



## **RECORD OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS**

The following is a record of the decisions taken at the meeting of **CABINET** on **12 December 2012**.

The decisions will come into force and may be implemented from **24 DECEMBER 2012** unless the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee or its Committees object to any such decision and call it in.

### **Stock Options Appraisal Project – Conclusion and Next Steps Key Decision R&ED/12/12**

#### **Summary**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development on the outcome of the housing stock option appraisal project, recommending the best option for the future ownership, financing and management of the council's housing stock.

In April 2009 the council assumed landlord responsibilities for 18,700 homes across County Durham. The council inherited a variety of management arrangements for its housing stock, from the former districts of Durham City, Easington and Wear Valley. The remaining four district council's had transferred their housing stock to new Registered Providers prior to the creation of the unitary Durham County Council. The council currently contracts with two Arms Length Management Organisations (ALMOs) for the delivery of its housing services. Dale & Valley Homes (DVH) operates in the west of the County in the former district of Wear Valley and East Durham Homes (EDH) operates in the east in the former district of Easington. The relationship between the council and its ALMOs is defined in two legally binding Management Agreements, which set out the obligations of each organisation. The council's Management Agreement with DVH comes to an end in April 2016 and its Management Agreement with EDH comes to an end in March 2014. The remaining housing stock is managed by Durham City Homes (DCH), an in house housing provider based in the Regeneration and Economic Development department.

Over £100M has been invested in the achievement of the decent homes standard over the past six years, with DCH completing its improvement programme by the end of 2010 with no additional funding from the Government.

Despite a steady improvement in the quality of homes and services offered by the council since the inception of the first ALMO, achievement of the authority's wider strategic housing objectives is compromised by disparities in the social housing offer in the County. Within the authority's administrative boundaries there are 48,000 social rented properties, owned or managed by up to 32 different landlords. In

particular, Derwentside Homes, Cestria, Livin and Teesdale Housing Association (all of which border council owned neighbourhoods) have accessed high levels of private sector borrowing for up to eight years and have systematically invested in the improvement of homes, neighbourhoods, services and in strengthening communities.

Investment in council owned housing has been predominantly focused on improving the fabric of the property, with comparatively lower levels of investment in environmental improvements. Consequently a two speed housing economy is well established in County Durham. Inequalities in the social housing offer in the county are underlined by major differences within the council's own housing offer, which also obstruct the achievement of the Housing Strategy's objectives:

Welfare reform is also expected to disproportionately affect council tenants and those of other social housing landlords in the area, with households expected to lose up to £160 in 2012/13 increasing to £370 per household in 2013/14. Overall there is an expected loss to Durham's economy in 2013/14 of £150M with the largest average losses to be felt by households in the bottom half of income distribution.

70% of council tenants are currently in receipt of housing benefits. The Durham Key Options (Choice Based Lettings) system is already showing increased demand for smaller, cheaper properties. The availability of these properties is limited and the waiting list for social housing across the County continues to rise with 18,967 applicants currently registered on the system, 8, 441 of which have expressed a preference for a council home.

The housing sector continues to warn of the potential implications of welfare reform in terms of rent arrears and evictions in both the private sector and social housing; a rise in homelessness; an impact on health and well being; and increased demand for debt advice and other value added services to support tenancy sustainment. The council must consider how it can mitigate the affect of welfare reform on its tenants, some of whom live in the most deprived areas of the county. The Government acknowledges that the success of welfare reform is dependent on the creation of employment opportunities and that councils have a central role to play in driving local economic development.

At the same time, the council must address disparities in housing services and the quality of homes and neighbourhoods in the county if it is to reduce the inequality gap. Cabinet took a decision to initiate a housing stock option appraisal process on the 29 June 2010. An update report on progress with the stock option appraisal and the outcomes of consultation with stakeholders was received by Cabinet on the 14 December 2011 and Cabinet agreed to:

- Continue to make arrangements for the implementation of changes to the housing subsidy system.
- Continue to explore options for the transfer of the housing stock.

