



RECORD OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

The following is a record of the decisions taken at the meeting of **CABINET** held on **Wednesday 14 December 2016**.

The decisions will come into force and may be implemented from **Tuesday 2 January 2017** unless the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee or its Committees object to any such decision and call it in.

Medium Term Financial Plan (7), Council Plan, Service Plans 2017/18-2019/20 and 2017/18 Budget [Key Decision: CORP/R/16/02]

Summary

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director, Resources and the Director of Transformation and Partnerships which provided an update on the development of the 2017/18 budget and the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP(7)) reflecting upon the content of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Autumn Statement Review which was published on 23 November 2016. The report also provided an update on the development of the Council Plan and Service Plans.

The MTFP(7) report to Cabinet on 20 July 2016 provided initial details in relation to the 2017/18 budget and financial planning across the MTFP(7) period 2017/18 to 2019/20. At that time it was forecast that additional savings of £64.1million would be required to balance the budget over the 2017/18 to 2019/20 period. To aid planning and consultation, the 20 July 2016 Cabinet report included details of £29.1million of 2017/18 savings. If these savings were subsequently realised, £8.2million of the Budget Support Reserve (BSR) would be required to balance the 2017/18 budget.

At the time of the 20 July 2016 MTFP(7) Cabinet report it was unclear what impact Brexit would have upon the national finances although it was hoped that the Government would honour the four year local government finance settlement published in February 2016 and secured via the submission of the Council's Efficiency Plan in October 2016.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer's Autumn Statement was published on 23 November 2016 and provided further insight into the state of the national finances and also the forecast impact of Brexit. The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced that government borrowing over the period 2016/17 to 2020/21 would be £122billion higher than was forecast at the March 2016 Budget. This is as a result of the impact of Brexit (£58billion), the impact of new infrastructure investment (£23billion) and due to the economy generally not performing as well as had been expected (£41billion).

Rather than creating a national budget surplus in 2019/20 as forecast in the March 2016 Budget the national budget will still be have a £21billion deficit in 2020/21. This raises the possibility that austerity for public services could continue beyond 2020/21.

There was no announcement in terms of additional funding for social care. Local government is facing extreme demand pressures for both adult and children social care and it was hoped that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would look to address this in some way. The approved increase of 30 pence per hour in the National Living Wage reduces forecast budget pressures faced by the Council but other than that there were no announcements which would significant influence MTFP(7) planning.

The Autumn Statement does not provide detail of the settlement for individual local authorities. It is expected that further clarity will become available when the Council receives the finance settlement in mid-December 2016.

In addition to the analysis of the impact of the Autumn Statement announcements upon the Council further assurance has been carried out into the deliverability of the £29.1million of savings detailed in the 20 July 2016 Cabinet report. Consideration has also been given into responses to the budget consultation process. Having considered all of the information available the planned savings for 2017/18 have reduced to £20.7million.

The budget consultation ran from 6 September to 7 October 2016 and sought views on the Council's approach to budget reductions to date; whether the service priorities identified in 2013 continued to be relevant; and our proposals for 2017/18. In total, over 3,000 people were engaged and 1,919 responses were received; 1,469 being from a generic questionnaire. Overall, almost two-thirds of respondents (63%) stated our approach to making future savings is a reasonable way to go forward in 2017/18.

Further analysis has also been carried out into all elements of the MTFP(7) model. This has resulted in the total savings required over the 2017/18 to 2019/20 period increasing from the previously reported £64.1million to £65.1million. The total savings required by the Council across the period 2011/12 to 2019/20 is now forecast to be £251million.

At this stage it is forecast that the contribution required from the BSR in 2017/18 will need to increase from the previously reported £8.2million to £19.1million. This position could still change based upon the content of the Local Government Finance Settlement. If the settlement significantly changes the forecast there may be a requirement to provide Cabinet with a further MTFP(7) report in January 2017. Otherwise the detail of the settlement will be included in the MTFP(7) report to Cabinet on 8 February 2017.

Decision

The Cabinet:

- (i) Noted the overview of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Autumn Statement and the impact upon local government.

