

## **DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL**

At a **Meeting of Cabinet** held in **Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham** on **Wednesday 16 September 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 E Adam, D Bell, A Bonner, D Boyes, J Clare, P Conway, M Dixon, B Graham, J Shuttleworth, A Surtees and F Tinsley.

### **1 Public Questions**

There were no questions received from members of the public.

### **2 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 July 2015 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **3 Declarations of interest**

Councillor Tomlinson declared an interest in item 16 due to his position on the Board of Durham Tees Valley Airport. He left the room during the discussion of the item.

### **4 Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Report 2014-2015**

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

Cabinet members congratulated all those involved with the Board, and remarked that it was an excellent example of partnership working.

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

**5 Care Act and Adult Social Care Transformation Update**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services which provided an update on the local and national developments in relation to the implementation of the Care Act 2014 and the transformation of Adult Care services (for copy see file of minutes).

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

**6 Review of Home to School Transport Policy**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services which sought Cabinet approval to begin consultation on proposed changes to the home to school transport (for copy see file of minutes).

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

**7 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 June 2015 on the delivery of the 2015/16 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP 5) (for copy see file of minutes).

**Resolved:**

That the report be noted.

**8 Quarter One 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 reported other performance issues for the first quarter of the 2015/16 financial year, covering the period April to June 2015 (for copy see file of minutes).

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

## **9 Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Review Group – Management of the Woodland Estate owned by Durham County Council**

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 (for copy see file of minutes).

Councillor B Graham, Chairman of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee presented the report to Cabinet, and provided detail on the scope of the review and its findings. She thanked all Members, officers and everyone who had been part of the working group.

Cabinet Members thanked Councillor Graham 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.

## **10 Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee Review Report on Organised Crime**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which presented the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee review report on Organised Crime (for copy see file of minutes).

Councillor D Boyes, Chairman of the Safer and Stronger Communities 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 Boyes 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.

## **11 Forecast of Revenue and Capital Outturn 2015/16 for General Fund and Housing Revenue Account – Period to 30 June 2015**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Resources which provided 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

forecasts for the Council Tax Collection Fund and Business Rates Collection Fund (for copy see file of minutes).

Councillor Napier in setting out the position of the savings that have been achieved during times of austerity, and how the authority had protected front line services as far as possible, explained the position of the reserves held by the council in that they had been used to balance the budget so it was important to keep healthy balances. In recognising that further cuts would be required he pointed out that they may need to start using some of the reserves to continue the protection of front line services. There would be period of consultation prior to finalising the budget in February 2016.

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

## **12 School Loans Scheme**

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services and Corporate Director, Resources which set out proposals for the establishment of a new loans scheme for schools (for copy see file of minutes).

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

## **13 Review of Care Connect**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development which informed Cabinet of the proposed Medium Financial Plan (MFTP) savings associated with the Care Connect service (for copy see file of minutes).

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

## **14 Securing Developer Contributions Towards Education Provision in County Durham**

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development and Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services which sought agreement on how the financial contributions required to accommodate pupils from new residential developments are both calculated and secured through the statutory planning process as detailed with the 'Securing Developer Contributions toward Education Provision in County Durham' draft document (for copy see file of minutes).

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

**15 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 involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the said Act.

**16 Durham Tees Valley Airport Pension Proposals**

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director, Resources and the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development which advised on proposals regarding pension liabilities and the airport company (for copy see file of minutes).

**Resolved:**

The Cabinet approved the recommendations contained in the report.