



## RECORD OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

The following is a record of the decisions taken at the meeting of **CABINET** on **Wednesday 13 March 2013**.

The decisions will come into force and may be implemented from **Monday 25 March 2013** unless the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee or its Committees object to any such decision and call it in.

### **Welfare Reform Update**

**Key Decision: CORP/A/03/13/1**

#### **Summary:**

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Assistant Chief Executive, Corporate Director, Resources, and Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development updating Members on recent policy developments relating to the government's welfare reforms and the Council's preparation for implementation of these changes. The report considered in depth the recent guidance in relation to Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) and sought approval to a proposed approach to DHP.

The government brought forward the Welfare Reform Act 2012 to implement their commitment to simplify the benefits system, and make it fairer and to encourage people into work. The scale of reform is significant and involves over 40 changes. There is no single point of contact or document for the changes, which makes it challenging to analyse the overall impact. The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is continuing to add detail to the operational implementation of its initial policy reforms and the more recent cap on the future uprating of benefits, as announced in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement.

Since the last report to Members in December 2012, policy announcements relating to following have been made:

- a) The publication of the Welfare Benefits Uprating Bill and impact assessment, placing a cap on the uprating of a range of benefits over the next three years to one percent;
- b) Further detail on the implementation of Universal Credit (UC) including guidance for landlords, feedback from demonstration projects and the letting of contracts for call centre support and a 'call for ideas' for ways in which people in work and in receipt of UC can be encouraged to maximise their earnings;

- c) The government's response to the consultation on the closure of the Independent Living Fund in 2015 and plans to devolve funding to local authorities;
- d) Additional information in relation to the Personal Independence Payments (PIP), with amendments to the regulations regarding assessment criteria to better reflect the needs of those individuals who may have conditions that fluctuate in severity; information on how PIP assessment will link to the provision of Blue Badges by local authorities; and publication of a PIP toolkit;
- e) Consultation on how the Department DWP will collect statistical data on Universal Credit, Personal Independence Payments as well as a range of other benefits;
- f) The government's response to the consultation on proposed changes to Discretionary Housing Payments guidance to local authorities.

The council continues to prepare for the implementation of the welfare changes scheduled for this year, including the introduction of a Welfare Assistance Scheme to fill the gap left by the withdrawal of the Social Fund from April 2013.

Following the report to Cabinet on 19 December 2012, a procurement exercise was undertaken to identify a delivery partner to work with the council to operate the Welfare Assistance Scheme.

The council is now negotiating a contract with a partnership comprising Civica, Five Lamps and the Family Fund to become the council's delivery partner for the administration of grant applications and awards and the provision of wider welfare advice and support through the third sector.

One of the most important announcements since the last update to Members is the government's response to the revised guidance to local authorities on Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP).

While the government has increased the funding available for DHP (for the Council the funding will be £883,089 for 2013/14), it is clear that this is insufficient to meet the potential demand created by the withdrawal of and reductions in other welfare payments. The report assessed a number of options and proposed a new approach for how the funding could be used. A proposed new Discretionary Housing Payments policy was attached to the report.

**Decision:**

The Cabinet:

- a) Noted the contents of this report and further developments in government welfare reform;
- b) Noted the progress made with appointing an implementation partner for the administration of the Welfare Assistance Scheme;
- c) Noted the changes to Discretionary Housing Payments guidance and the potential options available to the council;

- d) Agreed the proposed new Discretionary Housing Payments policy as outlined in the report;
- e) Agreed to review the policy in three months time, to take into account demand and revise the policy as appropriate, subject to Cabinet approval;
- f) Delegated authority to the Assistant Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader, to make any final amendments to the policy and the approach to the distribution of Discretionary Housing Payments from 1 April 2013.

## **Warm Up North; Arrangements and Governance**

### **Key Decision R&ED/06/13**

#### **Summary:**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development on the Government's Green Deal Programme and the development of a regional initiative 'Warm Up North' which will be available for all residents to reduce energy consumption and provide focused training and social benefits within County Durham.

