

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board** held **remotely on Friday 19 June 2020 at 9.30 am**

Present:

Councillor R Crute (Chair)

Members of the Committee:

Councillors A Batey (Vice-Chair), E Adam, R Bell, D Boyes, J Chaplow, M Clarke, A Hopgood, P Jopling, B Kellett, H Liddle, L Maddison, R Manchester, C Martin, O Milburn, C Potts, J Robinson, J Rowlandson, A Savory, A Shield, H Smith, F Tinsley, J Turnbull, M Wilkes and A Willis

NOTE FROM THE CHAIR:

The Chair noted, prior to the meeting commencing, he would like to recognise that it was a very challenging time for our communities and that he wanted to express condolences on behalf of himself, the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and the Corporate Management Team to the many families in County Durham who have lost loved ones and been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Makepeace.

2 Substitute Members

No notification of Substitute Members had been received.

3 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held 14 February 2020 were agreed as a correct record and would be signed by the Chair. The Head of Strategy, Jenny Haworth confirmed that the feedback from the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board relating to the Medium Term Financial Plan and Budget had been incorporated into the report that had been considered by Full Council at its meeting held 26 February 2020.

4 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

5 COVID-19 Planning and Response

The Board considered a report of the Corporate Management Team (CMT), previously considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 5 June 2020, which gave a summary of the actions the Council had taken, working with partners to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, and its framework for recovery planning (for copy see file of minutes).

The Chief Executive, Terry Collins noted he would focus on the executive summary of the Cabinet report and its recommendations adding that the details were contained within the remainder of the report and associated appendices. He noted that members of CMT were in attendance to answer questions raised by Members.

He then set out the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and reiterated the condolences the Chair had expressed on behalf of CMT to all those affected by the pandemic. He noted the magnificent work of the Council's Information Technology (IT) Section and added that the Council's transformation journey to date had helped in being able to respond to the pandemic. The Chief Executive also noted his thanks to all Council staff, who had reacted incredibly well and positively to the challenge.

He then went on to express his thanks for the work of CMT and Extended Management Team (EMT) to get the necessary structures in place and in liaising with Cabinet, opposition Group Leaders and the Local MPs, and also in keeping all staff up-to-date as the pandemic developed. He reiterated paragraph 6 of the Cabinet report: "correct at the time of writing" noting the world and the situation was moving on at a pace.

The Chief Executive explained the work undertaken nationally, regionally and locally to protect our communities and in terms of the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) together with Darlington Borough Council and the Director of Public Health as a member of the Regional Health Strategic Group working with the three LRFs and other strategic planning groups across the region. He explained the huge amount work with many agencies, organisations and Elected Members and thanked them for their hard work in partnership including organisations such as: Durham Constabulary, County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service, the local National Health Service (NHS) and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs); Area Action Partnerships (AAPs); Community and Voluntary Sector (CVS); and Trade Unions. He provided a summary of the Council's responses as set out at points (a) to (u) at paragraph 20 of the Cabinet report.

It was noted that the LRF continued to meet, with attention now turning to the remainder of 2020, looking towards a recovery. The Chief Executive explained that the new Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth, Amy Harhoff would be in post from 22 June and the Interim Corporate Director, Geoff Paul would remain at the Council in a new role, focussing on recovery, looking at the economy, jobs, health and wellbeing, and our local communities. He concluded by thanking the communities within County Durham and Members for all their hard work and support for the Council during the pandemic.

The Chair thanked the Chief Executive and all those involved in the COVID-19 response and noted that each of the thematic Overview and Scrutiny Committees would look at elements of the response as part of their individual work programmes. The Chair asked the Board for their questions and comments on the report.

Councillor R Bell added his thanks to those of the Chief Executive in terms of the response of the staff, mentioning specifically the excellent work of those within Finance and Business Support in the very fast processing of financial support grants. He noted that the Council budget was normally set in February and asked how the Council would react in terms of any national emergency budget and how this process would be managed by the Council, perhaps with an additional budget, in order to react to fast moving announcements such as the £1 Billion from Government for education support.

