

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

AT A MEETING of the **CABINET** held at the County Hall, Durham on **THURSDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2009** at **10.00 a.m.**

PRESENT

COUNCILLOR HENIG in the Chair

Cabinet Members:

Councillors Foster, Hodgson, Hovvels, E Huntington, Nicholls, Robson, Stephens, Vasey and B Young.

Other Members:

Councillors Armstrong, Arthur, Bailey, Blakey, Burnip, Chaplow, Graham, Hancock, N Harrison, Holland, Johnson, Jopling, Martin, O'Donnell, Shuttleworth, Tomlinson, Wilkes, Wilkinson and Williams.

A1 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2009 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

A2 Declarations of interest

Councillor Hovvels in respect of Minute A6 as a Member of Sedgefield Borough Council.

A3 LGR Update

The Cabinet considered a Report of the Chief Executive (for copy see file of Minutes) providing an update on the LGR programme that had been considered by the full Council on 4 February.

Resolved:

That the progress detailed in the appended full Council Report be noted.

A4 Durham Private Sector Housing Renewal Financial Assistance Policy
[Key Decision Corp/LGR/11/08]

The Cabinet considered a Report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development (for copy see file of Minutes) about the 'Durham Private Sector Housing Renewal Financial Assistance Policy'.

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the Report be agreed.

A5 Civil Contingencies Unit

The Cabinet considered a Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (for copy see file of Minutes) outlining the issues around the future of the County Durham and Darlington Civil Contingencies Unit (CCU) and proposing the Unit's return to Durham County Council (DCC), as the 'lead' local authority.

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the Report be agreed.

A6 Ceremonial Issues arising from the Local Government Review – Update

The Cabinet considered a Report of the Acting Director of Corporate Services (for copy see file of Minutes) making recommendations on various ceremonial matters and highlighting further emerging legislation.

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the Report be agreed.

A7 Local Area Agreement (LAA) Review (2009 – 11)

The Cabinet considered a Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (for copy see file of Minutes) providing a review of the County Durham Local Area Agreement (LAA) for the period 2009 -11 and outlining the timetable for its completion.

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the Report be agreed.

A8 South and East Durham New Growth Point
[Key Decision BSE/LGR/12/08]

The Cabinet considered a Report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development (for copy see file of Minutes) providing an update on

the progress of the South and East Durham New Growth Point, advising on the Government funding awarded (and confirm that the County will inherit accountable body status for the processing of such funds) and the next steps.

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the Report be agreed.

**A9 Harmonisation of Household Waste Collection Policies
[Key Decision ENV/LGR/19/08]**

The Cabinet considered a Report of the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services (for copy see file of Minutes) outlining the current position regarding waste collection policies from across the seven existing Districts in County Durham and seeking views on the adoption of a harmonised set of policies, effective from 1st April 2009 as part of a programme of work towards converged collection arrangements for the new Council.

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the Report be agreed.

A10 Garden Waste Collection and Composting Service: Plans for Extension

The Cabinet considered a Report of the Head of Direct Services (for copy see file of Minutes) seeking agreement to the operational details for the extension of the garden waste collection service.

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the Report be agreed.

**A11 Sub-Regional Homelessness Strategy
[Key Decision SHSC/LGR/14/08]**

The Cabinet considered a Report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development (for copy see file of Minutes) seeking approval for the County Durham Sub Regional Homelessness Strategy.

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the Report be agreed.

In the opinion of the Chairman the following item was considered to be of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration due to the matter having arisen in the national press.

A12 Winter Maintenance

Councillor Wilkes referred to the current weather conditions and the press reports about the national shortage of salt to grit the roads for the remainder of the winter, and he sought clarification on the position in Durham.

Councillor Young, the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Environment, advised that, although over the past few days much salt had been used, the Authority still had 14,000 tonnes of salt in stock. Although the companies delivering the salt were limiting the amounts, they had guaranteed to deliver at least 200 of the 500 tonnes per day requested by this Authority. He anticipated that providing there were no major changes to the weather as forecast for the next four weeks, and the undertaking made by the company that they would deliver the stock each day was honoured, he was reasonably confident that there would be sufficient salt.

He also advised that a capital growth bid for £600k had been made to build 3 new additional storage depots for salt, to supplement the 35,000 tonnes of salt that was already stocked at the beginning of the winter.