The Energy Act 2011 introduced the Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation. Green Deal was launched on 28 January 2013 and is the first scheme in the world to offer 'pay as you save' options for home energy efficiency improvements in contrast to earlier grants such as Carbon Emission Reduction Target (CERT), Community Energy Savings Programme (CESP) and Warm Front Subsidy Scheme.

Forty-five approved measures can be installed at no up-front cost and paid back over an agreed period through energy savings via the electricity bills for the property. Green Deal requires loan repayments to be less than the resulting financial savings (known as the Golden Rule) to help reduce energy bills. Alongside this loan, a new Energy Company Obligation (ECO) is also being introduced whereby energy companies will be required to make grant funding available for energy efficiency measures on hand to treat homes and provide grants for low income households in more deprived areas. This will have a significant impact on reducing fuel poverty.

Green deal is available to domestic and non-domestic buildings, including public buildings. Due to the ECO subsidy it is especially appropriate for 'hard to treat' properties, especially those with solid walls, which form a significant proportion of housing stock in County Durham. Green Deal requires that improvements will be identified by accredited assessors and carried out by accredited installers.

Warm Up North is a regional response to this new opportunity ensuring that funding can be maximised quickly for the benefit of residents, to reduce energy consumption in what will be an uncertain and possibly complicated market going forward.

The Warm Up North initiative is a regional Green Deal Partnership with Newcastle City Council, Durham County Council, Darlington, Northumberland, Sunderland and South Tyneside Councils. Eleven Councils in the North East have the potential to join and are named as part of the procurement process.

The Partnership has four objectives:

- To promote social wellbeing in the North East, by lowering the levels and impact of fuel poverty and contributing to public health;
- To promote economic wellbeing in the North East and promote the green economy by safeguarding and creating employment, skills and the economic capacity of the area;
- To improve the energy efficiency of domestic properties and publicly owned non-domestic properties across the North East;
- To reduce carbon dioxide emissions from domestic and publicly owned non-domestic properties across the North East.

The Warm Up North Partnership is undertaking a procurement exercise to identify a single preferred Green Deal Delivery Partner to lead on assessing, providing and installing up to £200m worth of ECO and Green Deal approved measures to at least 15,000 homes across the North East. The project will run for a period of five years with an option to extend the programme for three further years. EU funding has been identified to support the procurement process and a team of relevant officers from each Partner Authority have been working on the finance, legal, procurement and technical aspects of the initiative. Partner authorities have been asked to make a contribution of £50,000 towards the procurement costs.

A short list of three bidders has now been identified and a competitive dialogue process will take place during the early months of 2013 to select a single preferred bidder, with the contract to begin in August 2013. The three bidders are:

- British Gas;
- Keepmoat, EDF Energy and Gentoo;
- RWE nPower plc / Waites Construction Ltd.

The procurement process is as follows:

Closure of dialogue with all Bidders – 12 April 2013

Invitation to Tender – 15 April 2013

Return of Tenders – 6 May 2013

End of standstill period (Alcatel) and final award – July 2013

It is proposed that Newcastle City Council will enter into a main 'Contract' with the Preferred Bidder and the Partner Authorities will enter into a simultaneous 'Inter Authority Agreement' that will set out each authorities relative position established in the main contract.

The Council's financial contribution towards the project is £50,000 relating to the costs of the procurement process. On the basis that the GDFC will be the source of financing for the programme of works, it is not anticipated that Partner Authorities (including Durham County Council) will need to provide capital funding through prudential borrowing to finance delivery of the works. If this situation changes then a further report will be brought to Cabinet.

The report outlines the mode of operation of the GDFC and how it will benefit the programme and significantly minimise risk to the partners.

**Decision:**

The Cabinet agreed to:

- Continue to support the procurement exercise and selection of a preferred bidder for the initiative.
- Provide authority to enter into an Inter Authority Agreement alongside other Partner Authorities to reflect the position of the Council.
- Note that no capital funding from Durham County Council via prudential borrowing is anticipated at this stage to fund any of the energy saving initiatives.
- Support the establishment of a Delivery Team being established to work with the preferred bidder to ensure the Council's ambitions for the initiative and realised; and
- Receive a further report on the outcome of the procurement exercise and progress to date once the details are known.

