016. Revised dates: July 2015, October 2015, January 2016 and April 2016 respectively.
- vii. Review of customer service standards and implementation of an action plan to enable the measurement of the new service standards. The wording amended from 'implementation' to 'develop' as this describes better what we do.
- viii. Undertake a survey of completed asset transferred community buildings to evaluate strategy has been deleted due to resource intensity.
- ix. Produce an outline business case for a new HQ for Cabinet approval by November 2015.

Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Review Group – Management of Woodland Estate Owned by Durham County Council

Summary

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which presented the findings and recommendations of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Review Group report on the Management of the Woodland Estate owned by Durham County Council.

At a meeting of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 11 November 2015 members agreed the terms of reference for the review with the aim of the review to investigate how Durham County Council strategically manages its woodland estate and identify any areas for improvement. The review group's findings were attached to the report at appendix 2 and resulted in the formulation of the following recommendations:

- a) That Durham County Council as part of the audit of the woodland estate considers:
 - The future strategic management of the woodland estate.
 - The partnership management approaches adopted by key partners within County Durham such as Durham Wildlife Trust.
 - The development and implementation of a streamlined corporate strategy/policy framework for the management and protection of woodland owned by Durham County Council.
- b) That Durham County Council maximise the income generation and employment opportunities from timber extraction on existing and potential new sites including consideration of new management models such as those produced by the SIMWOOD project for the marketing and extraction of timber.
- c) That Durham County Council's procurement process for the letting of timber extraction contracts ensure that:
 - Contracts are advertised to target and maximise interest from the private sector.
 - That in conjunction with the Corporate Procurement Manager the required documentation and process is simplified to make contracts more attractive to private sector companies.
- d) That Durham County Council maximises the funding opportunities available via the Common Agricultural Policy (Countryside Stewardship Scheme for England) and the European Structural and Investment Fund (Low Carbon Economy Strand) if and when such funding becomes available for the benefit of the Durham County Council woodland estate.

- e) That Durham County Council continues to actively encourage and promote the volunteering opportunities available within the woodland estate via the Durham Community Action's Do-it website, AAPs, Durham County News, Durham County Council Staff (current and former), Resident Organisations, Community Centres and County Council Members.
- f) That Durham County Council ensures that the contact details of the Countryside Service are clearly displayed on community woodland sites for use by the general public and that Durham County Council publicise via factsheets information in relation to the benefits of biodiversity; woodland management and the illegal status of fallen timber taken from the woodland estate.
- g) That a review of this report and progress made against the recommendations will be undertaken six months after the report is considered by Cabinet including as part of this process an update on the progress of the audit of the woodland estate.

The report was well received by the management teams of Regeneration and Economic Development and Neighbourhood Services.

Decision

The Cabinet:

- Noted the recommendations in the report and agreed to formulate a response within the six month period identified in the report for systematic review of the recommendations.
- Agreed to share the report with the County Durham Environment Partnership Board.

Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Review of Organised Crime

Summary

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which presented the findings and recommendations of the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee's report on Organised Crime. The review gathered a wide range of evidence and through presentations, video footage and approaches to raise awareness of organised crime with communities. The report concluded with a number of recommendations for consideration by the Council's Cabinet and the Safe Durham Partnership, as follows:

- a) Cabinet to note the work of the Council and partners in contributing to partnership activity to tackle organised crime through the Disruption and Intervention Panel.

- b) Relevant organisations on the Safe Durham Partnership comply with all information and actions required to develop and deliver the Local Profiles Document. In addition, the Committee request that a progress report on the Local Profiles document is presented to a future meeting.
- c) The Safe Durham Partnership continues work to raise awareness with partner agencies and communities to be alert and be confident to report activity that could be linked to organised crime.
- d) Through the Memorandum of Understanding the council work with the Environment Agency to take prompt action when illegal waste sites are identified.
- e) Cabinet note the potential risk of organised crime through fraud and that following conclusion of the Home Office project look to seek if learning from this work can be implemented more widely.
- f) Enhance training and awareness raising in relation to organised crime through:
 - an awareness session on Organised Crime for Elected Members
 - Integrating organised crime information within the Council's fraud awareness training, including consideration of developing on-line training information.

The report concluded that there are strong partnership arrangements in place to tackle organised crime and that the work led by Durham Constabulary is considered to be leading work nationally.

Decision

The Cabinet:

- Noted the recommendations contained in the report and agreed to formulate a response within a six month period for a systematic review of the recommendations.
- Agreed that the report be shared with the Safe Durham Partnership Board

Forecast of Revenue and Capital Outturn 2015/16 for General Fund and Housing

Revenue Account – Period to 30 June 2015

Summary

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Resources which provided Cabinet with a forecast of 2015/16 revenue and capital outturn, based on the period to 30 June 2015 for the Council's General Fund and Housing Revenue Account. The report also included the forecasts for the Council Tax Collection Fund and Business Rates Collection Fund.