- (ii) Noted that at this stage there is significant uncertainty in terms of the impact upon the council. Further clarity will be received when the council receives the full detail of the Local Government Finance Settlement, which is expected to be received in mid-December.
- (iii) Noted the adjustments to the 2017/18 Budget including the revised savings to be delivered of £20.7million which will result in the requirement to utilise £19.1million of the Budget Support Reserve.
- (iv) Noted that savings required across the 2011/12 to 2019/20 period will now be circa £251million.
- (v) Noted that the council will need to identify and approve additional savings of £36.7million during 2018/19 and 2019/20 to balance the budget.
- (vi) Noted the output from the MTFP(7) budget consultation process and utilise the information when considering budget setting across the MTFP(7) period.
- (vii) Noted the work completed and ongoing work required in terms of Equality Impact Assessments to support the delivery of MTFP Savings plans.
- (viii) Noted the view of Corporate Issues Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Housing White Paper: Local Plan Update

Summary

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Local Services which provided an update on the Housing White Paper which and the impact this will have on the timing of the preparation of the County Durham Plan. The White Paper is expected to be released early in the New Year and it is likely to have several implications for the preparation of the County Durham Plan, including potentially the evidence and assessment of housing need which is the most fundamental issue the Plan will seek to address.

Decision

The Cabinet noted the forthcoming publication of the Housing White Paper and endorsed the decision to pause the local plan until the implications of the White Paper are known.

Quarter 2 2016/17 Performance Management Report

Summary

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Transformation and Partnerships which presented progress against the Council's corporate performance framework by Altogether priority theme for the second quarter of the 2016/17 financial year, covering the period July to September 2016.

Appendix 4 of the report provided a Summary of Key Performance Indicators. Key performance indicator progress is reported against two indicator types which comprise of Key target indicators (targets are set for indicators where improvements can be measured regularly and where improvement can be actively influenced by the council and its partners); and Key tracker indicators (performance will be tracked but no targets are set for indicators which are long-term and/or which the council and its partners only partially influence).

Overall performance during the second quarter period showed a similar trend to that reported in quarter one. For target indicators 67% have either improved or remained static and 67% are approaching, meeting or exceeding target. For tracker indicators, 76% improved or remained static. 91% of Council Plan actions have either been achieved or are on target.

There has been an increase in demand this quarter in most key areas. The numbers of customers seen at customer access points gradually increased over the last year. Fly-tipping incidents reported across the County have shown further increases after a period of decline. Although the number of children in need referrals received reduced during this period, the number of children with a child protection plan and the number of looked after children cases continued to increase. The number of telephone calls and Freedom of Information (FOI) and Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) requests received remained high. There have been more new claims processed for both housing benefit and council tax reduction although the number of changes of circumstances processed is fewer than the previous quarter. Reductions are evident in the volume of overall planning applications received by the Council as well as households re-housed through Durham Key Options.

Decision:

The Cabinet:

- a. Considered and comment on the Council's performance at quarter two.
- b. Agreed all changes to the Council Plan outlined below:

Altogether Wealthier

- i. Delivery of physical regeneration improvements in Crook Town Centre has been delayed from July 2016 to December 2016 as legal work is still being undertaken.
- ii. Agreeing a programme of works for Festival Walk at Spennymoor has been delayed further from September 2016 to December 2016 pending confirmation of the purchase of the second block of property by the developer.
- iii. Determining strategy for A19/A179 Sheraton junction improvement with Highways England has been delayed from October 2016 pending further information from Hartlepool Borough Council. The revised date is to be confirmed.

Altogether Safer

- iv. Work with partners to evaluate the effectiveness of the Multi-Agency Intervention Service, to ensure the current approach is meeting its desired outcomes, has been delayed from July 2016 to July 2017. A Lean Review was carried out in the spring and is currently being implemented.

Altogether Greener

- v. Reviewing operational practices around allotments, to harmonise standards and embed enforcement has been delayed from August 2016. A review of policy is required prior to revising operational practices. Standard processes are in place for breaches that relate to non-payment of rent and non-cultivation. Revised date: January 2018.

