

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Cabinet** held at the County Hall, Durham on **Wednesday 11 July 2012 at 10.00 a.m.**

Present:

Councillor S Henig in the Chair

Cabinet Members:

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

Other Members:

Councillors Armstrong, Arthur, Graham, N Harrison, Holroyd, E Huntington, Naylor, R Ord, Shuttleworth, Simmons, D J Southwell, Stradling, Temple, Todd, Tomlinson and Williams

1 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 June 2012 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3 Medium Term Financial Plan (3), Council Plan and Service Plans 2013/14 – 2016/17

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director, Resources and Assistant Chief Executive on the development of the planning frameworks which will enable the Council to develop the 2013/14 Budget, the 2013/14 – 2016/17 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and Council Plan/Service Plans (for copy see file of Minutes).

Cabinet members spoke at length about the difficulties facing the Authority, and the services it could provide, as a result of the level of cuts in funding from central government and other funding sources.

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

4 2011/12 Final Outturn for General Fund and Housing Revenue Account

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Resources that provided details of the Final Outturn for both the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for 2011/12 including an Annual Treasury Management Review (for copy see file of Minutes).

Cabinet re-iterated the comments made on the scale of the cuts in funding to the authority, and commented that despite this the authority had put in place sound financial management. Officers were to be congratulated on the work they had undertaken in such difficult circumstances.

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

5 Library Strategy Key Decision AWH04/11

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Adults Wellbeing and Health that sought approval for the Library Service strategy "Inspire Include Inform" following consultation, and to make changes to the operation of the library service in order to realise savings in the Medium Term Financial Plan in respect of the library service. Durham County Council agreed its Medium Term Financial Plan in February 2011, setting out savings to be achieved of more than £123million between 2011 and 2015 including £1,457,000 in respect of library services (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Corporate Director, Adults Wellbeing and Health advised of an addendum report that had been circulated to Cabinet, and placed on the Council's website, which provided clarity on the recommendations being proposed (for copy see file of Minutes).

In responding to questions from Councillors Temple, Simmons, and Holroyd clarification was provided on the reasons for having a standard approach to the opening hours of libraries throughout the county.

Councillor J Armstrong, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board advised that scrutiny had been fully engaged in the process, and that a review would take place in six months time.

Cabinet members explained the difficult decisions they were having to make due to cuts in funding, and that the current level of service could not be sustained. It was commented on that although the opening hours may reduce, each library would remain open.

The Leader thanked all of those who had been involved in the consultation process.

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the addendum report be approved.

**6 Proposed Closure of Plawsworth Road Infant School
Key Decision: CYP5/05/12**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Children and Young People's Services that sought approval to close Plawsworth Road Infant School from 31 August 2013 (for copy see file of Minutes).

Councillor Vasey thanked all of those who had worked with the Authority on the closure.

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

7 Establishing the New Organisational Structure in the Children and Adults Services Service Grouping

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Chief Executive, and Corporate Director, Adults, Wellbeing & Health that advised of the changes that have taken place within the new Service Grouping of Children and Adults Services in line with Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) savings, following the appointment of the Corporate Director for the Service on 15 May 2012 (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Heads of Service who were leaving the Authority following the re-structure were thanked for their hard work.

Resolved:-

That the report be noted.

8 Review of the Constitution

The Cabinet considered a report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services that presented proposals for the revision of the Council's Constitution following the restructure of Corporate Management Team (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

9 The County Durham Cycling Strategy and Action Plan 2012-15

The Cabinet considered a report of Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development that sought agreement to adopt the Cycling Strategy and Action Plan 2012-15 (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

10 Update on the Review of the CCTV Service Monitored by Care Connect

The Cabinet considered a joint report of Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development, and Corporate Director, Adult Wellbeing and Health that provided an update on the consolidation of the 24/7 CCTV service to the Chilton control room and reported on the outcome of the consultation regarding the future provision of the public realm/strategic cameras monitored by the Authority (for copy see file of Minutes).

In responding to a question from Councillor Temple, clarification was provided on procurement process and the integration of public and privately owned cameras.

Councillor J Armstrong, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board advised that the Safer and Stronger Scrutiny Committee had considered the report on 3 July, and were supportive and noted the review.

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.