In April 2012 the Government introduced a system of self financing that allows the council to retain its rental income in exchange for a one off debt allocation to settle existing HRA subsidy arrangements. Durham's debt allocation was £240M. The Government also capped the council's ability to borrow to £245M to control public

sector borrowing. All of the council's £18M borrowing head room is allocated between 2012/13 and 2013/14.

Financial analysis of the self financing business plan highlights a shortfall of capital resources against spending needs of £66M over the first nine years of the business plan. The deficit is exacerbated by the council's inability to borrow above the debt cap to supplement the business plan.

The council has attempted to improve the prospects of the business plan by prioritising investment into sustainable housing stock; achieving £1.35M of efficiency savings and devising a plan to achieve an additional £1.65M of savings in 2013/14; and increasing rent and other service charges. However, the central issue continues to be that the operation of the debt cap is incompatible with investment needs and so there is compelling evidence to support the council's exploration of alternative ownership options to access the level of borrowing required to maximise investment in homes, neighbourhoods and services in the future.

Extensive consultation and partnership working with all key stakeholder groups has identified stakeholder's preferred option as being the transfer of the housing stock to a group structure of the council's existing housing management organisations.

The transfer of the housing stock will require a considerable amount of work with the DCLG, HCA and all key stakeholder groups. The process will be difficult as the council will enter into detailed negotiations with the Government for the write off of housing debt. The process will also be quite lengthy, taking up to two years to complete. It may also be expensive, with similar transfers costing up to £7M to deliver.

Government policy on stock transfer and the provision of funding for debt write off remains unclear and no stock transfers have been completed since the introduction of self financing arrangements in April 2012. However, the DCLG and HCA continue to engage with the council.

The council has also worked with key stakeholder groups to identify an alternative option for the housing stock, should the council's transfer proposal be rejected by the Government, or by tenants at a ballot. Stakeholders have selected the establishment of a single ALMO with area based arrangements to:

- Allow housing services to continue to operate as a business at arms length from the authority.
- Achieve further efficiency savings through reductions in overheads and the joining up of services.
- Provide a possible transfer vehicle for the future.
- Preserve area offices so tenants can access services locally.
- Safeguard local accountability.
- Simplify the council's existing housing management arrangements.

The creation of a single ALMO with area based arrangements will take significantly less time to complete than a stock transfer and is not as expensive, usually costing up to £200,000 to deliver. The creation of a single organisation is likely to be met with

opposition from stakeholders who value the brands of DVH, DCH and EDH. However, stakeholders have demonstrated an understanding that the continuation of existing arrangements is unrealistic given the deficit in the business plan.

Stakeholders and advisers requested the Council to note that should it choose to retain the housing stock in the long term and establish a single ALMO with area based arrangements:

- The council will continue to face a restriction on its ability to borrow. The option will not provide sufficient funding to deliver the full range of works identified by the stock condition survey when they are required. Investment in homes, neighbourhoods and services will be delayed.
- Further efficiencies will be required that will eventually impact on front line services.
- The two speed social housing offer will not be adequately addressed as the council will not be able to invest at the same pace as other local Registered Providers.
- There will be little financial capacity for the delivery of new build homes and the council's ability to stimulate the economy through construction will be limited.
- The council will not be well placed to deal with the affects of welfare reform on tenants. This may cause pressure on other services and budgets as neighbourhood deprivation and inequality gaps worsen.

Therefore stakeholders recommend that retention of the housing stock should only be an option should the transfer of the housing stock be rejected by the Government or by tenants at a ballot, as stock retention is unlikely to enable the council to achieve its ambitions for an Altogether Better County Durham.

## **Decision**

The Cabinet agreed to:

1. Note the findings of the stock option appraisal process.
2. Select the large scale voluntary transfer of its housing stock to a group structure of its existing housing management organisations as its preferred option for the future financing, ownership and management of its homes.
3. Approve the submission of option appraisal evidence and a stock transfer prospectus to the DCLG and HCA that sets out:
  - A robust case for stock transfer on the basis of economic development, regeneration and new build that might not be achieved should the council continue to own the housing stock and face a limitation on its borrowing abilities.
  - The level of debt write off required to support stock transfer.
  - An indication of the resources and assets the council is willing to invest to deliver a stock transfer.
  - A request for admission on to the stock transfer programme.