**Quarter 3 2012/13 Performance Management Report****Summary:**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive setting out progress against the council's corporate basket of performance indicators (PIs) and reported other significant performance issues for the third quarter of 2012/13, and sought agreement to make changes to the Council Plan. The report set out an overview of performance and progress by 'Altogether' priority themes. Issues linked to the stagnant economy continue to affect performance across County Durham during Quarter 3 such as unemployment, housing completions and planning applications. Although the major impact on the Council continues to be performance of the UK economy with it affecting a number of tracker and target indicators, the Council continues to improve performance in many key priority areas.

**Decision:**

The Cabinet:-

- Noted the performance of the council at quarter 3 and the actions to remedy under performance.
- Agreed all changes to the Council Plan outlined below:

**Altogether Wealthier**

- i. Completion of Public Realm works at St John's Square, Seaham - March 2013. Revised date May 2013.

- ii. Physical improvements enhancing links to Clifford Road and the Academy - October 2012. Revised date March 2013.
- iii. Undertake transport modelling work for the Northern and Western Relief Roads and develop a delivery and funding plan - December 2012. Revised date February 2013.

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

- iv. Review and revise front of house services in line with the revised assessment processes in line with the Munro recommendations - December 2012. Revised date July 2013.

#### **Altogether Healthier**

- v. Work with regional partners to deliver a range of health interventions aimed at promoting healthy eating and covering the key themes of diet and nutrition - December 2012. Revised date March 2013.

#### **Altogether Greener**

- vi. Develop proposals for Binchester roman fort including the submission of an HLF bid - December 2013. Revised date April 2014.

#### **Altogether Better Council**

- vii. Review the operation of the Single Person Discount for Council Tax - January 2013. Revised date February 2013.
- viii. Deliver the telephony strategy implementation plan in line with the project plan - March 2013. Revised date May 2013.
- ix. Complete the Singles Asset Register to include all County Council assets not included as part of Phase1 of the project - December 2012. Revised date February 2013.
- x. Support education and learning through the development of a new Learning Gateway that will be established in partnership with ITWorx for the BSF schools - December 2012. Revised date December 2015
- xi. Undertake an internal communications review - October 2012. Revised date March 2013.
- xii. Develop an internal communications strategy - November 2012. Revised date March 2013.
- xiii. Complete a minimum of 10 Access Plans per year - September 2013. Revised date March 2014.
- xiv. Undertake a series of internet improvements including: agree an improvement plan for 2012/13 - April 2012. Revised date April 2014.
- xv. Revamp of DCC website homepage and information pages - January 2013. Revised date April 2014.
- xvi. Improvement and development of new web systems - April 2013. Revised date April 2014.
- xvii. Develop and rollout of online payment system for major council transactions - August 2013. Revised date April 2014.
- xviii. Implementation of Community Buildings Strategy - January 2013. Revised date April 2013.

## **Deleted actions**

### **Altogether Healthier**

- I. Complete implementation of the Mental Health Employment and Training Strategy 2010/2013 - March 2013.

### **Altogether Better Council**

- II. Implement the results of the AAP Scrutiny Review: Report back to Overview & Scrutiny on action and progress of sub groups - November 2012.

## **Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Review of Empty Homes**

### **Summary:**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which presented the draft Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny review report looking at bringing empty homes back into use.

The Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers quarterly Performance reports relating to the “Altogether Wealthier” Council Plan priority. As part of this process, the Committee identified an area of below target performance in respect of the number of empty properties brought back into use as a result of local authority intervention.

The Working Group agreed that the Review should seek to identify outcomes and make recommendations in respect of:-

- How the Council can address the demands of the Government to tackle Empty Homes including the use of the various funding streams available to the Council;
- The effectiveness of the Council’s Private Sector Housing Strategy in relation to empty homes;
- The use of the various options available to the Council to tackle empty homes with regard to ensuring value for money;
- How the Council can learn from other Councils who are seen as exemplar authorities in tackling empty homes and the initiatives that they use to be successful.

