

# **DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL**

## **CABINET**

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

### **PRESENT**

**COUNCILLOR HENIG** in the Chair

#### **Cabinet Members:**

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

#### **Other Members:**

Councillors Armstrong, Arthur, Bailey, Blakey, Chaplow, Hancock, N Harrison, G Huntington, Johnson, Jopling, Martin, Southwell, Wilkes and Williams

An apology for absence was received from Councillor E. Huntington.

#### **A1 Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 February 2009 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### **A2 Declarations of interest**

Councillor O'Donnell, in respect of Minute A&, in his capacity as a Governor of Shotton Hall Primary School.

#### **A3 LGR Update**

The Cabinet considered a Report of the Chief Executive (for copy see file of Minutes).

In addition the Leader reported receipt of a letter dated 4 March 2009 from the Boundary Committee for England confirming it was minded to adopt a council size of 126 members for Durham County Council. The next stage of the review will formally commence on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2009 and will run until 8 June 2009, with an invitation to all interested parties to submit proposals for new electoral divisions based on a council size of 126 members. A meeting of the All Party Working Group would be arranged in the next 2 weeks to commence this process.

Councillor Young, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Environment provided assurances to a series of questions from Councillor Wilkes about waste collection issues.

**Resolved:**

That the Report and the decision of the Boundary Committee be noted.

**A4 Constitution: Revisions**

The Cabinet considered a Report of the Acting Director of Corporate Services (for copy see file of Minutes) about revisions to the Constitution.

It was indicated that the current Member Allowance Scheme would be incorporated into the Constitution pending the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel later in the year.

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations in the report be agreed.

**A5 Authorisation of Officer to Appear in Magistrates' Courts**

The Cabinet considered a Report of the Acting Director of Corporate Services (for copy see file of Minutes) requesting authorisation for Eloise Goupil, Legal Assistant, to appear on behalf of Durham County Council in Magistrates' Courts.

**Resolved:**

That the recommendation in the report be agreed.

**A6 Shaw Bank, Barnard Castle -Transfer of County Council Land at to Teesdale Community Resources to Facilitate the Hub Project [Key Decision LLL/CYPS/03/09].**

The Cabinet considered a Joint Report of the Corporate Director, Children and Young People's Services and the Acting Director of Corporate Services (for copy see file of Minutes) about a proposed community development – The Hub – being funded through a £5m Myplace Fast Track award from the Big Lottery and seeking approval in principle to the disposal of County Council owned land to facilitate the project.

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations in the report be agreed.

**A7 Shotton Hall Infant & Junior Schools School Organisation: The Determination of the Office of the Schools Adjudicator on the Proposal to reorganise into a New Build Primary School**

The Cabinet considered a Report of the Corporate Director, Children and Young People's Services (for copy see file of Minutes) about the determination of the Office of the Schools' Adjudicator on the proposal of Durham County Council to reorganise Shotton Hall Infant and Junior Schools into one new build primary school and commenting on the potential for the project to be completed earlier than originally anticipated.

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations in the report be agreed.

**A8 Leisure Centre and Swimming Pools Bank Holiday Opening Times [Key Decision SHSC/LGR/02/08].**

The Cabinet considered a Report of the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services (for copy see file of Minutes) about whether there was a need for a harmonised approach to bank holiday opening hours for equality of service provision at vesting day. More detailed work was required to establish a longer term vision for access to leisure services during public holidays which will be programmed during 2009/2010.

**Resolved:**

That the recommendation in the report be agreed.