4. Receive further reports on:
  - The impact of stock transfer on the General Fund, approach to TUPE and implications for the workforce.
  - Dealing with the pension deficit.
  - Transfer of land and other assets and the principles of transfer.
  - Outcomes of consultation on the Durham Standard and next steps.
5. Select the establishment of a single ALMO with area based delivery arrangements as an alternative option for the future of its homes should its request for inclusion in the stock transfer programme not be responded to, refused or rejected at a future tenant ballot.
6. Agree that a further report is submitted to Cabinet in summer 2013 to provide an update on the Government's response to the prospectus and request for admission to the stock transfer programme; and makes recommendations on the next steps the council should take to deliver a stock transfer or the establishment of a single ALMO with area based arrangements.

## **Evaluation of Selective Licensing at Dean Bank and Chilton West**

### **Summary**

Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development outlining the background to the use of Selective Licensing at Dean Bank and Chilton West, designed to tackle issues within the private rented sector. The report summarised the evaluation of the scheme and also made recommendations for the future management of these areas.

Selective Licensing requires that any person wishing to rent out a property in a designated area must first obtain a licence from the Council. The Council must be satisfied that the landlord is a "fit and proper" person. Selective Licensing applies only to private landlords, not to social landlords. It provides intensive housing management support in areas with problematic private rented housing, aiming to improve neighbourhood conditions by raising private landlords' management standards.

Durham County Council has three Selective Licensing designations at Dean Bank and Chilton West in the South and Wembley, Easington in the East. An evaluation is required of both Selective Licensing designations in the South before the end of their five-year term in February 2013, in accordance with Communities and Local Government (CLG) guidance.

By 2007 both Dean Bank and Chilton West were suffering deprivation and decline. Sedgefield Borough Council applied to the Secretary of State for a Selective Licensing designation in each of these areas as part of a housing regeneration master plan. The designations came into effect on 7 February 2008, to run for the standard period of five years. Under the above two licensing schemes, a total of 403 properties have been licensed at £450 per property generating total income of £181,350. This income has been used to partially fund the cost of administration of the service. The

administrative function of issuing licences is now undertaken by the Housing Improvement Team. As for work on the ground carried out by the Private Landlord and Empty Homes Officers, Selective Licensing is one of a number of duties of the role, which includes bringing Empty Homes back into use and undertaking housing inspections. The officers are permanent staff funded by the Housing Regeneration Service

Following the guidance set by Local Government Regulation, the process of evaluation has attempted to identify the effectiveness of schemes for the Selective Licensing of private sector rented housing at Dean Bank and Chilton West by focussing on the schemes' performance against a number of key outcomes and has also examined how costs compare to any benefits that may have been achieved.

In view of the contribution Selective Licensing has started to have in making both neighbourhoods more manageable, and taking on board the views expressed during the consultation, the Selective Licensing schemes could be renewed but with new boundaries to leave out the most improved streets.

Implementation of various changes proposed by the evaluation report would enhance the operation of the scheme if it was renewed.

There are two options for consideration regarding the future of the designation:

- **Option 1** – to re-designate the Selective Licensing schemes at Dean Bank and Chilton West, focussing on fewer streets, as recommended in the evaluation report, along with other service improvements, pending a full review of Selective Licensing to coincide with the evaluation of the Easington scheme which ends in February 2014.
- **Option 2** – Withdraw the Selective Licensing scheme from these areas at the expiry of the current designations on 6 February 2013 and implement a succession plan to manage the areas to protect previous investment and prevent further decline.

In 2010, General Consent gave local authorities the power to designate Selective Licensing schemes; after meeting the requirements to establish an evidence base and fully consult with those persons likely to be affected by a licensing designation.

