

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Cabinet** held in **The Main Hall - The Glebe Centre** on **Wednesday 16 January 2019** at **10.00 am**

Present:

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

Cabinet Members:

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

Also Present:

Councillors A Batey, P Brookes, C Carr, J Clare, M Clarke, A Surtees, O Temple, A Watson and M Wilkes

1 Public Questions

A written response would be made to Mr Vincent who had submitted a question in advance of the meeting about Newton Cap viaduct.

Mr Reed and Ms Brown of Shotley Bridge asked questions about the decisions made about land in Shotley Bridge, which they understood was to be considered during the private part of the meeting. In addition to the response given at the meeting written responses would be provided.

2 Minutes

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

3 Declarations of interest

In relation to item 16 land release fund Councillor C Marshall declared a pecuniary interest in connection to a director position he held. He left the room during consideration of the item.

4 County Durham Plan Pre-Submission Draft [Key Decision: REAL/01/18]

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services which requested that Cabinet:

1. agree the Pre-Submission Draft of the County Durham Plan for publication and consultation;

2. agree the County Durham Building for Life and Residential Amenity Standards Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) for public consultation;
3. agree to adopt the Habitat Regulations Assessment: Developer Guidance and Requirements in County Durham;
4. agree supporting documents for consultation including the Sustainability Appraisal, Habitat Regulations Assessment, Health Impact Assessment, Spatial Strategy Justification, Exceptional Circumstances and Statement of Consultation.

(for copy see file of minutes).

Councillor Marshall responded to the question from Councillor Wilkes about possible alternatives for the proposed northern relief road.

Councillor Marshall highlighted the consultation process that had been undertaken and that the number of responses received had been significant. He thanked everyone who had taken part in the consultation.

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

5 County Durham Housing Strategy and County Durham Homelessness Strategy [Key Decision: REAL/02/18]

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Regeneration and Local Services which requested that Cabinet agree the Housing Strategy and the Homelessness Strategy for public consultation (for copy see file of minutes).

Members welcomed the development of both strategies, and everyone involved was commended for their work on this.

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the report be approved

6 Durham History Centre - Next Steps [Key Decision: CORP/TAP/01/19/1]

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Transformation and Partnerships which provided an update on progress on the Durham History Centre project and requested that Cabinet agree next steps and funding (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

7 The County Durham Strategic Cycling and Walking Delivery Plan 2019-2029

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services which sought approval to adopt the Strategic Cycling and Walking Delivery Plan for County Durham 2019-2029 (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

8 Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Review of support provided to the retail sector by Durham County Council

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Transformation and Partnerships which presented the key findings and recommendations of the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Review Group report focusing on the support provided by Durham County Council to the retail sector (for copy see file of minutes).

Councillor Batey, Chairman of the working group provided detail on the scope of the review and its findings. She thanked Members, officers, partners, and everyone who had been part of the working group.

Cabinet Members welcomed the review and its findings, and thanked Councillor Batey for her presentation and asked that their thanks be conveyed to the scrutiny group for the work undertaken. A response to their findings in line with the recommendations in the report would be provided.

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

9 2019 Year of Culture; including Durham County Council Festivals and Events Calendar 2019/20

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services which outlined the 2019/20 festivals and events programme and sought agreement to the allocation of funding to the programme (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

10 Camera Enforcement of Bus Lane Contraventions

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services which sought agreement to undertake civil enforcement of bus lanes using a column mounted camera (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

11 Medium Term Financial Plan (9), 2019/20 to 2022/23 and 2019/20 Budget

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director of Resources and the Director of Transformation and Partnerships which provided an update on the development of the 2019/20 budget and the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP(9)) 2019/20 to 2022/23, reflecting upon the content of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Autumn Budget published on 29 October 2018 and the provisional Local Government Finance settlement published on 13 December 2018. The report also considered the outcomes of the MTFP (9), Budget Consultation process (for copy see file of minutes).

Cabinet members commented on the scale of the cuts that had already been made, and that despite reports austerity continued with further significant savings to be found. The unfairness in the distribution of the funding continued for Durham in comparison to other authorities, and this impacted on its core spending power. Although there had been notification of some additional funding this was not enough and the end to austerity was needed. The pressures this was having on all service areas particularly children's services, and for the most vulnerable was emphasised. They would continue to lobby government on this.

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

12 Capital Self-Financing Request - Buy to Lease Project

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services which sought agreement to the capital request and arrangements for a buy and/or lease residential project for people in housing need in County Durham (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

13 Review of the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services which sought Cabinet approval to undertake a public consultation leading to the production of a revised version of the policy statement to be recommended for adoption by Council (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

14 Council Activity Report

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).

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

15 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 involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

16 Land Release Fund - Self Build Programme

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services which outlined the proposed approach to maximise delivery through the Land Release Fund grant (for copy see file of minutes).

Responses were provided to the questions from Councillors Temple and Watson.

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.