

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Cabinet** held in Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham on **Wednesday 5 June 2013 at 10 am**

Present:

Councillor S Henig (Leader of the Council) in the Chair

Members of Cabinet:

Councillors J Brown, N Foster, L Hovvels, O Johnson, A Napier, M Nicholls, M Plews, B Stephens and E Tomlinson

Other members:

Councillors B Armstrong, J Armstrong, B Avery, J Clare, P Conway, M Dixon, B Graham, O Gunn, I Jewell, R Lumsdon, J Maitland, J Shuttleworth, A Surtees, O Temple, M Wilkes and R Yorke.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Leader welcomed everyone to the first meeting of Cabinet after the recent local elections. He explained the procedure for members of the Authority asking questions at meetings of Cabinet, and that there would be changes made to the public participation at meetings which would be announced in due course.

1 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 April 2013 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3 Empty Homes Cluster Programme Key Decision: R&ED/10/13

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director Regeneration and Economic Development and Corporate Director Resources which updated members on the progress in establishing the County Council's Empty Homes Cluster Programme to purchase private sector owned empty properties in targeted areas and, with partner Registered Providers, invest in those properties in order to bring them back into use (for copy see file of Minutes).

In response to the question from Councillor Wilkes, Councillor Tomlinson advised of that should the Government release further funding for the purchase of empty homes, the Authority would consider the possibility of bidding for additional funding and providing any matched funding that may be required.

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

4 North East Independent Economic Review Findings and Review of Governance Arrangements

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director Regeneration and Economic Development which provided an update on the decision of the seven Local Authority Leaders and Elected Mayor in the North East LEP area to embed collaborative working arrangements in a statutory form. A review of governance arrangements was underway for the seven local authorities in the North East LEP to assess if the existing governance arrangements in relation to Economic Development, Regeneration and Transport could be improved upon with the formation of a Combined Authority made up of the 7 constituent authorities.

This report further updated Cabinet on the key findings from the recently published North East Independent Economic Review (NEIER). The review set out an agenda for creating “more and better jobs” in the North East and called for the devolution of powers, responsibilities and resources from central Government to the area (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

5 Quarter 4 2012/13 Performance Management Report

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which presented progress against the council’s corporate basket of performance in (PIs) and reported other significant performance issues for 2012/13. A presentation on the issues was provided by the Assistant Chief Executive (for copy of report, and slides of presentation see file of Minutes).

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

6 Update on the delivery of the Medium Term Financial Plan 2

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which provided an update on the progress made at the end of March 2013 on the delivery of the

2012/13 to 2015/16 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2, and provided a summary over the past two years of the MTFP savings made (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

7 Implications for Durham County Council of the Government's policy programme

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which provided an update on the major policy developments, announcements and analysis of the implications for Durham County Council since the last report which was presented on 16 January 2013 (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

8 Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which sought agreement for the Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy and Action Plan (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

9 2013 Refresh of the Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2011-14

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Service which sought approval on the 2013 refresh of the Safe Durham Partnership (SDP) Plan 2011-14. The Crime and Disorder Regulations 2007 require that at the start of each year revise the Partnership Plan, following the completion of an annual Strategic Assessment (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

10 Transfer of Investing in Children to a Community Interest Company

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services which advised of a delegated decision, made under the delegated powers

set out in paragraph 12 of the General Delegations Table One to transfer Investing in Children to a Community Interest Company (for copy see file of Minutes).

Councillor Johnson, in responding to a question from Councillor Temple advised of the reason for the delegated decision being undertaken.

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

11 Interim Policy / Procedure for the Adoption of Public Open Space Associated with New Housing Developments

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Corporate Director Regeneration and Economic Development which presented details on the introduction of an interim countywide adoption policy for maintenance of public open space linked to new housing developments (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be noted.

12 Exclusion of the Public

Resolved:

That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the said Act.

13 Disposal of Land at Heighington Lane, Aycliffe

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director Regeneration and Economic Development and Corporate Director Resources concerning the disposal of Land at Heighington Lane, Aycliffe (for copy see file of Minutes).

Councillor N Foster provided a detailed response to the question from Councillor Wilkes.

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.