Altogether Better Council

- vi. The realignment of operational practices as part of the fleet restructure, to meet service demands has been delayed from September 2016 to June 2017. The options have been considered in principle and the structure is currently undergoing evaluation.
- vii. The publishing of an annual Public Sector Equality Duty update including an annual workforce profile has been delayed from September to December 2016 due to other priorities.
- viii. Developing an approach to library transfer has been delayed from August 2016 to December 2016. Work to support groups seeking to take on Council's assets and services is on-going. Future work on the Durham Ask programme and proposals linked to libraries and leisure centres will be considered in November 2016.
- ix. Linked to the above, the first commitment to library transfer has been delayed from November 2016 to September 2017 and the proposals will be considered in November 2016.
- x. As part of the renewal of the County Durham Partnership (CDP), the development and implementation a programme of change based on the outcome of the CDP away day has been delayed from September 2016 to December 2016 as the report will not be considered by the CDP until November 2016.
- xi. Planning and delivery of a second whole partnership event to identify opportunities to enhance outcomes through effective joint working across the CDP has been delayed from November 2016 to November 2017. This action will be reviewed following the review of the CDP.
- xii. Submission of the stage 1 funding applications to Heritage Lottery Fund for delivery of the archive project has been delayed from June 2017 until September 2017, due to delays in the archives workstream linked to the main accommodation programme.
- xiii. The undertaking of a council wide employee survey in line with agreed scrutiny recommendations has been deferred from September 2016 to October 2016 due to a delay in considering the draft questionnaire.

- xiv. The review of the corporate management development has been delayed from September 2016 to March 2017 to identify requirements in line with timescales for the Inspire Programme.
- xv. The review of the Change Management Toolkit has been delayed from September 2016 to December 2016. The toolkit is currently being reviewed to reflect statutory changes and organisational requirements. A revised target date has been established due to the resource requirements for the teaching assistant's exercise.
- xvi. Establishing organisational design principles that reduce tiers/hierarchy in any future Medium Term Financial Plan restructuring, to ensure flattening of organisation structures, has been delayed from September 2016 to December 2016. These will be incorporated into the Change Management Toolkit.

Deleted actions

Altogether Better for Children and Young People

- xvii. Delivering the Looked After Children (LAC) Reduction Strategy to reduce the cost and maintain safety for all looked after children was due for completion in March 2017. The LAC reduction strategy has been reviewed and determined as not to be the best way to progress. We continue to ensure that we meet the needs of children who cannot remain at home and robust arrangements are in place to ensure that this is appropriate on every occasion. The strategy going forward is about placement efficiency and appropriateness and a significant programme of foster carer recruitment is now underway and this programme now underpins our placement intentions.

Altogether Better Council

- xviii. As Cabinet approved continuation of the existing Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme the action to consult on a revised proposal (by 20 July 2016) is now not necessary and is to be deleted.
- xix. The report to Cabinet/Council (on 20 July 2016) on the new proposals for a revised local council tax reduction scheme is now also not necessary and has been deleted.

Overview and Scrutiny Review – Alcohol and its Demand on Emergency Services

Summary

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Transformation and Partnerships which presented the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee review report on Alcohol and its demand on Emergency Services.

The review highlighted positive work undertaken by the emergency services, Balance and the Office of the Durham Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner to raise awareness of the demand that alcohol places on the public sector and the alcohol harm reduction initiatives carried out.

The review's key findings focused on education and campaigns, affordability, availability, drink driving limits and information sharing. Recommendations of which, if implemented, at either a local or national level, may contribute to a reduction in demand. Locally, a number of these recommendations are for consideration by the Safe Durham Partnership Board. It is also hoped that work undertaken by the Committee will assist and provide support to the delivery of the Safe Durham Partnership Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy.

Decision

The Cabinet:

- Noted the recommendations in the Overview and Scrutiny Working Group report which was attached at Appendix 2 and agreed to formulate a response within the six month period identified in the report for systematic review of the recommendations.
- Cabinet agreed that the scrutiny review report on Alcohol and its Demand on Emergency Services is presented to the Safe Durham Partnership Board.

Transformation Programme

Summary

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Transformation and Partnerships which reported on the progress to date of the Council's Transformation Programme.