Revenue

The report outlined the following adjustments which were made to the Original Budget agreed by Full Council in February 2015:

- (i) agreed budget transfers between Service Groupings;
- (ii) additions to budget for items outside the cash limit;
- (iii) planned use of or contribution to Earmarked Reserves.

Capital

The General Fund (GF) capital budget for 2015/16 was set at £148.479m by Council on 25 February 2015. Re-profiling from the 2014/15 capital programme outturn into 2015/16, amounting to £18.736m was reported to Cabinet on 15 July 2015. The Council's Member Officer Working Group (MOWG) that closely monitors the capital programme recommended further revisions to the capital programme, taking into account additional resources received by the authority and further requests for re-profiling as Service Management Teams continue to monitor and review their capital schemes. The recommendations following the latest MOWG review were included within the report.

Decision

The Cabinet:

- Noted the projected change in the Council's overall financial position for 2015/16.
- Agreed the proposed 'sums outside the cash limit' for approval.
- Agreed the revenue and capital budget adjustments.
- Noted the forecast use of Earmarked Reserves.
- Noted the forecast end of year position for the Cash Limit and General Reserves.
- Agreed the options outlined in paragraph 35 to repay the £10.85m self-financing capital sum outstanding.
- Noted the position for the Housing Revenue Account, Capital Programme and the Collection Funds in respect of Council Tax and Business Rates.

School Loans Scheme

Summary

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director, Children and Adult Services and the Corporate Director, Resources which outlined proposals for the establishment of a new loans scheme for schools, financed and underwritten by the Council, and available to maintained schools in County Durham to access for school improvements and investment in ICT and other equipment. Statutory guidance allows local authorities to set up an internal loan scheme for schools to access, though this cannot be financed through the utilisation of Dedicated Schools Grant or schools' retained balances. Until 2013, the Council operated an internal loan scheme, but this was withdrawn because of concerns about the risk being taken by the Council in respect of schools becoming sponsored academies, where under some circumstances the Council could become liable for repaying the loan rather than the school.

Funding reforms in 2013-14 have made funding for individual schools more sensitive to changes in pupil numbers and have largely removed local flexibility over the formula factors that could be used. The lack of a loan scheme has become a concern to schools, because the value of their delegated capital funding has fallen significantly in recent years and the Council has also had significant cuts to the DfE capital grant funding for capitalised maintenance and 'basic need'.

This, together with the withdrawal of the Building Schools for the Future Programme, has necessitated a prioritisation of investment in essential works such that only schools with chronic conditions are being addressed. Schools have few alternative sources of funding to supplement this grant funding.

The proposed new scheme would be financed by the Council from its cash reserves; the previous scheme was funded by the cumulative balances held on behalf of maintained schools. The scheme requires the establishment of a capital budget on a "self-financing" basis, with the interest rate set to recover the interest foregone on the surplus cash balances by lending these sums to schools instead of investing them in line with the Council's Treasury Management policy, plus an additional 0.5% premium to cover the costs of administering the scheme and the risk of changes in interest rates. Loans would be fixed interest loans; rates for new loans would be determined on a case-by-case basis, according to the prevailing interest rates available to the Council for medium-term lending. All maintained schools would be eligible to apply for a loan, within the restrictions of the scheme. Loans would only be approved for the purpose of funding expenditure on building works and new furniture or equipment, including ICT.

The previous scheme limited loans to 3% of a school's current budget share (the total of all funding, including the main formula plus funding for early years, post-16 and special educational needs). The table in the report showed the limits that would be applicable in 2015-16 using limits of 3% and 5%, based on the average budget shares. Limits for individual schools would be determined by their actual budget share. There would be other checks to ensure that schools were able to meet the annual cost of a loan and for this reason it is recommended that loans be limited to a maximum of 5% of a school's budget share. The risks involved in making loans available to schools and how these risks could be mitigated were detailed in the report.

Decision

The Cabinet agreed:

1. To consider the establishment of a loan scheme for schools with effect from 1 October 2015, funded by the Council, as described in the report.
2. To give specific approval the following parts of the scheme as described in the report:
 - a) A limit on advances of 5% of the most recent budget share of a school;
 - b) That schools be allowed more than one loan, subject to not exceeding the limits on advances for that school;

- c) That schools will be encouraged to make a contribution towards the scheme from their retained balances where available
 - d) That schools be given the option of repayment on an annuity or equal instalment of principal basis;
 - e) That interest rates be set at the prevailing interest rate that could be earned on an investment over the period of the loan requested, as advised by Treasury Management advisors at the time of borrowing, plus 0.5%;
3. To consider the risks set out in this report and confirm that it is appropriate for the Council to accept these risks.

Review of Care Connect

Summary

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development which informed the Cabinet of the proposed Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) savings associated with the Care Connect service. The report requested approval to consult on the proposals before reporting back to Cabinet for final consideration.

Overall, it is forecast that the Council will need to save £250 million over the 2011 to 2018 period, based on the forecast public sector funding reductions outlined in the Government's March 2015 and July 2015 Budget statements. A sum of £153.2 million of savings will have been delivered by the end of 2015/16, with forecasted savings over the MTFP (6) period 2016/17 to 2018/19 of £115.8 million being required to achieve a balanced budget.

