

## **DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL**

At a Meeting of **Cabinet** held at the Civic Centre, Crook on **Wednesday 14 December 2011 at 10.00 a.m.**

**Present:**

**Councillor S Henig** in the Chair

**Cabinet Members:**

Councillors Foster, Hovvels, Napier, Nicholls, Plews, Robson, Stephens, and B Young.

**Other Members:**

Councillors Avery, Murphy, Temple and Tomlinson.

### **1 Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 November 2011 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **2 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **3 2012/13 General Fund, Budget, Medium Term Financial Plan 2012/13 – 2015/16 and Council Plan Update Key Decision CORP/R/11/1**

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director, Resources and Assistant Chief Executive that provided an update on the 2012/13 Budget, Development of the 2012/13 – 2015/16 MTFP Model, MTFP consultation process to date, and Equality Impact Assessments (for copy see file of Minutes).

Cabinet noted that the 2012/13 Formula Grant announced by the Government was very close to that forecast by the Authority, and would be subject to formal sign off by the Government at the beginning of February.

**Resolved:-**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

**4 Housing Revenue Account Medium Term Financial Plan 2012/13 to 2016/17  
Key Decision Corp/R/11/1**

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director, Resources and Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development that provided an update on the Government's Self Financing proposals for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) that will come into effect on 1 April 2012; consider the draft HRA Business Plan for the next 30 years and Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for 2012/13 to 2016/17 (for copy see file of Minutes).

**Resolved:-**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

**5 Council Tax – Calculation of Tax Base 2012/13  
Key Decision CORP/R/11/4**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Resources to determine the Council's Council Tax Base which is an important component in the Council's budget setting process for 2012/13 (for copy see file of Minutes).

**Resolved:-**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

**6 Digital Durham - Superfast Broadband  
Key Decision CORP/R/11/2**

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director, Resources, and Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development that provided an update on progress with the Digital Durham Programme and the options for the programme in the areas of match funding, the procurement process, governance arrangements, and state aid implications (for copy see file of Minutes).

**Resolved:-**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

**7 Stock Options Appraisal Project – Update and Next Steps  
Key Decision R&ED/02/11**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development that advised of the outcome of financial analysis and consultation on potential options for the future financing, ownership and management of Durham County Council's housing stock. Approval was sought of the proposed next steps in the appraisal process and in determining the best options or mix of options for the future of the housing stock (for copy see file of Minutes).

Cabinet members thanked all of those involved in the consultation process so far, and particularly to the Stock Options Appraisal Working Group for their contribution.

**Resolved:-**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

**8 Blue Badge Reforms**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Adults, Wellbeing and Health that provided information relating to the Blue Badge (Disabled Persons Parking) Reforms and which sought an increase in the fee for a Blue Badge (for copy see file of Minutes).

**Resolved:-**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

**9 Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive that sought agreement to improve how we support front line voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations in County Durham (for copy see file of Minutes).

Cabinet was advised that the recommendation relating to the Council's vision for the future of VCS infrastructure support, be amended to reflect that the vision was detailed in Paragraph 8 and not 9 of the report.

**Resolved:-**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

**10 Quarter 2 2011/12 Performance Management Report**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive that presented progress against the Council's corporate basket of performance indicators and report other significant performance issues for the second quarter of 2011/12 (for copy see file of Minutes).

**Resolved:-**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

**11 County Durham Partnership Update Report**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive that provided an update on issues being addressed by the County Durham Partnership (CDP)

Board, the five Thematic Partnerships and all Area Action Partnerships (AAPs). The report also includes updates on other key initiatives being carried out in partnership across the County (for copy see file of Minutes).

**Resolved:-**

That the report be noted.

**12 Implications for Durham County Council of the Government's policy programme**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive that provided an update on the major policy developments and announcements and analyses the implications for the Council and County Durham (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Assistant Chief Executive advised of an amendment to paragraph 119 of the report, in that that the current project to install panels on council-owned domestic properties would be affected by the proposed introduction of the new tariff.

**Resolved:-**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

**13 Review of Indoor Sport & Leisure Facilities Update - Ferryhill Leisure Centre**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services that sought approval to enter into discussions with Ferryhill Community Partnership for the lease of Ferryhill Leisure Centre (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Corporate Director of Neighbourhood Services advised of an amendment to the recommendation in the report in that the delegated approval would be subject to satisfactory arrangements.

Cabinet members congratulated Councillor Avery, the local member and the community for their commitment in coming forward with the alternative proposal. Councillor Avery thanked Cabinet members and officers for their ongoing support.

**Resolved:-**

That approval be granted to commence discussions with Ferryhill Community Partnership for the lease of Ferryhill Leisure Centre, giving delegated approval for the agreement of the lease to the Corporate Director of Neighbourhood Services and Portfolio holder for Strategic Environment, subject to satisfactory arrangements relating to finance and operational matters being concluded by 31 March 2012 when the lease should be assigned to the partnership.

**14 Conservation Area Character Appraisal Programme- Boundary amendments and character appraisals for Edmundbyers, Eggleston, Ireshopeburn/Newhouse/West Blackdene, Muggleswick, Newbiggin and Shildon Conservation Areas**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development to approve amended boundaries and character appraisals for the Edmundbyers, Eggleston, Ireshopeburn/Newhouse/West Blackdene, Muggleswick, Newbiggin and Shildon Conservation Areas (for copy see file of Minutes).

**Resolved:-**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

**15 Business Durham: Business Space Plan 2011-2016**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development that presented the Business Durham: Business Space Plan 2011-2016, which puts forward the Council's strategic role and investment plan for its portfolio of business accommodation (for copy see file of Minutes).

**Resolved:-**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

**16 Playing Pitch Strategy**

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development, and Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services which sought adoption of the Playing Pitch Strategy to assist in determining planning applications, formulate policies within the County Durham Plan, and deliver corporate objectives (for copy see file of Minutes).

Councillor Plews, in responding to a question from Mr J Shaw, advised of the range of grants provided by the Football Foundation to support football in the County, and of the discussions currently underway on a number of projects, including one at Consett.

**Resolved:-**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.