The Corporate Director of Resources, John Hewitt thanked Councillor R Bell for the positive comments relating to staff and the Finance Team. He noted that in terms of any emergency budget it would depend upon what and when Government made announcements and suggested this would likely be after August. The Corporate Director of Resources continued by noting the Council's usual Quarter One monitoring would be at the end of June, which in turn would feed through to Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny. In respect of the education support announced, he noted the specific details had not yet been received and information would be shared with Members in due course.

The Chair noted that funding would be critical, not just following ten years of austerity, but also in terms of the three or four months of COVID-19. He added that information from Government on funding, whether that be the fair funding formula, or the business rate retention scheme would be an area the Board would follow closely.

Councillor A Shield echoed the statement of the Chief Executive in offering condolences to those affected by the pandemic. He noted he had been involved in a Local Government Association meeting and the work of DCC

had been mentioned, Durham Together and the COVID Dashboard, with Durham held up as an exemplar. Councillor A Shield asked about the £100,000 allocated to each AAP and what level of scrutiny had there been in terms of the distribution of those funds and also after COVID-19 whether the funds would revert to the Council or be used in post-COVID support.

The Corporate Director of Resources noted there was a process in place for the allocation of grants. The Council had worked very hard to issue grants quickly, with Internal Audit to have a role in sample checking and analysis of the process. The Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change, Alan Patrickson thanked the AAPs and the many community and voluntary organisations and their projects which were providing help with COVID-19. He explained that there had been over 200 projects with around £810,000 allocated and reminded Members of an additional £100,000 for cross-county projects, with £40,000 of this already allocated. He noted Members' individual Neighbourhood Budgets had been utilised to support in relation to COVID-19, with around £200,000 being allocated. The Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change noted that a process of contacting projects to understand their intentions going forward would be undertaken through the AAPs, noting some projects such as providing emergency food could perhaps be winding down. He noted by finding which projects needed ongoing funding, the rest of the fund could be allocated accordingly and then to return to the normal area budget processes in time. He added that any money left over from the COVID-19 support would be transferred to the cross-county fund to allow for COVID-19 support within our communities.

Councillor D Boyes added his thanks for all the Council's work in the east of the County and asked how successful the Council had been in identifying vulnerable groups. He also noted while AAP allocations were equal, populations per AAP were not equal and asked if this had been taken into account.

The Chief Executive noted it was a challenge for the Council in terms of identifying vulnerable individuals, with the Government's list of 13,000 residents being built upon, with the Council and partners identifying an additional 75,000 people. He attributed this to the excellent partnership arrangements within the County, something that was retained in County Durham which was disbanded in many other Local Authority areas in 2010. He noted the particular hard work carried out by the two hubs that were set up, and the work of the Deputy Director of Public Health, Gill O'Neill and others in this respect.

The Chief Executive noted there was a desire by Cabinet to get funding out to the AAPs and Elected Members as the voice of our communities to make a difference locally, adding the allocations were not overspent at this time. He noted that the work relating to COVID-19 would be ongoing and work

would be undertaken in respect of this. The Corporate Director of Adult and Health Services, Jane Robinson noted a section within the Cabinet report related to population health management, an early piece of work undertaken by the Director of Public Health, Amanda Healy to identify the most vulnerable within our communities, which helped in taking the appropriate actions as outlined by the Chief Executive.

Councillor M Wilkes commented he was very sad for residents that had lost loved ones, including many within his division. He added that the work of Council staff had been immense over the last few months and praised all staff, also dealing with their own pressures associated with lockdown. He gave an example of the positive work being undertaken, referring to the food bank at Chester-le-Street requiring additional space to meet distancing requirements and explained that the local community centre and leisure centre were utilised and were up and running within a week. He thought this was an excellent example of how the Council had worked with Local Members.

Councillor M Wilkes stated as it was the first Overview and Scrutiny meeting for many months, some difficult questions needed to be asked, none more important than about the Council's response to the crisis faced by care and nursing homes. He noted the huge amount of help in terms of personal protective equipment (PPE), advice and Government and Council funding, as outlined at paragraphs 115 to 119 of the Cabinet report. He felt that further support would be needed in the coming weeks and months to help prevent bankruptcy in the sector and asked if Officers could indicate what additional support would be offered.

