

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Cabinet** held in Council Chamber, County Hall, Durham on **Wednesday 16 June 2021 at 9.30 am**

Present:

Councillor A Hopgood (Leader of the Council) in the Chair

Cabinet Members:

Councillors R Bell (Deputy Leader of the Council), T Henderson, S McDonnell, J Rowlandson, E Scott, P Sexton, A Shield, J Shuttleworth and M Wilkes

Also Present:

Councillors B Avery, A Batey, J Chaplow, I Cochrane, R Crute, C Hood, P Jopling, L Maddison, C Marshall, P Molloy, K Shaw, A Surtees, R Yorke and S Zair

1 Public Questions

The Chair advised that there had been one question submitted by a member of the public however as that person could not be present a written response would be made following the meeting.

2 Minutes

The Chair referred to the minutes of the meeting held on 21 April 2021 and advised that as this was a new municipal year, with a new administration, and a new Cabinet, the minutes were for noting.

Resolved:

The minutes were noted.

3 Declarations of interest

Councillor E Scott advised that she did not have a declaration to make however would not be participating in the discussion or decision in respect of item 10 review of durham county council headquarters, due to her previous involvement in matters relating to the headquarters on behalf of the city of durham parish council. She would leave the room while the matter was being considered.

4 Levelling Up Fund [Key Decision No. REG/03/21]

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth and the Interim Corporate Director of Resources which provided Cabinet with an overview of the guidance and bidding requirements for access to the Levelling Up Fund and sought approval of the ongoing process for the Council to develop and prioritise potential proposals across County Durham. The report also sought approval for the submission of one first round levelling up bid for the Bishop Auckland Parliamentary Constituency, covering projects for the South West Durham area (for copy see file of minutes).

In responding to a question from Councillor Yorke about the route of a proposed toft hill bypass and the traffic management difficulties this would potentially bring, Councillor Bell's response included the history to the proposed route, the current position of the plans, and the reasons for this not being included in the immediate bid which is for the wider area. Councillor Shuttleworth advised of his recent discussions with the member.

Councillor Bell in responding to questions from Councillor Marshall advised that Cabinet would be submitting high quality levelling up submissions for each constituency at the earliest opportunity, and of the considerations that had been taken in submitting other bids in the next bidding round.

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

5 COVID-19 Commissioning of Designated Settings

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Adult and Health Services which provided an update on the commissioning of Designated Settings during the Covid-19 pandemic following the Government requirement for the Council, along with all Local Authorities to commission Designated Settings within care homes to provide a safe alternative for people who are temporarily unable to return to their usual place of residence due to their covid status. The report outlined a delegated decision taken by the Corporate Director of Adult and Health Services, to commission such beds given the urgent timescales required by the pandemic and Government direction (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

6 Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2021 - 2025

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change which presented the Cabinet with the Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2021-25 for endorsement, prior to final sign off by full Council (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

7 Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021 - 2025

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change, Corporate Director of Adult and Health Services, Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services and Director of Public Health which presented the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021-2025 for endorsement (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

8 Area Action Partnerships and Member Neighbourhood Budgets - Proposed Operating Arrangements 2021/22

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change which set out the proposed approach for Area Action Partnership (AAP) Boards and Teams to return to a greater local presence as the County emerges from the effects of the COVID – 19 Pandemic. It detailed the funding to be allocated to AAPs and Elected Members this year and set out how that will be managed, including some proposed changes to the requirements and procedures around the allocation of that funding to ensure AAPs comply with best practice and the Council's procedures (for copy see file of minutes).

Further to questions raised by Councillor Surtees, Councillor Scott's response included confirming arrangements for the additional staffing resource for the AAPs, dealing with business as usual requests, the development of the application form, and of the support officers could provide if required with completion of the on-line form.

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

9 Review of DLI Collection Archive and the Future of the DLI Building and Grounds

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth and Interim Corporate Director of Resources which outlined proposals to review the options for the display of Durham Light Infantry (DLI) collection, archive, building and grounds (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

Councillor E Scott left the meeting prior to the next item.

10 Review of Durham County Council Headquarters

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth and the Interim Corporate Director of Resources which set out proposals to review the options for the use of the newly constructed Durham County Council Headquarters (HQ) at The Sands in Durham City and set out an approach for reviewing the options for the Council's HQ functions grounds (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the report be approved.