

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Cabinet** held in **Main Hall, Town Hall, Durham** on **Wednesday 16 December 2015** at **10.00 am**

Present:

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

Members of the Cabinet:

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

Apologies:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Brown

Also Present:

Councillors J Armstrong, J Clare, P Conway, J Lethbridge, A Surtees and J Turnbull

1 Public Questions

There were no questions received from members of the public.

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2015 were confirmed as a correct record.

3 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4 Medium Term Financial Plan (6) 2016-17 - 2019/20 and 2016/17 Budget Update

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director, Resources and Assistant Chief Executive which provided an update on the development of the 2016/17 budget and the Medium Term Financial Plan 2016/17 to 2019/20 (MTFP(6)), taking into account forecasts from the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Spending Review published on 25 November 2015 (for copy see file of minutes).

Cabinet members commented that the Chancellor's spending review announcement on 25 November had been further bad news for local government and in particular Durham, and the north east. The further level of unprecedented cuts being imposed would mean further and increasingly more difficult decisions to be made. The council was expecting to receive its provisional financial settlement the day after.

Councillor Napier advised of proposals to use reserves to protect front line services as far as possible, and that a further report would come to Cabinet on 13 January 2016.

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

5 Update on the delivery of the Medium Term Financial Plan 5

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which provided an update on the progress made at the end of September 2015 on the delivery of the 2015/16 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP 5) (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

6 Quarter Two 2015/16 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 (PIs), Council Plan and service plan actions and report other performance issues for the second quarter of the 2015/16 financial year, covering the period July to September 2015 (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

7 Corporate Issues Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Attendance Management Working Group Review

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which presented the Corporate Issues Overview and Scrutiny Committee Attendance Management Working Group review report (for copy see file of minutes).

Councillor J Lethbridge, Chairman of the Corporate Issues Overview and Scrutiny Committee presented the report to Cabinet, and provided detail on the scope of the review and its findings. He thanked all Members, officers and everyone who had been part of the working group.

Cabinet Members thanked Councillor Lethbridge and the scrutiny group for the review work, and would provide a response to their findings in line with the recommendations in the report.

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

8 Implications for Durham County Council of the Government's policy programme

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which provided an update on the major policy developments and announcements and analysed the implications for the council and County Durham of the Government's policy programme (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

9 Children's Services Update

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services which provided an update to Cabinet on the national and local developments in relation to Children's Services (for copy see file of minutes).

Councillor Johnson advised of the recent letter that had been sent to Leader of the Council by the Minister for Children and Families praising Durham's children's service, and for being part of the initiative from which other authorities can learn.

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

10 Care Leavers Strategy

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services which presented the Care Leavers Strategy for Durham County Council (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendation contained in the report be approved.

11 Durham Humanitarian Support Partnership

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which provided an update on the Government's response to the Syrian refugee crisis, outlined the work of the Durham Humanitarian Support Partnership. The report sought agreement for Durham County Council to take part in the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation scheme (SVPR), and, sought delegated authority for the Assistant Chief Executive to agree Durham's response to the accommodation of asylum seekers and refugees in the County (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.