

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Special Meeting of **Cabinet** held in Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham on **Wednesday 30 October 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 Howvels, O Johnson, A Napier, M Plews, B Stephens and E Tomlinson

Apologies:

An apology for absence was received from Councillor M Nicholls

Other members:

Councillors D Bell, J Blakey, D Boyes, J Clare, K Corrigan, D Freeman, I Geldard, J Gray, O Gunn, A Hopgood, K Hopper, I Jewell, J Maitland, K Shaw, T Smith and J Turnbull.

1 Declarations of interest

Councillor M Plews declared an interest item 2 relating to council housing stock transfer, as a representative of Durham City Homes.

2 Council Housing - Stock Transfer - Next Steps Key Decision R&ED/22/13

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development which provided an update on the work completed since the decision to develop a proposal to transfer the council's homes to a group structure of its existing management organisations. The report further sought agreement to the submission of an application to Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) to transfer the council's housing stock and to propose the establishment of shadow governance arrangements to support the transfer process (for copy see file of minutes).

Sam Woodrow, Chairman of the Stock Transfer Steering Group, and John Gardner, Chairman of the Stock Transfer Customer Working Group advised of their involvement in progressing with the proposed stock transfer, and support for the proposals.

In response to a question from Councillor Hopgood, Councillor Tomlinson confirmed that rent collected for each of the housing association areas would be invested in the same area, and not provide a subsidy for other areas.

Cabinet members asked that their thanks and appreciation of the work undertaken by the Stock Transfer Steering Group, and Stock Transfer Customer Working Group be relayed to those involved. They also expressed their thanks to Clive Robson, former Cabinet portfolio holder for housing, for the work he undertook on this while in his remit.

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

3 Endorsement of the County Durham Tobacco Control Action Plan

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Director of Public Health, County Durham and Corporate Director, Children and Adult Services which presented for approval the County Durham Tobacco Control Alliance Action Plan (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

4 Durham County Council Public Health Pledge

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Director of Public Health and Corporate Director, Children and Adult Services which presented for approval the Durham County Council Public Health Pledge (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

5 Revisions to the Council's Financial Assistance Policy 2011-2014 and Empty Homes Cluster Programme April 2012 to April 2014

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development which advised of the revised arrangements for the delivery of the Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG) and Council capital programme funded Empty Homes Cluster Programme made under paragraph 12 of table C of the Council's constitution (taking urgent action). The report further advised of the necessary amendments of the Council's Financial Assistance Policy 2011-2014 in order to deliver on the Empty Homes Cluster Programme (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

6 Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services which presented the Boards Annual Report for 2012/13 which provided information about the current position of the County Durham Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) achievements in 2012/13 and plans for 2013/14 (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

7 Exclusion of the Public

Resolved:

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

8 Land Transactions in Resolution of Local Government Ombudsman Recommendations following Investigation

The Leader advised that the item of business had been deferred.

9 Freemans Reach, Durham

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development and Corporate Director, Resources relating to Freemans Reach, Durham City (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.