

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Special Meeting of **Cabinet** held in Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham on **Wednesday 18 September 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, M Plews, B Stephens and E Tomlinson

Other members:

Councillors B Armstrong, D Bell, H Bennett, J Chaplow, J Clare, P Conway, P Crathorne, M Dixon, D Freeman, B Graham, O Gunn, A Hopgood, J Shuttleworth, J Turnbull and M Wilkes

1 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest

2 The County Durham Plan Pre-Submission Draft Key Decision: R&ED/14/13

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services which sought agreement of the Pre-Submission Draft of the County Durham Plan for publication and consultation and to agree the timetable through to adoption. The Community Infrastructure Levy Draft Charging Schedule would be reported to the Cabinet in October and be consulted on alongside the Plan. Cabinet was also asked to approve for consultation a number of Supplementary Planning Documents that accompany the Plan and to endorse the updated evidence base, including the Sustainability Appraisal and Habitat Regulations Assessment, underpinning it (for copy see file of minutes).

Mr M Boyle of Relly Cottage advised of the effect that the western relief road would have on his property, the advice he had received from officers of the Authority, and questioned why his property could be denied the deletion of the greenbelt status. In responding Councillor N Foster referred to the national planning policy framework and advised that a green belt amendment in this location would not be appropriate. He advised that they could respond to the Plan at consultation where their case would be considered by an Inspector at the Examination in Public.

Councillor B Graham, on behalf of Councillor J Armstrong, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, advised that the Board and the Environment and Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee would consider the plan at the consultation stage.

Cabinet members expressed their thanks to all who had been involved in getting the plan to this stage, and noted the opportunities that had been made available for the engagement and participation of members of the public.

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

**3 Durham City Regeneration Masterplan
Key Decision R&ED/07/13**

The Leader advised that the report was withdrawn from consideration by Cabinet to enable consultation with local members to be undertaken.

Resolved:

That the report be deferred until a later meeting.

**4 Spennymoor Masterplan
Key Decision: R&ED/11/13**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development, which provided a detailed programme of activity in relation to Spennymoor Masterplan that could be undertaken for the town over the subsequent 3-5 years to ensure future sustainability through investment and marketing of the town's key development opportunities. The document provided the strategic context to delivery and sought to establish key principles to help co-ordinate and guide this activity. The plan identified key public sector activity and investment of £37 million that could generate £276 million from the private sector (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

**5 Review of the Garden Waste Collection Service
Key Decision: NS/19/13**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services which sought approval to commence consultation on the introduction of a charge for the collection of garden waste from the kerbside. In doing so recognising

the need to achieve the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) savings identified from the Review of Waste Charges (£933k) in 2014/15 (for copy see file of minutes).

Councillor J Shuttleworth questioned why the service would not be offered to residents in the very rural west of the County. Councillor B Stephens in explaining the reasons for this advised that as part of the consultation and beyond, they would work with the residents to develop alternative arrangements such as a mobile service or more local composting.

In responding to Councillor Hopgood who sought clarification on the use of the household waste bin following discussions at the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board the previous week, Councillor Stephens confirmed that residents who did not join the scheme would not be able to use the bin for this waste, and should be encouraged to use the household waste recycling centres or composting.

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

6 Homelessness Strategy 2013 - 2018

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration which sought approval of the Homelessness Strategy for County Durham 2013-18 (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

7 County Durham Partnership Update

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which provided an update on 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 also included updates on other key initiatives being carried out in partnership across the County (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

8 Review of the Waste Management Strategy

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services which gave details of the progress made against the County's Waste Management Strategy and set out a timetable for review (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

9 Flooding Update

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services which provided an update on recent flood related events, the reasons for the increased incidence of flooding events, the progress made in developing flood prevention schemes, and also the financial implications of the flooding events that had occurred during the previous two financial years (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.