The review gathered a wide range of evidence and conducted field study activity to examine how the Council, working in partnership with Registered Social Landlords and landlords from the private rented sector, can improve its performance in bringing back empty properties in to use. Members examined national and local policy in this respect and the key funding streams available to develop private sector housing renewal and regeneration projects and initiatives which will stimulate local housing markets. The report identifies a number of conclusions arising from the review and makes recommendations which are aimed at delivering improved performance in respect of bringing empty homes back into use.

The Council's existing approach to bringing empty homes back in to use is based upon initiatives within 8 priority regeneration areas which include selective licensing, Compulsory Purchase/ clearance, negotiated purchase and repair and leaseback schemes. Continued partnership working is essential to develop improved delivery models that will bring more empty properties back into use by making funding streams more accessible and ensure that resources can be recycled to ensure the sustainability of these models. Government funding initiatives offer an opportunity to develop such models although the Council's ability to utilise such funding is negated due to the pressure placed upon the Council to develop a Local Council Tax Support scheme that is cost neutral.

The recommendations contained within the report aim to ensure the effectiveness of the Council's existing housing renewals and regeneration initiatives as well as developing newer models based on a partnership approach that will deliver improved performance and also ensure that these are sustainable.

In response, the Service agreed that although underperformance against targets had occurred, this was against the backdrop of a collapse in the housing market and recession. The actual number of empty properties has been relatively stable over the period and the service is on track to meet the revised targets for 2012/13.

#### **Decision:**

The Cabinet noted the recommendations in the report and agreed to formulate a response within the six month period identified within the report for systematic review of recommendations.

### **Joint Report of Children and Young People's & Adults Wellbeing & Health Joint Working Group Support for Children and Young People with Mental Health Issues**

#### **Summary:**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive presenting a joint report from the Council's Children and Young People's and Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee looking at support for children and young people with mental health issues.

The topic was identified from Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee's work programme. The review focused on:

- How early intervention and prevention methods can reduce the need for specialist services
- How services are commissioned
- How looked after children are served by mental health services
- Current levels of support to children and young people with mental health issues and how quickly they can access services.
- Transition to adult mental health services from Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).



Improving the emotional health and wellbeing of the children and young people of County Durham is a priority which is detailed in the Altogether Better for Children and Young People section of the Council Plan 2012-2016 and the Children, Young People and Families Plan 2012-2016 which is under pinned by the Sustainable Community Strategy.

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 makes significant changes to the way in which health services will be organised from April 2013. The Act makes provision for:

- The establishment of Health and Wellbeing Boards.
- The transfer of commissioning of services to NHS Commissioning Boards and Clinical Commissioning Groups.
- Local authorities and commissioning consortia to prepare a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and to produce a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) to meet the needs identified in the assessment.

The report makes five recommendations including systematic review relating to:

- Early intervention
- Future commissioning of services
- Continuation of partnership working
- Corporate Parenting responsibilities
- Transitional arrangements

The report has been considered by the Council's Children and Adults Service group. There was general acceptance of the conclusions and recommendations in the report and the following comments were offered by the service.

- The report will be shared with the Health and Wellbeing Board, the recently published strategy highlights the importance of the mental health of children and young people.
- The service works with members to recognise their role as corporate parents and will continue to do so particularly following the County Council elections to encourage members to take up training opportunities.

#### **Decision:**

The Cabinet:

- Noted the recommendations in the report and agreed to formulate a response within the six month period identified in the report for systematic review of the recommendations; and
- Agreed that the report be shared with the Health and Wellbeing Board and Children and Families Trust, for information.

## **Forecast of Revenue and Capital Outturn 2012/13 for General Fund and Housing Revenue Account – Period to 31 December 2012**

### **Summary:**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Resources that provided a forecast of 2012/13 revenue and capital outturn for the period 31 December 2012 for the Council's General Fund and Housing Revenue Account. This report updated the information presented to Cabinet on 14 November showing the forecasted revenue and capital outturn based on expenditure and income up to 30 September 2012 and incorporated the recommended changes to cash limits within Service Groupings agreed by the Cabinet at that meeting.

