

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Cabinet** held in **The Council Chamber, Crook Council Offices, Crook, Co Durham, DL15 9ES** on **Wednesday 15 June 2016** at **10.00 am**

Present:

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

Members of the Committee:

Councillors A Napier (Deputy Leader of the Council), J Allen, J Brown, N Foster, L Hovvells, O Johnson, M Plews, B Stephens and E Tomlinson

Also Present:

Councillors J Armstrong, J Clare, B Kellett, A Liversidge and F Tinsley

1 Public Questions

There were no public questions.

2 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2016 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4 County Durham Plan - Issues and Options [Key Decision: R&ED/07/16]

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development which requested agreement to a public consultation on the Issues and Options of the County Durham Plan, and, endorsement of the evidence base outlined in the report (for copy see file of minutes).

The Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development advised of an amendment to paragraph 3.54 of the options report in that the word principally be included so that it reads 'an increase in 5% in West Durham principally around Barnard Castle.'

Cabinet members encouraged as many people as possible to engage with the council and offer their views during the consultation period.

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

5 Quarter Four 2015/16 Performance Management Report

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which presented progress against the Council's corporate basket of performance indicators (PIs), Council Plan and Service Plan actions and reported other performance issues for the 2015/16 financial year (for copy see file of minutes).

Cabinet members noted the continuation of the high level of service being provided by the council despite the impact from the cuts being imposed, and congratulated staff and its partners on their achievements.

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

6 Update on the delivery of the Medium Term Financial Plan 5

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which provided confirmation that the 2015/16 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP5) has been successfully delivered (for copy see file of minutes).

Cabinet members spoke of the significant reductions in the staffing establishment that had been made as a result of the austerity measures imposed by the government. It was pointed out that this is now in excess of 2,100 however only 1 in 9 reductions were through compulsory redundancy.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

7 Employment and Employability Initiatives

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Assistant Chief Executive and the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development which provided an update on the Council's employment and employability initiatives scheme, and the Government's employment policies affecting residents in the County. The report also sought approval to allocate an additional £500,000 from the Welfare Assistance Scheme budget to the Council's employment and employability initiatives scheme (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

8 Safe Durham Partnership Plan Refresh 2016-19

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services which presented the refresh of the Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2016-19 for approval (for copy see file of minutes).

Cabinet members and Helen McMillan, Chief Superintendent of Durham Constabulary advised of the reductions to crime and disorder that had been made during the year, and how through the refresh of the partnership plan the authorities would continue to work together.

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

9 Draft Durham City Sustainable Transport Strategy 2016-2033

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development which requested agreement to the draft Durham City Sustainable Transport Strategy 2016-2033 for public consultation (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

10 Option to Create a Durham County Council Investment Fund

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development and the Interim Corporate Director, Resources which sought agreement to create an investment fund to help deliver business growth and job creation (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

11 Update on North East Combined Authority Delegated Transport Activity

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development which provided an update on the transport activity carried out by the Council under delegation from the North East Combined Authority (NECA) (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendation in the report be approved.

12 Review of Refuse and Recycling Operations

The Cabinet considered a report of the Interim Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services which sought approval to harmonise refuse and recycling collection policies for remote and rural properties across the county, and, also sought approval to a reorganisation of collection rounds in the east of the County in order to deliver savings requirements of £225,000 per year (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

13 The Durham City Air Quality Action Plan

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the report of the Interim Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services, and, the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development which provided an update on the outcome of the consultation on the proposed action measures for improving air quality as set out in the draft Air Quality Action Plan. The report also sought approval for the adoption of the revised Air Quality Action Plan (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

14 Lumiere Festival 2017

The Cabinet considered a report of the Interim Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services which provided an evaluation of the 2015 Lumiere festival and requested Cabinet to consider the delivery of a Lumiere festival in 2017 (for copy see file of minutes).

Hosting the event for a further time was welcomed by the Cabinet, who spoke of the pride for County Durham with this being the largest light festival in the UK, and how it was going from strength to strength each time it was held. They also welcomed the possibility of hosting the prestigious LUCI meeting at the same time, which would add to the worldwide coverage of the event.

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

15 Medical Examiners Service

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Interim Corporate Director, Resources and the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services which advised on the consultation to reform the process of death certification in England and Wales and the proposed next steps for the establishment of a medical examiners service (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

16 Exclusion of the Public

That under Section 100(a)(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 discussion of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

17 Drug and Alcohol Estates: Options Appraisal - Bishop Auckland

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Director of Public Health and the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development relating to Drug and Alcohol Estates: Options Appraisal (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the report be approved.