

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Special Meeting of **Cabinet** held in Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham on **Monday 24 June 2013 at 1.00 pm**

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 and B Stephens

Apologies:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Plews, and Tomlinson

Other members:

Councillors J Allen, B Armstrong, J Armstrong, D Bell, J Blakey, J Chaplow, J Clare, K Corrigan, I Geldard, J Gray, K Hopper, H Nicholson, C Potts, K Shaw and M Williams

1 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2 Improving Economic Governance Key Decision: R&ED/16/13

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director Regeneration and Economic Development which presented the outcome of a review of governance arrangements undertaken in relation to local authority functions concerning economic growth and transport across the seven North East local authority areas comprising: Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside and Sunderland. The report further proposed submission of the final report and scheme for the establishment of a combined authority to Government (for copy see file of Minutes).

Cabinet members spoke at length advising of their support for the proposal, and the benefits that it would have for Durham and the region.

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

3 County Durham Partnership Update Report

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which provided an update on the issues being addressed by the County Durham Partnership (CDP) including summaries from the Board, the five Thematic Partnerships and all Area Action Partnerships (AAPs). The report further included updates on other key initiatives being carried out in partnership across the County (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Leader and Councillor Stephens in referring to the recent recruitment process undertaken, thanked those retiring members of the AAP's for their hard work and achievements over the last four year period.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

4 Neighbourhood Planning - Council Procedure

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director Regeneration and Economic Development which sought agreement on a formal procedure for the way that the Council handles the various aspects of Neighbourhood Planning introduced by the Localism Act (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

5 Proposed ICT Services Collaboration between Durham and Sunderland

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director Resources which advised of the strategic proposal to deliver a collaborative ICT service for Durham County Council and Sunderland Council from a single joint organisation in conjunction with a commercial partner and sought approval to develop a full business case for the proposal.

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.