Care Connect is the council's community alarm and telecare/telehealth provider. It provides a range of additional preventative services to a variety of people many of whom are older people and some who also receive a social care service. The community alarm service is non-statutory provision which assists users to live independently in their own home. The total annual cost of delivering the Care Connect service (excluding CCTV provision) is £4.942m. This is funded through a combination of a financial contribution from CAS of £2.376m, income from self-funding customers of £1.175m, Service Level Agreements (mainly with housing providers) of £0.562m and income from Public Health of £0.822m.

In December 2013 Cabinet agreed a report detailing a £1m MTFP reduction in funding support from CAS for the delivery of Care Connect. This saving was achieved through a combination of service efficiencies, the reduction in support planning visits from quarterly to annual and additional income generation from those who pay for the service. Cabinet agreed to transitional protection for those customers receiving a free community alarm service for a period of two years. In order to address ongoing reductions in government funding support for local authorities, MTFP proposals include a further reduction in CAS expenditure on Care Connect services of £750k for the 2016/187 financial year.

The longer term viability of the service depends on being able to cover the costs of providing community alarms through charging its customers. The cost to the council of delivering the community alarm service in 2016/17 is currently estimated at £4.80 per person per week.

It is therefore proposed to increase the charge for the self-funding customers from £4.60 to £4.80 per week. For modelling purposes it has been assumed that there will be 370 additional users generating additional income of £93k. The extra income from the existing customers will be £49k. This will increase the total income to the service by £142k.

In order to realise the full MTFP saving the report also proposed to introduce a contributory charge of £2.80 per week per week for customers currently receiving a free community alarm service. The consultation plan will identify key stakeholders and seek to assess the level of impact of potential changes. It is anticipated that a report setting out the consultation response would be presented to Cabinet in January 2016.

Decision

The Cabinet:

- (i) Agreed to begin consultation on proposals to:
 - (a) Introduce a contributory charge of £2.80 per week for customers currently receiving a free community alarm service.
 - (b) Increase the current charge of £4.60 to £4.80 for self-pay customers.
- (ii) Receive a further report in January 2016 following consultation.

Securing Developer Contributions Towards Education Provision in County Durham

Summary

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development and the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services which requested that Cabinet agree how the financial contributions required to accommodate pupils from new residential developments are both calculated and secured through the statutory planning process as detailed within the 'Securing Developer Contributions towards Education Provision in County Durham' which was attached to the report at Appendix 2.

Historically in County Durham there has not been a significant need to request education contributions from developers via Section 106 Agreements as there were large numbers of surplus places across the County and therefore additional school places were not needed. That situation has now changed due to increases in the birth rate, net inward migration and the fact that Local Authorities were encouraged by Government to remove large numbers of surplus places as retaining them was viewed as an inefficient use of resources.

As a result of an increase in the birth rate, it is expected that in the County there will be in the region of 1,220 more primary aged pupils by 2023-24 than there were in 2013-14.

Local Authorities receive a DfE grant each year for additional school places where there is existing pressure (Basic Need). Funding has significantly reduced since 2011/12 and there is a planned increase for 2017/18 but it should be noted that this increase is as a result of increased pupil rolls from a rise in the birth rate and from recent housing developments. It is unlikely that future Basic Need allocations will be sufficient to fund all of the extra pupil places required; therefore other sources of funding are therefore required

Where the need for additional school places as a result of new residential development is required, one potential source of funding is a financial contribution from developers via a Section 106 agreement where the development(s) is in an area that will result in additional school places being required. Developers have a finite resource available to them and consequently there is a risk that the developer may not be in a position to agree to a full range of contributions on developments where they consider that the development could become unviable. In circumstances where the developer cannot be apportioned the full costs or where there are issues around viability the Council may seek to share the cost of providing additional school places. This would be through the basic need allocation and/or making capital requests to the Council Capital Programme for funding.

The full methodology is detailed in 'Securing Developer Contributions towards Education Provision in County Durham' draft document attached as Appendix 2 to the report.

Decision

The Cabinet:

- Noted and agreed the content of the report and the 'Securing Developer Contributions towards Education Provision in County Durham' draft document attached as Appendix 2 to the report.
- Agreed that delegated authority be provided to the Directors of Regeneration and Economic Development, and Children and Young People's Services in consultation with the portfolio holders for Economic Regeneration, and Children and Young People's Service to approve any future update to secondary and primary pupil values in line with funding reviews undertaken by the Education Funding Agency.

Decision made in Part B of the meeting – reports containing exempt or confidential information

Durham Tees Valley Airport Pension Proposals

Summary

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director, Resources and the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development which advised on pension proposals relating to Durham Tees Valley Airport.

Decision

The Cabinet approved the recommendations contained in the report.

Colette Longbottom
Head of Legal and Democratic Services
18 September 2015