Work is currently ongoing to scope a Sustainability Matrix to enable the Housing Regeneration Service to assess localities where intervention is most required and this will help to inform the considerations highlighted above. A review of the Housing Regeneration Areas will also contribute to further consideration of the role of Selective Licensing in the medium to long term.

The Council's other Selective Licensing Area, Easington, expires at the end of 2013/14 and a similar evaluation process needs to be undertaken to determine whether Selective Licensing continues in this area.

Selective Licensing provides a tool that could be used to address smaller problematic areas that could hinder economic growth within key towns and therefore consideration should be given to the use of the scheme in these areas too, depending on the outcome

of the 2013/14 evaluation of Selective Licensing. However, Selective Licensing is a very resource intensive intervention, and its future use and potential extension needs to be seen within the overall context of reducing council funding.

#### Decision

The Cabinet agreed to:

- Re-designate Dean Bank and Chilton West as Selective Licensing areas with amended boundaries, to safeguard investment already made, with a planned review of Selective Licensing to coincide with the end of the other Selective Licensing scheme in Easington at the end of 2013/14.
- Implement the actions outlined in the review section of the evaluation report and its recommendations, to ensure improved service delivery. Particular focus to be on more effective partnership working with Environmental Health on enforcement and exploration of more joint working with Durham Key Options in relation to tenant referencing.
- Review the approach to Housing Regeneration Areas, to ensure alignment with corporate regeneration objectives and effective use of council resources.
- Ensure an evaluation mechanism is incorporated into the new scheme that will enable a full accurate assessment of costs and savings of all front line services to be maintained.

## **Update on Conservation Area Character Appraisal Work Programme. Boundary Amendments and Character Appraisals for Bishop Middleham, Lartington, Mickleton, Staindrop and Trimdon Village Conservation Areas.**

### **Summary**

Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development providing details of the Durham City Conservation Area Character Appraisal. The character appraisal document is anticipated to be completed in draft by the end of 2013.

The Council has a statutory duty under s69(1) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 to designate any areas which they consider to be of special architectural or historic interest as conservation areas, and to review these from time to time. The Council has a further duty under s71(1) to formulate and prepare proposals for the preservation and enhancement of those areas.

There are currently 93 designated conservation areas within County Durham, many of which have not been reviewed since their original designation. The Heritage, Landscape and Design Team is undertaking a programme of reviews of all the existing areas, and preparing character appraisals. The appraisal process allows for a review of whether designation is still warranted, and whether any extensions or amendments to the designated boundaries are required to strengthen the special interest of the area.

The County Council has produced 28 appraisal documents which have been approved by Cabinet since the Local Government Reorganisation in 2009. This report seeks approval for amended boundaries to a further five conservation areas and approval of five accompanying character appraisals.

Each character appraisal is an individual evidence based document that investigates, evaluates and records the unique significance of each area by assessing the diverse individual architectural and historic features that contribute to its overall special character. It also considers whether the boundary remains appropriate. This process increases our understanding of each designated area; guiding proposals for future management of change and aiding consistent decision making. It has been undertaken with reference to the English Heritage publication Evaluating Place.

The Bishop Middleham Conservation Area was designated on 30 July 1993 by the former Sedgefield District Council. The proposed boundary amendments would add an area of archaeological interest to the south of the village including the scheduled monument at Bishop Middleham Castle to the designated boundary. The proposed extension was revised and expanded following the public consultation process to reflect local comments and further evidence of archaeological interest. The proposed boundary amendments would also rectify small anomalies in the designated boundary in order to reflect the current property boundaries.

The Lartington Conservation Area was designated on 2 April 1984 by Durham County Council. Following representations from Lartington Parish Council amendments have now been made to the proposed conservation area boundary to include an area of 19 century parkland to the south, the railway embankment to the north and the pond and cascade to the east of the village. It is also proposed to make minor boundary amendments throughout the village to rectify small anomalies in the designated boundary in order to reflect the current property boundaries.