### **Revenue**

The following adjustments have been made to the Original Budget:

- (i) agreed budget transfers between Service Groupings;
- (ii) additions to budget for items outside the cash limit (for Cabinet approval);
- (iii) planned use of or contribution to Earmarked Reserves.

### **Capital**

The General Fund (GF) capital budget for 2012/13 was set at £197.436m and was approved by Cabinet on 22 February 2012. Re-profiling from the 2011/12 capital programme into 2012/13, amounting to £32.214m, was reported to Cabinet on 11 July 2012.

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget was set at £44.854m with re-profiling of £1.465m from 2011/12 to 2012/13.

The Capital Member Officer Working Group (MOWG) has since reviewed the capital programme and taken into account further developments and analysis of changes and demands on resources. The recommendations following the MOWG review were included in the Cabinet report.

### **Decision:**

The Cabinet:

- Noted the projected change in the Council's overall financial position for 2012/13.
- Agreed the proposed 'sums outside the cash limit' for approval.
- Agreed the revenue and capital budget adjustments.
- Noted the forecast use of Earmarked Reserves.
- Noted the forecast end of year position for the Cash Limit underspend reserves.

- Noted the position for the Housing Revenue Account.
- Noted the position for the Capital Programme.

## **Annual Review of the Constitution**

### **Summary:**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services that presented proposals for the revision of the Council's Constitution.

In accordance with the Local Government Act 2000, the County Council adopted the new Constitution for the unitary authority. Although legislation has been amended by the Localism Act, a Constitution is still required. An annual review of the constitution is carried out each year by the Monitoring Officer. Amendments to the Constitution which have been approved by full Council since last year's annual review have been incorporated into the Constitution.

The Monitoring Officer carried out the annual review of the constitution which includes the review of the delegations to Chief Officers, who have been consulted, and inclusion of delegations to the Director of Public Health; and the employment procedure rules.

### **Decision:**

The Leader and Cabinet agreed to:-

- (i) Approve the delegating of executive powers as set out in the officer scheme of delegations.
- (ii) Recommend that Council agree the proposed revisions to the Constitution including the delegations to Chief Officers contained at the meeting of the Council on 20 March 2013.
- (iii) Recommend that Council authorise the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, following consultation with the Constitution Working Group, to make future changes to the Constitution to reflect decisions of the Council or a Council body or to comply with legal requirements.
- (iv) As the delegations in relation to the Director of Public Health are still the subject of regulations, only some of which have been laid before Parliament, recommend that Council authorise the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to amend the delegations as appropriate.

## Health and Wellbeing Board

### Summary:

The Cabinet considered a report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to approve the composition, functions, and rules of procedure of the County Durham Health and Wellbeing Board, and to recommend its adoption by the Council.

The Health and Social Care Bill (“the Bill”), introduced into Parliament on 19 January 2011, set out proposals for NHS reforms. The proposals included the transfer of public health functions to local authorities, including the requirement for upper tier local authorities to establish Health and Wellbeing Boards by April 2013. Shadow Health and Wellbeing Boards were expected to be in place after July 2012.

On 13 July 2011, Cabinet agreed the functions and membership of the Shadow County Durham Health and Wellbeing Board (“the Shadow Board”).

Membership of the Shadow Board has been of a size that was manageable yet effective, which complied with requirements as set out in the Bill, and appointed additional persons as members. Cabinet has continued to receive update reports from the Shadow Board.

The Health and Wellbeing Board is a committee of the Local Authority and is to be treated as if it were a committee appointed by the Authority under Section 102 of the Local Government Act 1972. The Health and Wellbeing Board is an unusual committee in that it is stated to be a committee of the Local Authority, however, Officers who are appointed to it, may vote and the obligations to comply with political balance is lifted, as well as some membership disqualifications.