Councillor M Wilkes also raised a specific issue relating to contracts, paragraph 118 of the Cabinet report, noting that he felt providers had been placed in an impossible position in that if they wanted additional funding they would have to accept people from hospitals and the community who had a diagnosis or were recovering from COVID-19. He added that care home providers had written to the Council about this risk and offered alternative arrangements, however, these had been ignored. Councillor M Wilkes noted at a meeting with himself, Councillor A Hopgood, Councillor C Martin and the Chief Executive along with the heads of Adult and Health Services, Finance and Public Health, the issue was raised and it had been agreed that it would be reviewed and a new contract was later issued. Councillor M Wilkes noted opposition Councillors should not have found out about the contracts via providers, contracts which he felt placed a lot more stress on the staff and owners of those care homes.

He added that his view was that any suggestion that the Council was simply following Government advice could not be accepted. Councillor M Wilkes noted it was important that the Council and partners learned from any mistakes and that an urgent review was undertaken to reassure the public

that such actions would not be repeated. He noted three questions for Officers: how many patients were released from hospitals into care homes; was the Portfolio Holder given a copy of the contract before it was sent out to providers; and would senior Officers accept that to force providers into such contracts was wrong, accept the concerns of providers were real, and express regret that it had happened.

The Corporate Director of Adult and Health Services gave her thanks to all staff across the care sector responding throughout the crisis and shared the condolences expressed by others within the meeting. She echoed the comments previously made by the Chief Executive in terms of the early stages of the crisis, with frequently issued guidance that the Council followed throughout. She noted it had been multi-agency guidance, with the response being across the health and social care sector. She added that the guidance continued to be reviewed and the response and the support that had been put in across the care sector had been extensive, as shown through documents such as the Care Home Assurance Plan. The Corporate Director of Adult and Health Services stated there was no forcing of contractual terms, it was for each provider to accept the admission of any resident and the Council had continued to review the support it had made available. She noted that support put in place reflected guidance and at no time had the Council withheld financial support from providers, with advance payments and more recently payments made through the infection control fund. She added that in terms of future assistance on occupancy, the Council was in dialogue with providers. In relation to hospital numbers, she stated this was another area where work was ongoing as it was complex and there were multiple sources of information.

Councillor M Wilkes explained that the point he was making was that if providers wanted the extra funding, they had to sign the contract and the contract terms required them to accept people potentially infected with COVID-19 from hospitals.

The Chief Executive reiterated that at all times the Council's approach had been to follow national guidance, similar to other Local Authorities. He added there had been a meeting with Councillor M Wilkes and colleagues, however, no actions relating to policy had been taken as a result of that meeting and reiterated that policy, consistently throughout the process, had been based upon advice and guidance received. The Chief Executive noted that in the longer term there would likely be a review nationally, but the Council's approach had been to follow the guidance. Councillor C Martin referred to the Government's centralised method in responding to COVID-19 and asked what function CMT would have preferred DCC to carry out, assuming the Council would have received the funding required. He also asked about paragraph 106 of the Cabinet Report regarding support to the most needy. He noted prior to lockdown the support

grant was halved under a delegated decision and asked why this was not mentioned within the report and why there was not a temporary reversal in terms of the cut given the crisis.

The Chief Executive noted that there would likely need to be a time for the Council to consider that, however, things were still being announced, for example educational announcements, and many of these were in the press prior to a briefing for Local Authorities. In relation to free school meals, he understood there had been issues in terms of access to codes, and the shops undertaking the scheme included Waitrose, noting no Waitrose shops were within County Durham. He added that he felt that it could have been simpler for Government to passport those funds to the Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services to make arrangements for monies to be distributed to those in need of free school meals, likely within the same day rather than the weeks it actually took. He added he felt Government needed to appreciate the Council had reach within its communities and could look to help in terms of school meals, test and trace, vulnerable food provision. He explained there were already mechanisms in place, for example AAPs, and this could have helped to prevent additional layers of bureaucracy.