The Mickleton Conservation Area was designated on 3 November 1987 by Durham County Council. The proposed boundary amendments would extend the western boundary of the conservation area to include Jubilee Terrace and the triangular area opposite the terrace which is enclosed by a historic stone wall. This terrace of nine properties built by Three Rivers Housing, received a North East Constructing Excellence award for innovation in sustainable development in 2008. The proposed boundary amendments would also rectify small anomalies in the designated boundary in order to reflect the current property boundaries.

The Staindrop Conservation Area was designated on 5 May 1981 by Durham County Council. The proposed boundary amendments would exclude the area of Winston Road beyond the cemetery at the eastern end of the village and exclude Lady Close, to the west end of the village. The excluded sections contain no properties of architectural or historic merit, or buildings that are locally distinctive to Staindrop. The boundary amendment to the east end of the village was updated following representations from Staindrop Parish Council to retain Coach Road Wood within the designated conservation area. The proposed boundary amendments would also extend the boundary to the rear of The Deanery which is believed to be a medieval burgage plot, and would rectify small anomalies in the designated boundary in order to reflect the current property boundaries.

The Trimdon Conservation Area was designated on 30 July 1993 by the former Sedgefield District Council. The proposed boundary amendments would rectify small anomalies in the designated boundary in order to reflect the current property boundaries. During the public consultation process a request was made to include Byfields, a bungalow at the eastern end of the village within the boundary which is deemed warranted because of its close proximity to the area and clear role as part of the village settlement.

#### **Decision:**

The Cabinet agreed:

- That the continuation of the programme of community engagement in the Conservation Area Character Appraisals is supported and the proposed boundary amendments were endorsed.

### **Street Lighting Energy Reduction Project**

#### **Summary**

Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services which sought approval for the “invest to save” business case for the Street Lighting Energy Reduction Project. This “invest to save” project is part of the council’s wider Carbon Management Programme. The strategic case for the programme is set out in the Carbon Management Plan which sets a target of reducing the council’s carbon emissions by 40% by 2015.

The project aims to achieve energy reduction through a combination of:

- Removal of unnecessary lighting
- De-illumination of signs
- Retrofit with more energy efficient light sources
- Use of Central Management System or fixed settings to facilitate dimming

These will be facilitated by the updated Street Lighting Policy which will be subject to a report to Cabinet in the near future. The updated Street Lighting Policy will be subject to public consultation which will include presentations at Area Action Partnerships.

The project scope has been selected to meet or exceed the council's "invest to save" criteria. To illustrate the energy savings, a typical; existing street light consumes 90 Watts compared to an LED street light that consumes 30 Watts for the same light output. This is a saving of 66%. Further savings can then be made through dimming and switching off.

The upfront capital costs (investment) would be financed by prudential borrowing from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB). Prudential borrowing costs are then funded through the following revenue savings:

- Reduction in electricity budgets
- Reduction in maintenance budgets
- Reduction in Carbon Reduction Commitment budgets

The project will be managed as part of the council's Carbon Management Programme. The project will be delivered over a 6 year period. New apparatus will need to be procured. The values necessitate an OJEU (Official Journal of the European Union) procurement under the Restricted Procedure. A procurement strategy is currently being developed with Corporate Procurement. There are a number of OJEU compliant frameworks open to the council. The council may also procure its own framework if necessary. The project will be made up of several hundred schemes.

No scheme will progress unless the design confirms that it will meet or exceed the "invest to save" criteria. This will provide assurance to the council that no investment will be incurred unless the forecast savings can be delivered.

The reduction in electricity consumption and carbon is 73% for the in scope apparatus. This equates to a reduction of 38% compared to the current baseline for all street lighting electrical apparatus. The reduction in annual carbon emission is 7,512 tonnes per annum which will reduce the council's 2008/09 baseline emissions of 105,816 tonnes by 7%. This will go a long way to helping the council achieve its target of a 40% reduction in carbon emissions from the 2009/09 baseline by 2015. Retail price inflation (RPI) inflation is assumed to be 2.80% per annum and energy inflation 3.80% per annum. The capital costs are based on prudent unit cost assumptions informed by market feedback and local authorities including Gateshead Council who are progressing a similar project. A contingency of 10% to all the capital assumptions has been applied.

