

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Cabinet** held in the **Council Chamber, Crook Council Office** on **Wednesday 15 July 2015 at 10.00 am**

Present:

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

Members of Cabinet:

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

Also Present:

Councillors J Clare, P Conway, M Dixon, I Geldard, J Shuttleworth, F Tinsley and M Wilkes

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Leader advised of an additional report that was to be considered by Cabinet relating to Medium Term Financial Plan (6), Council Plan, Service Plans 2016/17 – 2018/19 and Review of the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2016/17 plus an Update to the Discretionary Rate Relief Policy 2015/16, and that this would be considered in the meeting as the first ordinary decision.

1 Public Questions

There were no questions received from members of the public.

2 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 June 2015 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3 Declarations of interest

Councillors Foster and Plews declared interests in item 14 due to their positions on the Charter Trust, and Councillor Henig in relation to item 4 due to his position on Pelton Fell Community Partnership. They took no part in the discussion of the relevant items.

4 Implementation of the Community Buildings Strategy [Key Decision: CORP/A/05/11/3]

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which sought agreement on the steps required to conclude the community buildings asset transfer programme, and, to revise the Council's approach to the provision of Community Buildings Grants (for copy see file of minutes).

Cabinet members thanked all those who had been involved in the development of the strategy.

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

5 Consideration of an Article 4 Direction covering change of Use Class C3 to Use Class C4 for Durham City and the Introduction of an Interim Policy on Student Accommodation
[Key Decision: R&ED/06/15]

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development which sought authorisation to make an Article 4 direction to remove permitted development rights under planning legislation for changes of use from dwelling houses (Class C3) to small Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) (Class 4) in parts of Durham City and to introduce an Interim Policy on Student Accommodation to consider applications for both Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) and Purpose Built Student Accommodation (PBSA) (for copy see file of minutes).

The Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development advised of an amendment to recommendation 20A in the report, in that the reference to Appendix 7 be changed to Appendix 6.

Resolved:

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

6 Review of Fixed Play Provision
[Key Decision: NS/14/11]

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services which sought approval for a development framework for future play provision within the County (for copy see file of minutes).

The Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services advised that since the report was dispatched there was no longer the interest for the site at David Street, Quarrington Hill to be transferred as indicated in the report at paragraph 34, so the recommendations would be amended accordingly.

Resolved:

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

The Chairman declared that in accordance with agenda item 16, the following item of business should be considered by Cabinet as a matter of urgency, and that it would be considered as the first ordinary decision of Cabinet, hence the order of business to be transacted as set out on the agenda was amended accordingly.

**7 Medium Term Financial Plan (6), Council Plan, Service Plans 2016/17 – 2018/19 and Review of the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2016/17 plus an Update to the Discretionary Rate Relief Policy 2015/16
[Key Decision: CORP/R/15/02]**

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director, Resources and the Assistant Chief Executive which provided details on the development of the 2016/17 budget, Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP 6) and Council Plan / Service Plans 2016/17 to 2018/19. The report also provided details of a review of the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme and an update on the Discretionary Rate Relief Policy (for copy see file of minutes).

In response to a question from Councillor Wilkes about the impact of the budget on local services and the effect on residents, Councillor Napier advised of the process for the development of the MTFP including the consultation that would be undertaken in the autumn.

Cabinet members thanked all those involved in producing the comprehensive report in such short time, following an analysis of the Chancellor's Summer Budget of 8 July on the impact for local government finance.

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

8 Children, Young People and Families Plan 2015-2018

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services which presented the refreshed Children Young People and Families Plan 2015-18 (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendation contained in the report be approved.

9 Health Protection Assurance Annual Report 2013-14

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services which provided an overview of the health protection assurance arrangements in County Durham and updated on relevant activity from April 2013 to March 2014 (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

10 County Durham Youth Offending Service Youth Justice Plan 2015/2017

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services which presented the Youth Justice Plan 2015/17, and sought approval by Cabinet to recommend its approval to Council (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

11 Early Help Strategy

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services which updated Cabinet on work that has taken place since June 2014 to embed the Strategy across the Children and Families Partnership (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

12 Treasury Management Outturn 2014/15

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Resources which updated Cabinet on the annual Treasury Management for the year ended 31 March 2015 (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

13 2014/15 Final Outturn for General Fund, Housing Revenue Account and Collection Fund

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Resources which provided details of the revenue and capital outturn for both the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for 2014/15 plus the 2014/15 outturn for the Collection Fund in respect of Council Tax Collection and Business rates collection (for copy see file of minutes).

Councillor Napier advised of the position relating to earmarked reserves in response to a question from Councillor Wilkes.

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

14 Historic and Ceremonial Regalia and Property of the Charter Trustees

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Resources which presented progress with negotiating an agreement with the Charter Trustees in relation to the contents of the Town Hall in Durham and sought approval to enter into an agreement to conclude the negotiations (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

15 Update on Office Accommodation Programme and release of Aykley Heads Strategic Employment Site for Economic Regeneration

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development and Corporate Director, Resources which updated Cabinet on proposals to release the Aykley Heads strategic employment site to deliver a regionally important regeneration opportunity that will provide new jobs and investment in County Durham (for copy see file of minutes).

In response to a question from Councillor Shuttleworth, Councillor Foster advised that all costs would be come forward as part of a business case and reported to Cabinet in due course.

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

16 County Durham Climate Change Strategy and Delivery Plan - Durham's Vision for a Low Carbon County

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development which informed on the progress of the Climate Change Strategy and Delivery Plan and sought formal adoption of the documents. The report also included information on key projects which are developing and progress against the main carbon reduction target (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

17 Exclusion of the public

Resolved:

That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of part 1 of Schedule 12A to the said Act.

18 New Company Business Plan for the Development and Management of Market Housing
[Key Decision: R&ED/03/15]

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development and the Corporate Director, Resources regarding a new company business plan for the development and management of housing (for copy see file of minutes).

Councillor Foster responded to a question from Councillor Wilkes about housing in his division.

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.