In recognition of the further significant financial challenges ahead and recognition of further fundamental change, the Chief Executive restructured the Corporate Management Team which included the provision of a new Transformation and Partnership Service. The Transformation Programme is an evolving programme over the next 3-5 years. Currently the programme comprises a number of existing projects along with a series of new projects, which are currently under development. Together these projects form a comprehensive change programme for the Council.

The programme has a set of core outcomes to be delivered. Over the next 3-5 years the Council will:

- Redesign services to better meet customers' needs at reduced cost to the Council.
- Help communities become more self-reliant and resilient
- Move partnership working from good to great
- Become renowned for a skilled and flexible workforce and employee engagement.

Within the Transformation Programme there are a number of existing projects, these are currently:

- The Office Accommodation Programme
- The focus on the Medium Term Financial Plan
- Council Senior Management Restructuring
- Engagement in the North East LEP and Combined Authority

- The implementation of the Customer Relationship Management system
- The improvement programme within Children's Services following the Ofsted report and the additional focus brought by the new director.
- The continuing partnership with Health colleagues to ensure that we can maximise the benefits of health and social care integration for the benefit of County Durham residents.

A number of new projects are in development as part of the Transformation Programme. These are:

- A programme of Cultural Change, Organisational Development and a review of the Human Resources service. This will help to ensure that, the organisation is equipped to meet the challenges of the future and remain customer focussed whilst giving staff maximum opportunities for skills development, career enhancement and where necessary redeployment.
- The Transformation project has engaged PWC Consultants to work with the Council and undertake a diagnostic exercise to identify new ways in which the Council can move from being a good, stable organisation to one of the best in the Country. This will entail an examination of internal processes across the Council as well as series of more in depth investigations in the areas of Digital, Demand Management, Commercialisation/Traded Services, Third Party Spend and Estates. The work with PWC will last approximately 3 months and will have initial findings along with outline business cases for change presented to the Transformation Board in the New Year. The Council will then analyse the business cases to determine a number of service reviews which it will undertake itself to make improvements relevant to Durham.
- A programme of Service Improvements which will examine new models of service delivery, including unitisation of business support type functions, and a clear examination of value for money to help deliver the budget savings that are required.
- A programme to examine enhanced Partnership Working at the local and regional level to ensure that we are maximising the potential for joint working and shared services with our partners and that together we can support our communities, enhance service delivery, and provide opportunities for staff development within a wider arena.

The Programme will report to a new Transformation Board, Chaired by the Leader of the Council. The Transformation Board consists of Cabinet Members and the Council's Corporate Management Team. The programme will be co-ordinated through a Steering group made up of senior officers leading on aspects of the programme. The programme has been informed by a number of consultation events with staff including staff roadshows, Members seminars, meetings with the Trade Unions and focus groups. The programme will be enhanced through a comprehensive engagement process with staff and customers as it progresses.

Decision

The Cabinet:

- Noted the contents of the report and endorsed the approach taken to transform the Council over the medium term.

- Agreed to continue their engagement in the programme through the Transformation Board in order to provide governance for the programme and shape future high quality services.

Annual Report of the Fostering Panels and the Fostering Service 2015/16

Summary

The Cabinet considered the annual report of the Fostering Panels and the Fostering Service for 2015/16, of the Corporate Director Children and Young People's Services. The National Minimum Standards for Fostering (2011) require that Fostering Agencies report the activity of the fostering service to its governing bodies.

The annual report of the Fostering Panels and the Fostering Service Sets out 4 main priorities for the next year::

- Development of a robust Marketing Strategy to increase the number of fostering applicants to Durham to meet 100% of Durham's needs and achieve vacant capacity. This will enable matching of needs to carer skills and reduce reliance on external resources;
- Further Development of The Fostering Plus Scheme in order to provide a family based service to care for some of our children with most complex needs;
- Implementation of a review of the fostering service to ensure the resources channelled into the service are utilised in the most effective and efficient way and that the service is able to meet future demand;
- Delivery of initiatives already in train to promote fostering, such as Durham County Council liveried vehicles, a concerted social media campaign and targeted recruitment to specialist fostering programmes.

Decision

The Cabinet:

- Approved the attached Annual Report of the Fostering Panels and the Fostering Service 2015/16;
- Approved the future priorities;
- Agreed to support the initiative to promote fostering.