The Corporate Director of Resources noted that the welfare scheme, in its widest context, operated a significant overspend last year and therefore there had been a review regarding who was accessing the grants and to bring settlement grants in line with daily living expenses. He gave an example in terms of crisis funding for basic food, noting this was increased by 20 percent. He added that the Council was now looking at who was accessing the policy and being flexible in terms of what they need and awarding upon that basis, following the approach taken by many other Local Authorities. He explained there was a greater wraparound approach, working with partners in terms of welfare support and added this would be monitored going forward in light of COVID-19.

Councillor C Martin referred to the wider review and noted he did not recall as a Member being informed of the review, rather he only knew of the report setting out the benefit was to be cut in half. He added that the report noted the number of people accessing the grant was in line with the previous year and asked why therefore the decision was not taken in line with the budget process and was a delegated decision, not in conversation with Councillors.

The Corporate Director of Resources noted matching up grants to budgets was set out as a delegated function within the Constitution and the decision was made pre-COVID. He added that while there was a delay in getting the message out to Members as a result of COVID-19, this was acknowledged by Officers.

The Director of Public Health noted that one area where Government had been very centralised in their approach had been in terms of testing, with the Council already having had a mechanism in place for communicable disease and control, working closely with colleagues from Public Health England's Public Protection Team. She noted the report highlighted that when the Government moved from the "detect" phase into "contain" the ability to follow up on contacts was lost and a centralised system was brought in for testing. She explained this issue was raised by the Cabinet Member with the Secretary of State for Health. She added that where the Council had been working with partners to bring in local testing, this at the time was undermined by the central programme, including testing for care homes. The Director of Public Health explained the national app relating to track and trace would take several months to bring in and therefore there would be focus on local testing and tracing to respond with local protection teams.

Councillor A Hopgood gave her thanks to the CMT for going above and beyond to make themselves available to speak to Group Leaders at any time and for holding regular update meetings. She asked about AAPs and noted while it was appreciated that money had been allocated to AAPs relating to COVID-19, she had concern that Members had no input into the changes to the rules for the Neighbourhood Budgets for the AAPs for next year, with the individually set priorities from each AAP being scrapped and replaced with COVID recovery. She added she would be happy to see COVID recovery added as an extra priority, alongside those as set by each AAP, not as a replacement. She noted that the AAPs work as fourteen separate entities with individual priorities relating to their area and was concerned that some of those vitally important non-COVID priorities would no longer be addressed. She asked for some Member input into the process.

The Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change noted setting COVID recovery as the priority for AAPs was to help in terms of the impact of what had happened over the last three to four months and it was believed this would cover a wide range of issues. He explained it was not linked to the COVID response, rather what would happen after that in terms of supporting recovery in areas such as: employability; mental and physical health; organisation sustainability for those who have had funding issues; or social isolation. He reiterated it was not a continuation of COVID response, it was regarding impact following COVID-19.

Councillor A Hopgood noted she understood the reasoning behind the decision, however, she asked why it was a replacement rather than an addition.

The Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change hoped Members would agree that COVID-19 recovery would be the most important priority moving forward, though if there were specific issues that were felt as being missed, he would welcome taking up any issues at an AAP level. The

Chief Executive added that Officers were listening and would have further discussions on this.

Councillor J Robinson noted he would be speaking in his role as Chair of the Adults, Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. He explained that his whole heart was with the bereaved, coming from the perspective of someone directly affected, he noted it was not just the loss it was the impact of a relative dying alone in hospital and the draconian rules in place for funerals. He added that both he and Councillor J Chaplow, Vice-Chair of the Adults, Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee would like to thank the NHS, the care sector and Ambulance service. He also thanked the Corporate Director of Adult and Health Services, the Director of Public Health, the Principal Overview and Scrutiny Officer, Stephen Gwilym and the Portfolio Holder, Councillor L Hovvels for keeping them up-to-date in relation to COVID-19 issues.