## **Decision**

The Cabinet approved the business case as follows:

1. The investment appraisal demonstrates that the proposed investment in capital produces a very strong financial return in the form of revenue budget savings that significantly exceeds the prudential borrowing costs by a ratio of 2.07:1. The net total savings over 25 years are £24 million in today's prices and £55 million taking account

of inflation. The project generates a positive net cash surplus every year from year 1 onwards and grows over time.

2. The proposed investment also produces significant non-quantified benefits in terms of lifecycle cost avoidance.
3. The project will make a major contribution to reducing the council's energy consumption and carbon emissions.
4. The reduction in annual carbon emission is 7,512 tonnes per annum which will reduce the council's 2008/09 baseline emissions of 105,816 tonnes by 7%. This will go a long way to helping the council achieve its target of a 40% reduction in carbon emissions from the 2009/09 baseline by 2015.
5. The project will reduce the council's exposure to increases in energy costs by significantly reducing annual consumption.

## **Quarter 2 2012/13 Performance Management Report**

### **Summary**

Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which presented progress against the Council's performance indicators and to report other significant performance issues for the second quarter of 2012/13 (July to September 2012).

In quarter 2, 55 (77%) of key performance indicators have improved or remained static.

### **Decision**

The Cabinet:

- Noted the performance of the council at quarter 2 and the actions to remedy under performance.
- Agreed all changes to the Council Plan outlined:

### **Altogether Wealthier**

- North Road, Durham City: Following development brief, test the market Expression of Interests and report back to Cabinet - September 2012. Revised date: February 2013.
- Complete a review of markets managed by or on behalf of the council and develop a strategic approach to enhance and support the sustainability of markets across the county - October 2012. Revised date: December 2012.
- Develop a harmonised Street Trading Policy to create a street trading environment which complements premises-based trading, is sensitive to the needs of residents and provides diversity and consumer choice - December 2012. Revised date: March 2013.

- St. Johns Square, Seaham: Completion of Public Realm works - December 2012. Revised date: March 2013.

### **Altogether Better for Children and Young People**

- Review and revise front of house services in line with revised assessment processes in line with the Munro recommendations. Revised target will be set once DfE guidance is published in early 2013.

### **Altogether Healthier**

- Work with the governing bodies of 5 key sports to develop countywide shared investment and delivery plans - September 2012. Revised date: April 2013.

### **Altogether Greener**

- Quantify the carbon impacts of the council's waste services; including those associated with new waste treatment and look to set future targets and actions for reducing them - August 2012. Revised date: June 2014.

### **Altogether Better Council**

- Review the operation of Single Person Discount for Council Tax - December 2012. Revised date: January 2013.
- Introduce a 360° appraisal process for managers aligned to the generic managerial and leadership competency framework - September 2012. Revised date: June 2013.
- AAP Scrutiny Review results: Report to Overview and Scrutiny on action and progress of sub-groups - October 2012. Update to go to Cabinet in January 2013.
- Develop a social media strategy - November 2012. Revised date: April 2013.
- Analysis of regional residents' perception survey – October 2012. Revised date: December 2012.
- Streamline corporate performance management: Implement LG Inform to enhance performance reporting – December 2012. Revised date: March 2013.

### **Deleted actions**

### **Altogether Safer**

- Work with partners to provide an integrated team approach through implementing Safer Neighbourhood Units, improving delivery outcomes and providing service delivery changes to reflect the anticipated changes in anti-social behaviour legislation.

### **Altogether Healthier**

- Work with partners and Clinical Commissioning Groups to review all Joint Commissioning Strategies for County Durham, to ensure they are fit for purpose and designed to achieve strategic health and wellbeing outcomes for local people:

Adults with mental health needs 2009-13

- Learning disabilities 2009-13

- Older people with mental health needs 2009-13

- Carers 2009-13
- Older people 2010-13
- Intermediate Care 2010-13

### **Altogether Better Council**

- Implement a Community Buildings Strategy. Distribute expressions of interest applications to community buildings.

