

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Cabinet** held in The Jubilee Room at Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle on **Wednesday 9 October 2013 at 9.30 am**

Present:

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

Members of Cabinet:

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

Apologies:

An apology for absence was received from Councillor N Foster

Other members:

Councillors R Bell, J Clare, M Dixon, S Guy, R Lumsdon, G Richardson and J Rowlandson

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Leader advised that the practice of holding its decision-making closer to local people would continue, with every alternate ordinary meeting of Cabinet being held at a different location across the county.

1 Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 11 and 18 September 2013 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3 2014/15 Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan 4 2014/15 - 2016/17 Key Decision: CORP/R/13/02

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director Resources and Assistant Chief Executive which provided an update on the 2014/15 Budget and the Medium Term Financial Plan, focussing on the impact of the 2015/16 Spending Round and the 2014/15 and 2015/16 Local Government Finance Settlement Consultation (for copy see file of minutes).

Cabinet members spoke of the scale of the cuts which continue to deepen, and which are progressively more difficult to find, with every service continually being looked at to see where any further reductions could be found. The Cabinet would continue to lobby government on the scale of the cuts being imposed.

The Leader hoped that as many members of the public as possible would come to the forthcoming events of public involvement at AAP forums where they will be offered an opportunity to influence a number of key decisions. It was pointed out that the date of the Three Towns event scheduled for 2 November would change.

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

4 The County Durham Plan: Community Infrastructure Levy Draft Charging Schedule, Sustainability Appraisal and other Evidence Base
Key Decision: R&ED/19/13

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director Regeneration and Economic Development which sought approval for the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Draft Charging Schedule, the Statement of Consultation, the Sustainability Appraisal and Habitat Regulations Assessment. The Report further set out a series of evidence base documents used in developing the policies that underpinned the Pre-Submission Draft of the County Durham Plan. The CIL Charging Schedule would be consulted on alongside the County Durham Plan from 14 October until 6 December (for copy see file of minutes).

The Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development advised that the date of the consultation period as listed in the recommendation (i) of the report, be changed to 14 October - 6 December 2013.

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report, amended to reflect the consultation date period of 14 October to 6 December 2013 in recommendation (i), be approved.

5 Newton Aycliffe and Peterlee Regeneration Masterplans
Key Decision: R&ED/02/13

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development which provided detail on the Newton Aycliffe and Peterlee regeneration programme of activity, that could be undertaken over the next 3-5 years to ensure future sustainability through investment and marketing of the towns' key development opportunities. The masterplans provided the strategic context to delivery and sought to establish key principles to assist with the co-ordination of this activity (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

6 Review of the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy
Key Decision: NS/24/13

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services which sought approval to undertake a public consultation leading to the production of a revised version of the policy statement to be recommended for adoption by the Council (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

7 NHS and Public Health Reform

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director of Children and Adult Services, and Director of Public Health County Durham which provided an update on recent developments related to NHS and public health reform (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

8 Results of consultation on proposals to change the non-residential Charging Policy

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Children and Adult Services which detailed results of the consultation exercise on proposals to change the non-residential Charging Policy (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

9 Review of in-house residential care homes

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Children and Adult Services which sought to review the future need for in-house residential care homes, and sought an agreement to consult on a number of options as detailed within the report (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

10 Beamish Museum - Change of Governance Arrangements

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services which sought approval to disband the Joint Committee for the North of England Open Air Museum and to agree that the Council's involvement in the management of the museum should in future be through the Regional Stakeholders Group and the right to nominate directors to the Board of Beamish Museum (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.