Councillor J Robinson noted a positive example within his Electoral Division where a community hub was able to get food to a person within one hour and his local community centre had received funding from the Corporate Director of Resources within two days to enable it to keep going. He added a homecare company in his area that had been on the verge of bankruptcy had received the 10 percent uplift in funding and this had kept that business going. He noted lessons would be learned and that future Committees would consider them. He noted the LRF covered all aspects and explained he would welcome a report on the work of the LRF in the recovery plan. He also asked about local outbreak plans and local health plans, noting he felt this would be for Local Authorities to address and ask for a report back to the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board or the Adults, Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on those local plans.

The Director of Public Health stated that work was ongoing in relation to the local outbreak control plans and they would focus on key settings such as care settings, schools and the homeless population, with a draft plan to be developed by the end of June, including engaging with the Adults, Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on this. She added that all of the preventative work was still ongoing to help prevent any outbreaks, with local businesses and schools being onboard.

The Chief Executive noted that the LRF was changing, initially meeting daily at the beginning of the pandemic, now twice weekly. He would chair the LRF from 30 June and the people involved would change to reflect the focus on recovery, with conversations around the economy and recovery plans, building on the work of the Interim Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth and working with the new Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth looking at protecting our businesses and assets, putting support in place.

Councillor F Tinsley asked about the issue of coordination and partnership working, noting the successes locally in the face of the current crisis. He added that when looking at such partnership with Government, the decisions made in Whitehall seemed very distant from his local high street or local School Governors meeting and asked if Government were providing any mechanisms to provide feedback on the impact of their decisions on the ground within communities. He added many people had noted Government guidance had been ambiguous and asked if guidance had to be taken to the letter or whether there was flexibility within interpreting guidance.

The Chief Executive commented the Leader of the Conservative Group, Councillor R Bell been very helpful in trying to raise issues nationally and added the Council was in regular national meetings such as the Local Government Association, Association of County Council Chief Executives and the County Council Network to try and raise concerns through those mechanisms. The Leader of the Council, Councillor S Henig had written on behalf of the Association of North East Council to also raise concerns. The Chief Executive referred to some contact with Ministers, though some questions remained unanswered and explained that a lot of information was not coming from Government, with Local Authorities finding out about issues from the daily Government press conference prior to guidance being issued. He added there were examples such as business grants and funding for care homes where there was an announcement and then a delay in Local Authorities receiving funding. The Chief Executive cautioned that Local Authorities ran the risk of issues if guidance was not adhered to and therefore the communication of guidance from Government had been frustrating.

The Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services, John Pearce noted there were a number of mechanisms for conversations with Government, through professional associations. He gave an example of the Association of Directors of Children's Services, having regular national and regional meetings, with information being shared amongst colleagues. He added that information was limited, for example the announcement on school funding had been made although there were no details put forward as yet and reiterated that the scale and timeliness of guidance from Government was an issue.

Councillor P Jopling offered her condolences to those families that had lost loved ones during the pandemic. She congratulated the Council on the speediness of getting the business grants processed, however, she noted examples of businesses which had received grants although had remained open during the lockdown and that they had perhaps not needed the grants. She asked if the guidance was for a blanket award to all small businesses or was there a mechanism where the Council could make the award based on need.

The Corporate Director of Resources noted the Government guidance was very prescriptive and did not necessarily look at individual business need, rather it looked at business rates, type of business and the Council had followed the guidance issued. He added that the latest scheme would have more discretion, however the majority of the take up would be in line with Government guidance.

The Chair noted the recommendations attached to the report and indicated he, as Chair of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, would like to echo the recommendations made by Cabinet and propose that: the Board acknowledge the immense contribution local communities have made to the response and the cooperation of County Durham residents throughout this unprecedented situation; and acknowledge the contribution the Council's employees and strategic partners have made to the response.

Resolved:

- (i) That the content of the report be noted.
- (ii) That the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board acknowledge the immense contribution local communities have made to the response and the cooperation of County Durham residents throughout this unprecedented situation.
- (iii) That the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board acknowledge the contribution the council's employees and strategic partners have made to the response.