### **Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2012 and the Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2013-17**

#### **Summary**

Cabinet considered the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2012 and the Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2013-17 which sought approval for County Durham's first Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) 2013-2017.

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 places duties on local authorities and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) to prepare a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy. The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2012 has informed the development of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy in order to influence commissioning priorities for health and social care. The functions to produce a JSNA and JHWS are discharged through the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board (SHWB) and subsequently Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWB).

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2012 is the fifth edition produced in County Durham which provides an overview of health and wellbeing needs of the local population.

There have been a number of improvements in health and wellbeing in County Durham since the last JSNA was produced in 2011, including:

- Life expectancy for males has increased from 75.9 for those born between 2004-6 to 77 for those born between 2008 -10.
- Life expectancy for females has increased from 79.9 for those born between 2004-6 to 81 for those born between 2008 -10.
- In 2011/12 there have been 64% of exits from alcohol treatment which were planned discharges (increased from 52% in 2010/11). This compares to an England average of 58%.
- In 2011/12 the Stop Smoking Service helped 5,523 people to stop smoking (1,308 per 100,000 population). This has exceeded the 2011/12 target of 5,246 quitters (1,242 per 100,000) and is an increase from 4,871 quitters (1,165 per 100,000) in 2010/11 (13% increase).
- Of those people in receipt of a service in 2011/12, 48.5% had self directed support. This compares to a 2011/12 England average of 43% and similar council average of 40.9%.

- In 2011/12, 86% of people discharged from hospital into intermediate care / reablement services were still living at home 3 months after discharge. This compares to an England average of 82.7% and similar council average of 83.5%.
- The local Children and Young People's Survey 2011/12 found that the number of children and young people drinking alcohol has decreased and one third never drink alcohol.
- The percentage of care leavers in education, employment or training rose from 66.7% in 2010/11 to 72.7% in 2011/12.
- The number of Police reported incidents of anti-social behaviour has reduced from 41,878 in 2010/11 to 33,718 in 2011/12, a reduction of 19%.

The structure of the JHWS document outlines the vision for the strategy, followed by the strategic objectives and the strategic actions which will meet the objectives. A robust consultation process has been undertaken in relation to the development of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) with comments from a wide range of people including Adults and Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committees, the County Durham Partnership, members of the public, voluntary and community organisations, public health, local authority, Area Action Partnerships and NHS Trusts. Consultation comments include the following:

The vision for the JHWS is to "Improve the health and wellbeing of the people of County Durham and reduce health inequalities". During consultation most of the comments relating to the vision were in support of the wording and the message being provided. Following this feedback the vision remains unchanged.

In response to comments received around the clarity of language, the document has been written in a style that is accessible to wider audiences. Comments received related to the wider determinants of health including transport, crime, education, employment, poverty, housing, environment and the economy. It was agreed by the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board and Corporate Management Team that the wider determinants of health are of such importance that they should be addressed at a strategic level through the County Durham Partnership as part of the review of the Sustainable Community Strategy which is due for completion in September 2013. Comments were also received about the delivery of the strategic actions. This aspect of the JHWS will be developed as an action plan with a performance management framework which will bridge the gap between the JHWS and the commissioning intentions/plans.

At the meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> November, the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board agreed the JHWS with the rewording of the strategic objectives and the additional strategic actions as outlined above.

The JHWS will influence a number of plans including the Council Plan. Clinical Commissioning Groups in County Durham are ensuring that their commissioning intentions/plans are aligned to the strategic objectives and strategic actions within the JHWS. An action plan will be produced which will link the strategic actions to the commissioning plans/intentions. A first draft of the action plan will be presented to the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board in January 2013 and also for final agreement in March 2013.

## **Decision**

The Cabinet agreed to:

- Accept the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment key messages contained in the report as important evidence against which the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy has been developed.
- Approve and support the implementation of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Colette Longbottom  
Head of Legal and Democratic Services  
14 December 2012