

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Special Meeting of **Cabinet** held at the County Hall, Durham on **Thursday 27 October 2011 at 10.00 a.m.**

Present:

Councillor S Henig in the Chair

Cabinet Members:

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

Other Members:

Councillors Armstrong, Arthur, A Bainbridge, Graham, N Harrison, Hugill, R Ord, Shuttleworth, Stradling, Temple, Todd and Williams

1 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations.

**2 2012/13 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 Officer that provided an update on the following:

- (i) 2012/13 budget;
- (ii) Development of 2012/13 – 2015/16 MTFP Model;
- (iii) Development of Council Plan and Services Plans;
- (iv) Equality Impact Assessments;
- (v) Consultation processes,

and which sought approval for Corporate Directors / Assistant Chief Executive to continue to utilise delegated powers where relevant to action savings plans to ensure financial targets are met (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

**3 Housing Revenue Account Self Financing and Medium Term Financial Plan
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), and also on the development of the HRA Business Plan and Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for 2012-13 onwards (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

**4 Review of Access to and Provision of Household Waste Recycling Centres
Key Decision Ref: NS/08/11**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services that set out the results of the review of Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) provision, and which sought approval to commence a process of public consultation on the changes recommended in the review, including a reduction in the number of sites; the introduction of a mobile provision in certain areas and changes to the access policies relating to this provision (for copy see file of Minutes).

In response to questions from Councillor Temple about the reasons for the centres being identified for closure, the work undertaken on some of the centres, and the savings that would be achieved, Councillor B Young advised of the health and safety work which had been undertaken and the costs involved, the reasons for the centres being identified for possible closure, the scale of the cuts to services that the Council was required to make, and the impact this had on household waste. He pointed out that if the closures went ahead the County would still be left with a high level household waste recycling service that was fit for purpose.

Cabinet members' spoke of the effect that the unprecedented cuts on funding from central government was having, and that reduced services would be made across the whole Authority. It was pointed out that prior to any decisions being taken on closure, a public consultation would be undertaken which members of the public were encouraged to take part in, and that if there were to be any closures it would not be until early 2013.

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

5 Pathfinder Service – Summary of End of Project Report (2009-2011)

The Cabinet considered a report of the Children and Young People's Services that provided an overview of the main points within the 'Pathfinder Service – End of Project Report 2009-2011' outlining the impact and outcomes for the children and families in receipt of this service (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:-

That the report be noted.