6 Refresh of the Work Programme 2020/21 for the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

The Board considered a report of the Director of Corporate Resources which provided the opportunity to review and refresh the work programme for 2020/21 (for copy see file of minutes).

The Head of Strategy referred to the flexibility within the work programme in relation to the changing landscape, noting where remote meetings had been agreed, and to keep agendas focussed, with a number of items to be circulated to Members via e-mail. She highlighted that the key areas would include the Medium Term Financial Plan, and the impact of COVID-19, and the transformation programme in terms of issues such as smarter working.

Councillor M Wilkes commented that providing Members relevant items via e-mail was welcomed and hoped that this would be continued once meetings returned to County Hall. He referred to page 69 of the report, the MTFP, and asked if Government were being lobbied in order to get information as soon as possible so that Members could have sight of budgets earlier than they

did last year. He added that if there were any critical elements that could be brought forward separately at a November meeting this would be useful.

The Chair noted information from Government as regards the settlement was received late last year. The Corporate Director of Resources assured the Board that Government were being lobbied on receiving the information in a timely manner and added that it was very difficult to look at the budget in part.

Councillor C Martin asked about opportunities to scrutinise the process for the County Durham Plan.

The Chair reminded the Board that the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee had facilitated a meeting with all Overview and Scrutiny Members invited to feed into that process. The Principal Overview and Scrutiny Officer confirmed that the issue would be included as part of the work programme for the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to be discussed at the meeting of the Committee scheduled for 23 July.

Resolved:

- (i) That the report and comments on the proposed Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board work programme for 2020/21 be noted.
- (ii) That the work programme for 2020/21 as set out in the report, and the flexibility it offers to respond to emerging issues, be agreed.

7 Extension of appointment of non-statutory, non-voting Overview and Scrutiny Co-optees

The Board considered a report of the Director of Corporate Resources relating to the extension of appointment of non-statutory, non-voting Overview and Scrutiny Co-optees (for copy see file of minutes).

The Principal Overview and Scrutiny Officer noted that due to COVID-19 it had not been possible to have a meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board to agree to extend the appointment of the current serving non-statutory, non-voting Co-optees for a further two years. He added that it had therefore been considered appropriate that, in accordance with the Chief Officer Delegation Provisions, that the Corporate Director of Resources extends the terms of office of current non-statutory, non-voting Co-optees for a further two years up to May 2022. Members of the Board noted all Co-optees had been contacted and were happy for their terms to be extended. The Principal Overview and Scrutiny Officer noted that a full review of Co-optee appointments would be carried out in 2022.

Resolved:

- (i) That the use of Chief Officer Delegation Provisions to extend the term of office of currently serving non-statutory, non-voting Co-optees for a further two years up to May 2022 be noted.
- (ii) That a full review of non-statutory, non-voting Co-optee membership is undertaken in 2022 be agreed.

8 Notice of Key Decisions

The Board considered a report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services which provided a list of key decisions that were scheduled to be considered by the Executive (for copy see file of minutes).

The Head of Strategy informed the Board that the following was new to the plan and set out the associated timescales:

- Medium Term Financial Plan 11

Councillor M Wilkes noted the report did not mention the Leisure Centre Transformation and the subsequent decision on closing leisure centres in light of the pandemic. He asked if and when they would be reopening, given the investment of £50 million, and how Members would be informed in terms of such preparations to reopen.

The Chief Executive reiterated that we were just coming out of the peak of the emergency and that the new Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth and the new Head of Culture Sport and Tourism would take up their posts next Monday with both eager and keen to get moving as soon as possible.

Councillor M Wilkes agreed with the Chief Executive and noted that the leisure centres being closed was a concern in terms of income. Councillor M Wilkes added he was concerned that the leisure centres could be closed twice, once for COVID-19, then subsequently for transformation works to be carried out and explained he felt that therefore it was better to carry out such works now while the centres were already closed.

The Interim Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth noted Councillor M Wilkes had contacted him on this and he would meet with him next week. He added that an update report on Leisure Services transformation would be considered at a future meeting of Cabinet.

Resolved:

That the content of the report be noted.