Strategy for School Organisation and the Pattern and Provision of Schools across County Durham

Summary

The Cabinet considered a report of the Interim Corporate Director, Children and Young People's Services which sought approval for the Council's overarching strategy for school organisation and the pattern and provision of schools across County Durham.

All Local Authorities have a statutory duty to provide school places and secure sufficient schools in their areas for the number of pupils in all schools across the county. The October census data is used, with other key factors, to project pupil rolls for a number of years ahead so that the Local Authority can fulfil its statutory duty of making sure there are sufficient school places. Tables of projected rolls are updated on an annual basis. The 2006 Education and Inspections Act requires Local Authorities to exercise their functions with a view to securing diversity in the provision of schools and increasing opportunities for parental choice.

Any effective strategy for school organisation and the provision of school places ensures that the highest possible quality of education is offered to children in County Durham in schools that are in the right places and which are viable and sustainable for the long term. The core principles are as follows:

- Provide local schools for local children - promoting a pattern of sustainable schools which meet local needs and recognise the needs generated by planned growth and development in specific areas.
- To ensure that all schools are in a position to deliver high quality education that meets the needs of all children and their families.
- Where it is clear that a school is failing to deliver improved outcomes and/or is not financially viable to explore options for closure or amalgamation.
- Work with small schools, particularly small rural schools, to explore options to maintain high quality and sustainable provision.
- To ensure any change to school organisation leads to more viable and sustainable schools which impacts positively on school performance and on the learning potential of children.
- Where practicable to do so, move towards a pattern of 'all through' primary schools rather than separate infant and junior schools.

The Council has a very good track record of meeting first choice parental preferences for school places as a result of effective strategic planning of school places. For September 2016 93.4% of pupils went to their first choice primary school and 96.1% went to their first choice secondary school. This compares favourably with the national average of 84.1% for secondary and 91.8% for primary. It also compares favourably with the regional average of 88.4% for secondary and 92.7% for primary.

It is important that the Council continually reviews its pattern and provision of schools to address local changes to demography, growth in identified areas across the county (within the Durham Plan as well as other windfall sites) at the same time as responding to national initiatives such as changes to the National Schools Funding formula, proposals for all schools to be Academies and Grammar School proposals. Appendix 2 of the report provided a comprehensive picture about the size and number of schools across the county with projected numbers of pupils (up to 2020/21 for primary schools and 2022/23 for secondary schools) in each pupil place planning area.

Decision

The Cabinet:

- (i) agreed the strategic approach for school organisation and the pattern and provision of schools across County Durham included in the report;
- (iii) noted that the capital implications to implement the strategy will be considered in due course; and
- (iii) agreed that officers will continually review the local pupil place planning areas and school capacities referred to in the report and detailed in Appendix 2 of the report.

Schools 20 mph Part-Time Speed Limits Project – Update Report

Summary

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Local Services which provided an update on the schools 20 mph Part Time Speed Limits Project including details of the additional 33 schools that have been selected.

On 17 December 2014 Cabinet approved the Schools 20 mph Part-time Speed Limits Project which involved introducing part-time 20 mph limits on main and distributor roads around the 33 schools with the highest accident rates.

The objective of the project is to reduce traffic speeds around the vicinity of schools during school drop off and pick up times which will improve road safety for vulnerable road users as well as making walking and cycling to school more attractive.

The project includes education and awareness raising to encourage motorists to reduce their speed and encourage walking and cycling. The project is funded by a one-off Public Health Grant of £952,850 and is complemented by a revenue budget to help deliver road safety education and social marketing.

An update report was approved by Cabinet on 11 May 2016 which highlighted that the project was progressing under budget and ahead of schedule. Cabinet approved that the underspend should be used to expand the scope of the project to a further 33 schools (66 schools in total) using the revised prioritisation criteria developed in consultation with the Scrutiny 20mph Working Group.

Since the last Cabinet Update report on 11 May 2016, schemes have been successfully delivered in the Consett, Stanley, Seaham, Peterlee, Newton Aycliffe, Spennymoor and Durham areas. All remaining 219 schools Countywide on main and distributor roads were evaluated based on the revised prioritisation criteria which has been developed in consultation with the Scrutiny 20mph Working Group. The revised prioritisation criteria is based on three risk factors:

- Collision history;
- Measured PV²; and
- Measured speeds.