Functions of the Board are set out in the legislation are as follows:-

- Promote integrated working between commissioners of health services, public health and social care services, for the purposes of advancing the health and wellbeing of the people in its area;
- Encourage those who provide services related to wider determinants of health, such as housing, to work closely with the Health and Wellbeing Board;
- Develop and agree the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (“JHWS”);
- Have a formal role in authorising and establishing clinical commissioning groups (“CCGs”);
- Be involved throughout the process as CCGs develop their commissioning plans and ensure they take proper account of the JHWS when developing these plans; and
- Provide advice and assistance or other support as it thinks appropriate for the purposes of encouraging the making of arrangements under Section 75 of the National Health Service Act 2006.

In relation to the Code of Conduct, the provisions of the standards regime in the Localism Act 2011 will be applied to the Board.

Cabinet agreed the membership of the Shadow Board on 13 July. Given that the powers which are to be exercised by the Board are aligned to Executive Powers, it is recommended that the Board be comprised of its current membership. It is necessary for the Council to consider whether political balance applies. The report suggests that the stated nature of the Board, and, as the Act identifies the person who must be appointed to it, that the requirement of political balance should not be applied to this committee.

As a Committee of the Council, the Council Procedure Rules will apply to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

**Decision:**

The Cabinet agreed the composition of the Health and Wellbeing Board as follows:

- Representatives nominated by the Leader (being currently,  
Portfolio Holder for Adult Services;  
Portfolio Holder for Safer and Healthier Communities;  
Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People's Services);
- Representation from each Clinical Commissioning Group;
- A representative from Local Healthwatch;
- Corporate Director Children and Adults Services;
- Director of Public Health

and nominated representation from each of the following:-

- Chief Executive of Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust;
- Chief Executive of County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust;
- Chief Executive of City of Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust;
- Chief Executive of North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust;

- (ii) Approve the functions of the Wellbeing Board as follows:
- Promote integrated working between commissioners of health services, public health and social care services, for the purposes of advancing the health and wellbeing of the people in its area;
  - Encourage those who provide services related to wider determinants of health, such as housing, to work closely with the Health and Wellbeing Board;
  - Develop and agree the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (“JHWS”);
  - Have a formal role in authorising and establishing clinical commissioning groups (“CCGs”);
  - Be involved throughout the process as CCGs develop their commissioning plans and ensure they take proper account of the JHWS when developing these plans; and
  - Provide advice and assistance or other support as it thinks appropriate for the purposes of encouraging the making of arrangements under Section 75 of the National Health Service Act 2006.
- (iii) To recommend the adoption of a committee in this form with these functions to full Council.

## **County Durham Youth Justice Plan**

### **Summary:**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Children and Adult Services which presented the County Durham Youth Justice Plan 2012/14.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (S.40) places a duty on every Local Authority with relevant persons and bodies, to formulate and implement an annual Youth Justice Plan which sets out:

- How youth justice services in the area are to be provided and funded, and
- How the Youth Offending Service will be composed and funded, and what statutory functions the service is to carry out.

County Durham Youth Offending Service (CDYOS) multi-agency Management Board fully supports the attached Youth Justice Plan. It will be refreshed in May 2013 and a new Youth Justice Plan for 2013/15 produced.

As well as reviewing the progress made in youth justice over the previous period, the plan sets out the key priorities and next step for the partnership, in particular for the County Durham Youth Offending Service.

The key priorities in the plan are:

- To reduce first time entrants to the youth justice system
- To reduce re-offending
- To reduce the use of custody (both remand and sentenced)

To achieve these, a range of actions are being implemented. Examples include:

- Further integrate pre and post court delivery
- Develop and implement Enhanced Transitions Pilot (18-21 years) with Durham Tees Valley Probation Trust (DTVPT) and DCC CAS
- Embed Think Family approach in all CDYOS work
- Improve links with Crown Court and Magistrates Court sentencers
- Expand restorative justice interventions across all CDYOS work (pre and post court)
- Ensure the views of young people and families inform service design and delivery

The Plan also sets out the resource plan for the service, including staffing and finance. Cabinet will note that the Youth Justice Plan is resourced through partnership activity and finance and that several of these funding streams have transferred to the new Police and Crime Commissioner. It will be essential to work closely with the PCC in agreeing future priorities.

