

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Cabinet** held in **Committee Room 2 - County Hall, Durham** on **Wednesday 17 October 2018 at 10.00 am**

Present:

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

Members of the Committee:

Councillors A Napier (Deputy Leader of the Council), J Allen, J Brown, O Gunn, L Hovvels, O Johnson, K Shaw and B Stephens

Apologies:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Carl Marshall

Also Present:

Councillor John Clare, Councillor Rob Crute, Councillor Mark Davinson, Councillor Patricia Jopling and Councillor John Shuttleworth

1 Public Questions

A written response would be provided to a question about traffic and relief roads which was received from a member of the public who could not be present at the meeting.

2 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations made.

4 Mainstream Primary and Secondary Formula Funding 2019-20 and Transfer to High Needs Block [Key Decision: CORP/R/18/06]

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services and the Corporate Director of Resources which set out the Council's approach to setting a funding formula for mainstream primary and secondary schools for 2019/20, which would apply to maintained schools from 1 April 2019 and academies from 1 September 2019. The report also set out proposals to apply to the Secretary of State for Education for permission to transfer funding from the schools block to supplement High Needs funding in response to the significant budget pressures being experienced in this area. Full details of the

forecast impact on individual schools was included in the report (for copy see file of minutes).

Councillor Gunn in responding to the question from Councillor Shuttleworth about changes in the NFF for schools advised of the opportunities the council has taken to engage with government in relation to this and also the wider financial issues for schools.

Cabinet members spoke of the financial difficulties being faced by schools and that in order to support them there was no alternative now other than to seek permission from the secretary of state, DfE to transfer funding to supplement high needs funding in response to the budget pressures.

In relation to the options set out in the report that had been identified for the 2019-20 formula cabinet members supported option 2, which would continue with the strategy implemented with effect from 2018/19: a transitional formula which moves schools to a NFF based allocation from 2020/21.

Resolved:

- (a) To note the indicative financial modelling that has been undertaken to date and the timetable for decision-making for the 2019-20 mainstream primary and secondary funding formula;
- (b) To authorise the Corporate Director of Resources and Corporate Director of Children and Young Peoples Services, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet members, to submit an application for a transfer of funding from the Schools Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant of the maximum permissible, without creating a negative ceiling;
- (c) In considering the options available in terms of the 2019-20 mainstream primary and secondary funding formula agreed to support option 2, and would feedback to the Schools Forum at its meeting on 5 November 2018.

5 Durham History Centre Update

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Transformation and Partnerships which updated on progress with the Durham History Centre project proposal (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

6 County Durham Partnership Update

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Transformation and Partnerships which updated on issues being addressed by the County Durham Partnership (CDP) including the board, the five thematic partnerships, safeguarding boards and all area action partnerships (AAPs). The report also included updates on other key

initiatives being carried out in partnership across the county (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

7 Council Activity Update

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Transformation and Partnerships which provided an update on work to support some of the Council's key priorities (for copy see file of minutes).

Members welcomed the update provided in the report which set out the amount of work to realise the vision for the county, and gave the position on progress towards delivering some of the key priorities and other newsworthy aspects of the councils work. They commended the work that had been achieved by the Authority and its partners.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

8 Draft Children and Young People's Strategy

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services and the Director of Transformation and Partnerships which presented the draft Children and Young People's Strategy 2018/19- 2020/21 (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

9 Selective Licensing in County Durham

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services which sought approval in principle to the undertaking of detailed preparatory work with the intention of submitting an application to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for a county wide selective licensing designation (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

10 Director of Public Health Annual Report

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director of Adult and Health Services and the Director of Public Health, County Durham which proposed that

Cabinet receive the 2018 annual report of the Director of Public Health for County Durham (for copy see file of minutes). The Director was thanked for the presentation of her first annual report.

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.