

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Cabinet** held in **Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham** on **Wednesday 13 July 2016** at **10.00 a.m.**

Present

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

Members of the Committee:

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

Also Present:

Councillors J Blakey, J Clare, A Hopgood, B Kellett, J Lindsay, A Liversidge, J Shuttleworth and J Turnbull

1. Public Questions

There were no public questions.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2016 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. 2015/16 Final Outturn for General Fund, Housing Revenue Account and Collection Fund

The Cabinet considered a report of the Interim Corporate Director, Resources which provided Cabinet with details of the revenue and capital outturn for both the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for 2015/16, plus the 2015/16 outturn for the Collection Fund in respect of Council Tax collection and Business Rates collection (for copy see file of minutes).

Cabinet members advised that despite these austere times the authority was performing well and had a solid financial performance, which was a credit to all staff. Finance officers were thanked for their work and also accuracy in predicting estimates.

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

5. Treasury Management Outturn 2015/16

The Cabinet considered a report of the Interim Corporate Director, Resources which provided information on the Treasury Management outturn position for the year ended 31 March 2016 (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

6. County Durham Partnership Update

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which provided an update on issues being addressed by the County Durham Partnership (CDP) including the board, the five thematic partnerships and all area action partnerships (AAPs). The report also included an update on other key initiatives being carried out in partnership across the county (for copy see file of minutes).

In response to a question from Councillor Hopgood about developing the report for future meetings with the inclusion of a brief overview of each of the AAPs activities, Councillors Stephens advised that there was already work underway to reflect on how to capture and share what was being done in each of the AAPs, and a report would come back to Cabinet in due course.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

7. Salvus House: Durham City Incubator

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development which requested agreement for the purchase of Salvus House by the Council. The report also updated the Cabinet on progress to establish a Durham City Incubator (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations 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 updated on the major policy developments and announcements since 16 December 2015 and analysed the implications for the council and County Durham (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

9. County Durham Youth Justice Plan 2016/2017

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services which presented the County Durham Youth Justice Plan 2016/17 for information and highlighted some of the key achievements to reduce offending and re-offending during 2015/16 (for copy see file of minutes).

Cabinet members asked that their congratulations be conveyed to the two members of staff who had been awarded the Butler Trust award for their innovative work.

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

10. Children's Services Update

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Children's and Adults Services which provided an update to Cabinet on the national and local developments in relation to Children's Services. In addition, this report included information on the outcome of the Ofsted Single Inspection Framework (SIF) Inspection of Children's Services carried out between 22 February 2016 and 16 March 2016 (for copy see file of minutes)

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

11. County Durham Parking Policies

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development which sought approval for the County Durham Parking Policies (for copy see file of minutes).

Councillor Foster welcomed support from Councillor Hopgood about the difficult issues surrounding parking on greens and opens spaces, and of the work undertaken, and re-assured the member that these issues were kept under review.

Resolved:

That the recommendation in the report be approved.

12. Community Led Local Development – Accountable Body Status

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development which sought in-principle approval, subject to conditions, for Durham County Council to become Accountable Body for up to two Community Led Local Development (CLLD) Local Action Group (LAG) areas (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendation in the report be approved.

13. Update on the Office Accommodation Programme and Outline Business Case for a New Headquarters

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development and Assistant Chief Executive which updated Cabinet on progress made in respect of the Office Accommodation Programme and in particular the outcomes of the Outline Business Case for the proposed new headquarters (HQ), and, outlined the preferred option for the new HQ for the Council and sought approval to move to the next stage of the programme being the preparation of the Full Business Case for the preferred option (for copy see file of minutes).

Councillor Hopgood referred to the recent decision of the UK to leave the EU and asked about the plans in place to mitigate against loss of interest in the Aykley Heads site. Councillor Foster and other cabinet members advised that there would be challenging days ahead following the decision, however the site was the best strategic and employment site in England and possibly Europe, and with the potential of hosting 6,000 jobs it provided outstanding opportunities to extend the county's growth.

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

14. Exclusion of the Public

Resolved:

That under Section 100(a)(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 of the Act.

15. Update on the Office Accommodation Programme and Outline Business Case for a New Headquarters

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development and the Assistant Chief Executive on the business case for a new headquarters within the Office Accommodation Programme (for copy see file of minutes)

Resolved:

That the report be noted.