**Decision:**

The Cabinet:

- (a) Approved the Youth Justice Plan
- (b) Agreed to submit to full council for approval

**North East Local Transport Body Assurance Framework**

**Summary:**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development informing of a delegated decision, made under urgency provisions to agree the Assurance Framework under which the North East Local Transport Body (NELTB) will operate in line with DfT requirements for the management of devolved local major transport scheme funding.

In September 2012 the Department for Transport (DfT) set out its intentions for the devolution of funding for local major transport schemes from 2015.

The DfT proposed that the primary decision making bodies on the use of the devolved funding will be Local Transport Bodies (LTBs), voluntary partnerships of local transport authorities, local enterprise partnerships and potentially other stakeholders.

### **Local Transport Body**

In June 2012 the seven Local Authority Leaders and Elected Mayor agreed in principle to act as the Local Transport Body in the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (NELEP) area. In addition, it has been agreed that the ITA for Tyne and Wear will also be represented on the North East Local Transport Body (NELTB), along with a representative of the NELEP as an observer. The NELTB will be an unincorporated association (informal partnership), with each authority represented by their leader/elected mayor (or their appointed deputy). The Chair of the NELTB will be appointed in accordance with the wider governance of the Seven North East Authority groups and will follow the same structure of annual rotation of the Chair.

The NELTB have been given an indicative funding level of £46.7m for the four year period commencing 2015/16. The NELTB will be responsible for prioritising transport investments, approving individual scheme business cases, and ensuring effective delivery of the programme. Work on developing the programme of prioritised schemes has commenced and will need to be signed off by the NELTB for submission to DfT by July 2013.

### **NELTB Assurance Framework**

The DfT will no longer have a role in the selection and approval of individual schemes. However, it does require that the devolved system provides appropriate safeguards for the use of public funds. The DfT therefore require that all LTBs put in place an assurance framework, setting out their governance and working arrangements.

The Assurance Framework which was appended to the report at Appendix 2 has been prepared by the Senior Officers Transport Advisory Group with advice from legal officers and has been considered by the LA7 Economic Directors, Chief Executives and the Leaders and Elected Mayor group. The Assurance Framework sets out how the NELTB will operate to meet the required DfT standards of governance, financial management, accountability, meeting value for money and environmental considerations.

Newcastle City Council will act as the "Accountable Body" for the NELTB on an interim basis (subject to the outcomes of a wider governance review in the North East LTB area).

The Accountable Body will develop a back to back agreement between the NELTB members in order to ensure these responsibilities are discharged. In addition a service level agreement will be specified to ensure that the NELTB receives an adequate level of support from the Accountable Body.

As The Assurance Framework was required to be agreed by all of the named authorities in advance of the submission deadline of the end of February, it was



necessary to consider the approval of the Assurance Framework as a Chief Officer delegated decision, in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder.

**Decision:**

The Cabinet endorsed the delegated decision taken on 25 February 2013 by the Corporate Director Regeneration and Economic Development to agree to the NELTB Assurance Framework.

**Decisions made in Part B of the meeting – reports containing exempt or confidential information**

**Strategic Partnering Agreement for Capital Works within the Council Owned Housing Stock [Key Decision: R&ED/05/13]**

**Summary:**

The Cabinet considered a joint report of Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development and Corporate Director, Resources which provided details of the procurement arrangements for future delivery of the Council's social housing capital programme.

**Decision:**

The Cabinet agreed the recommendations contained in the report.

**Durham County Cricket Club – Financial Support**

**Summary:**

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development and the Corporate Director, Resources relating to financial support for Durham County Cricket Club.

**Decision:**

The Cabinet agreed the recommendations contained in the report.

Colette Longbottom  
Head of Legal and Democratic Services  
15 March 2013