

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Special Meeting of **Cabinet** held at the County Hall, Durham on **Thursday 22 September 2011 at 10.00 a.m.**

Present:

Councillor S Henig in the Chair

Cabinet Members:

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

Other Members:

Councillors J Armstrong, B Arthur, B Avery, J Blakey, J Chaplow, B Graham, N Harrison, A Hopgood, P Jopling, A Laing, J Shuttleworth, D Southwell, P Stradling, R Todd, E Tomlinson, J Turnbull, and M Wilkes.

1 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations.

2 Policies for the Management of the Councils Cemeteries

Key Decision: NH/NS/15/10

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services to consider, in the light of public consultation, proposals for the management of the County Councils Cemeteries (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

3 Overview and Scrutiny Management Board Review Working Group – Area Action Partnerships

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive on the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board working group review of Durham County Council's Area Action Partnerships (for copy see file of Minutes).

Councillor J Armstrong, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board presented the report to Cabinet. He advised that the working groups findings included that the AAPs governance arrangements provided an extremely robust mechanism for ensuring the effective operation, they had delivered over 900

projects prior to 1 April 2011, and of the significant amount of grant and matched funding that had been committed. He thanked the working group and officers for undertaking the review, and asked Cabinet to report back in due course on the recommendations that had been identified.

Cabinet members welcomed the report and thanked the working group for undertaking the review which they would respond back on. They spoke of the excellent work that had been undertaken by the AAPs, and of the unprecedented levels of community engagement.

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

4 Quarter 1 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 (PIs) and report other significant performance issues for the first quarter of 2011/12 (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

5 Forecast of Revenue and Capital Outturn 2011/12 – Period to 30 June 2011

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Resources that provided a forecast of 2011/12 Revenue and Capital outturn for the period to 30 June 2011 (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

6 Roundabout Sponsorship / Illegal signs and Adverts Policy

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services that identified the potential for environmental improvements that could be generated by the sponsorship of highways assets e.g. verges, roundabouts, lamp-post banners and Christmas trees/lights etc., together with a consistent approach to the enforcement of A-boards, goods for sale and illegal signs on the highway (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

7 Private Sector Housing Strategy for County Durham

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development that sought approval of the Private Sector Housing Strategy (2011- 2015) for County Durham (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

8 Barnard Castle Vision Governance

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development that provided an update on the activities of Barnard Castle Vision, including details of achievements to date, reports on the recent independent evaluation, outlines current governance arrangements and made recommendations for future governance arrangements (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

9 Update of the Office Accommodation Programme

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development that provided an update of the Office Accommodation Programme following the first 6 months of delivering the strategy which was agreed by Cabinet in November 2010 (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

10 DIGITAL DURHAM PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director, Resources, and Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development that provided an update on the Digital Durham programme and the bid for funding to Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK), and which sought agreement to the proposed governance arrangements for the programme going forward (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

11 Joint Commissioning Strategy for Domestic Abuse Services in County Durham 2011-14

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Adults Wellbeing and Health with a final draft of the Joint Commissioning Strategy for Domestic Abuse Services 2011-14 (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

The Chairman agreed that the next item could be considered as urgent business.

**12 Review of Indoor Sport & Leisure Facilities – Update & Evaluation of Further Bids
Key Decision NS/04/11**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services that provided an update & evaluation of further bids in relation to the Review of Indoor Sport & Leisure Facilities (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services advised that letters had been sent to the unsuccessful bidders the day before which included an invite to meet up the following week with officers, who would explain in detail the reasons for the bids being unsuccessful.

Members of Cabinet explained how the decision to close the two remaining sports centres that were at risk was very difficult and a sad situation, however went on to advise of the difficult decisions that had to be made in the current economic climate. In responding to questions raised by members, it was pointed out that officers had undertaken everything they could to work with potential bidders to try and keep open the centres, and that they had come along way from the original consultation document as now they were in the position that 5 of the 7 leisure facilities, that were at risk of closure, would continue to operate. It was disappointing that bids submitted for Glenholme and Ferryhill had not been viable proposals.

The Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services in responding to comments, advised of the amount of time officers of the Authority had undertaken with potential bidders/ local members, and of the ongoing dialogue/ meetings that had taken place. He advised that officers would have early dialogue with local members of the areas affected to advise on what was envisaged would be provided to engage local communities in sporting/ leisure activities. He explained that those outside activities at Glenholme leisure centre would not be affected.

Thanks were conveyed to Cabinet members and officers, from Sherburn Parish Council, and on behalf of the local members, for working with them in relation to Sherburn leisure centre.

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.