

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Cabinet** held in Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham on **Wednesday 18 November 2015 at 10.00 am**

Present:

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

Members of the Cabinet:

Councillor J Allen, L Hovvels, A Napier, M Plews, B Stephens and E Tomlinson

Apologies:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Brown, N Foster and O Johnson

Also Present:

Councillors P Conway, I Geldard, P Stradling and M Williams

1 Public Questions

There were no questions received from members of the public.

2 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 October 2015 were confirmed as a correct record.

3 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4 Council Tax Base 2016/17 and Forecast Surplus on the Council Tax Collection Fund as 31 March 2016 [Key Decision: CORP/R/15/03]

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Resources which determined the Council's Council Tax Base for all domestic properties liable to pay council tax and reported on the estimated collection fund surplus as at 31 March 2016, which will need to be distributed to the principal precepting authorities in 2016/17 (for copy see file of minutes).

Cabinet members commented on the excellent position the council was in in terms of its estimated council tax collection fund surplus of £7m, and increase in Band D equivalent tax base of 2.5% for next year, which was due to good financial management arrangements, and congratulated all those involved.

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

5 Review of Council Plan [Key Decision: CORP/A/03/15/1]

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which presented the draft Council Plan objectives and outcomes for each Altogether priority theme (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

6 Mid-Year Report for the Period to 30 September 2015 on Treasury Management Service

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Resources which required the Council to receive a mid-year treasury review in addition to the forward looking annual treasury strategy and backward looking performance against the previous strategy. The report also incorporated the needs of the 'Prudential Code' (for copy see file of minutes).

Cabinet congratulated all those involved in recovering £7.036m against the original £7m that had been deposited across the Icelandic bans which had gone into administration.

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

7 Forecast of Revenue and Capital Outturn 2015/16 for General Fund and Housing Revenue Account - Period to 30 September 2015

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 September 2015 for the Council's General Fund and Housing Revenue Account. The report also includes the forecasts for the Council Tax Collection Fund and Business Rates Collection Fund (for copy see file of minutes).

Councillor Napier advised that the Council was in the best position it could be despite the cuts that had been made, however it was anticipated that the cuts would deepen over the next few years which would impact on all services including front line services. He advised of the business support reserve which would enable the continuation of the protection of front line services for a period, and the position with the replenishment of both the ER/VR reserve, and the office accommodation capital reserve.

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

8 Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2014-15

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services which presented the Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2014-15 (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendation contained in the report be approved.

9 Adult Safeguarding Board Annual Report

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services which presented the Adult Safeguarding Board Annual Report, and provided information on the current position of the Board and outlined achievements during the year 2014/15 (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendation contained in the report be approved.

10 Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services which considered the revised draft Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy (CLIS) dated September 2015 (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendation contained in the report be approved.