



RECORD OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

The following is a record of the decisions taken at the meeting of **CABINET** held on **Tuesday 4 June 2024**. The decisions will come into force and may be implemented from **Friday 14 June 2024** unless the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee or its Committees object to any such decision and call it in.

North East Devolution – Combined Authority Borrowing Powers **Key Decision: CEO/2024/001**

Summary

The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Executive that sought consent to the making of regulations by central government to provide the new mayoral combined authority, NECA, with borrowing powers in line with the devolution deal and the scheme which was subject to public consultation.

Further to The North East Mayoral Combined Authority (Establishment and Functions) Order 2024 being made on 20 March 2024, the new combined authority, NECA, came into existence on 7 May 2024.

In order for NECA to be able to support its functions, it was envisaged that the combined authority would have borrowing powers. The above Order makes provision for borrowing powers in relation to NECA's transport functions. However, borrowing powers for other functions must be dealt with by separate Regulations.

The report sought in principle agreement to consent to the making of the Regulations and delegated authority for the Chief Executive to provide that consent when requested to do so by the Secretary of State.

Decision

The Cabinet:

- (a) agreed in principle that the Council should consent to the making of the Regulations; and

- (b) authorised the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to issue the Council's formal consent to the Secretary of State when requested.

Early Help Strategy 2024-2026

Summary

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services and the Chair of Children, Young People and Families Partnership Board which provided Cabinet with the updated Early Help Strategy 2024-2024 for endorsement.

The review of the current Strategic Partnership Approach to Early Help commenced in 2023 involving a range of stakeholders and has now concluded.

The newly titled County Durham Early Help Strategy 2024-2026 is based on evidence about the needs and wants of children and their families living in County Durham and from what partners across the early help system feel collectively they can achieve.

The strategy is also based on the priorities of the Prevention and Early Help Partnership which are underpinned by the national Supporting Families Programme, the Family Hub and Start for Life programme and the Reducing Parental Conflict programme and specifically reflects how County Durham can improve early help support offered to families. It also seeks to reflect the Government's direction of travel for family help and social care set out in Stable Homes Built on Love.

A Strategy Development Group was established to oversee the development of the strategy, including the coproduction process and to ensure local partners, voluntary and community sector (VCS) representatives, children, parents and carers were involved in its development.

Coproduction sessions took place with children, parents and carers to develop the new strategy which is based on what is important to those who use and need early help support. Data and intelligence have also informed the strategy about what we know are the needs of the wider population and what our priorities should be over the next 3 years.

The new strategy will run from June 2024 until the end of March 2026 to align with the timescales for the revised Growing Up in County Durham Strategy 2023 – 2026.

The strategy includes what we intend to deliver through the Family Hub and Start for Life programme. Additionally, as school attendance is a high priority

both locally and nationally and with the Attendance Alliance aspirations being integral in supporting children to achieve in all areas of life, this is a key focus of the Early Help Strategy: supporting children to regularly participate in learning that meets their needs and supporting their aspirations as they transition into adulthood. It is recognised within the strategy the contribution effective early help has on supporting children and families with a range of multiple and complex needs in helping to address and mitigate these needs before the need for statutory social care intervention. Where social care interventions have been required, a range of early help support can also be provided during and after social care intervention ensuring children and families receive the range of help that builds safety and resilience.

Decision

The Cabinet:

- (a) Noted the work on developing the new Early Help Strategy and
- (b) Received and endorsed County Durham's Early Help Strategy 2024-26.

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 9.

**Durham City Regeneration - Milburngate Development
Key Decision: REG/2024/005**

Summary

The Cabinet considered the report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth which provided an update on the current situation with the Milburngate development in Durham City.

Decision

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

Helen Bradley
Director of Legal & Democratic Services
6 June 2024