



RECORD OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

The following is a record of the decisions taken at the meeting of **CABINET** held on **Wednesday 9 April 2025**. The decisions will come into force and may be implemented from **Wednesday 23 April 2025** unless the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee or its Committees object to any such decision and call it in.

Community Asset Transfer Policy

Summary

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Resources which provided an update on the development of the approach to facilitating the transfer of assets to community organisations and sought approval for the Community Asset Transfer (CAT) Policy.

In 2012 the Council adopted the Community Buildings Strategy which focused on ensuring a network of sustainable community centres existed across the county. This strategy enabled the transfer of a number of centres to community based groups, who operate and manage the buildings independently of the Council. Successful transfer was enabled through support from officers in Corporate Affairs and Corporate Property and Land, via the development of business cases to ensure sustainability and the production of a standard lease.

Standard templates and protocols were developed which provide the basis for the CAT process. In order to provide governance and management and monitoring of transfers, the previous Community Buildings Steering Group developed into the Community Assets Steering Group (CASG) with oversight for all transfers. CASG, who report to the Corporate Property Board have taken on the lead responsibility to develop a corporate Community Asset Transfer (CAT) Policy and take forward its implementation. In developing the CAT Policy, consideration was given to future proofing the approach and content to ensure it is fit for purpose in relation to the Transformation agenda.

Decision

The Cabinet agreed the proposed Community Asset Transfer Policy.

The Corporate Asset Management Plan 2025-2030

Summary

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Resources which presented the Corporate Asset Management Plan (CAMP) 2025-2030 for approval.

In April 2023 Cabinet approved the Corporate Asset Management Plan for 2023-2025 which detailed how the Council managed its estate and supported the delivery of council services. The CAMP, through its Action Plan, linked directly to the Corporate Property Partnership (CPP) programme which sought to ensure a corporate approach to management of the estate. The 2023-2025 CAMP was a 2-year document focusing on the implementation of the recently introduced CPP model. Cabinet supported the continued development of a second stage, longer term strategic document by 2025.

In June 2024 Cabinet received an update on the progress of the development of the second stage CAMP which included a list of specific areas of focus. The update also included a list of achievements from the CAMP/CPP action plan and an update on key estate data and the impact this may have on the approach to asset management in the future.

As reported in 2024, broadly there had been minimal change to the size and value of the estate (excluding housing) over the past three years but the cost of running it has increased significantly as had the amount of backlog maintenance required.

The adoption of an over-arching vision for the estate to help address this challenge was a core requirement of the further development of the CAMP. The Council's vision for '*a dynamic, sustainable estate optimising our assets and promoting prosperity for the benefit of the Council, our people and places*' seeks to balance future sustainability and growth. The CAMP 2025-2030 was presented in the report.

The CAMP 2025-2030 remains unchanged in structure and it retains its commitment to the Council's strategic objectives and directing principles. A summary of the structure and content of the new document together with the main changes were set out in the report.

Decision

The Cabinet approved the Corporate Asset Management Plan 2025-2030.

The Cabinet resolved to exclude the press and public by virtue of paragraphs 3 and 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 during discussions on agenda item 10.

The Termination of Guardianship and Transfer of Council Owned Land at Binchester Roman Fort

Summary

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Resources which sought agreement to the termination of Durham County Council's role as Guardian of the Binchester Roman Fort scheduled monument and the negotiation of and subsequent transfer of the council-owned land and related assets.

Decision

The recommendations contained in the report were approved.

Helen Bradley
Director of Legal & Democratic Services
11 April 2025