Measured PV^2 is a measure of pedestrian risk where:

- P = Number of pedestrians; and
- V = Number of vehicles.

The 33 schools with the highest overall score under the revised prioritisation criteria were selected and appendix 5 of the report provided an evaluation of the scores. The additional 33 schools are scheduled for delivery in 2017/18 and 2018/19. Appendix 3 of the report provided details of the project plan.

The budget for the project has now been fully committed. However, there is potential to add further schools to the project if funding can be provided from schools, Town / Parish Councils, AAPs or Member budgets now or in the future.

Decision

The Cabinet endorsed the additional 33 schools.

County Durham Business and Enterprise Framework

Summary

This Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development which provided an overview of the Business and Enterprise Framework which has been developed by the County Durham Enterprise Partnership Business, Enterprise and Skills Working Group to replace the Business, Enterprise and Skills Strategy (2012).

improving business and enterprise The Business and Enterprise Framework was developed in response to a complex, changing, and uncertain economic and political conditions. The framework focuses on improving the productivity of businesses and the workforce in order to overcome key economic weaknesses.

The Framework's vision is "to grow the private sector in County Durham by improving Gross Value Added Per Filled Job by £1,200 per annum to achieve a target level of £49,000 by 2020. We will do this by extending sectors, increasing the number and quality of private sector jobs, encouraging innovation, and improving market access."

Given that the County's private sector base is relatively small, partners decided that the framework should specifically focus on generating more private sector jobs in the County. This will help to generate more businesses and jobs, diversify the County's industrial profile, and develop supply chain relationships. The Framework has three key components which provide both an evidence-base, and, provide the basis for support:

- Business sectors: Bespoke analysis was undertaken which identified eight distinct industrial sectors in the private sector based on supply chain relationships and business interactions which will help to tailor business support to different sectors.

- Business geography: Maps were developed for the County to identify geographic clusters of businesses and employment hotspots for the eight sectors, which will be used to target business support.
- Business competencies: Analysis identified different competencies (e.g. financial awareness, management skills) that are key to successful businesses, which will be used to identify and fine-tune business and enterprise support for businesses in the County. This method and analysis was been identified by NELEP as good practice and will be used to support the regional Growth Hub.

The Framework aligns with the regional Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) by recognising that productive businesses and productive people (business owners and staff) support the achievement of 'more and better jobs'; the strapline for the SEP. Partners are keen that the Business and Enterprise Framework can be flexed as economic, political and organisational conditions change.

The Framework will be developed as an online resource which will involve the development of a brand or identity and interfaces for different partners and users. This will enable the Framework to be kept up-to-date, giving it longevity, and allowing it to develop over time as user's needs change. Work with NELEP will continue, to align the Framework with the NELEP Growth Hub and share experience and good practice.

Periodic reviews will be undertaken to track progress towards the vision and economic targets of CDEP as well as re-mapping new business data to identify changes in sector geography. The County's quarterly economic bulletin has also been aligned to the Framework to help monitor progress.

The next steps include the following:

- Translate this Framework into an online resource that can be continuously developed
- Refine the business competencies analysis
- Monitor and report the County's performance using the agreed measures and targets
- Encourage relevant CDEP partners to adopt the Framework.

Decision

The Cabinet approved the contents of the report and endorsed the next steps to implement the Business and Enterprise Framework.

Masterplan Updates

Summary

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Local Services regarding the Masterplan Updates for Consett, Crook, Newton Aycliffe, Durham City, Chester le Street and Stanley. The report requested that Cabinet endorse that the Masterplan Updates are taken through the relevant Area Action Partnership meetings for discussion.

Six Masterplan Updates were considered in the report, namely:

- Consett;
- Crook;
- Newton Aycliffe;
- Durham City;
- Chester le Street; and
- Stanley.

Updates for Peterlee, Seaham, Spennymoor, Shildon, Barnard Castle and Bishop Auckland are programmed to be taken to Cabinet in January 2017. The Masterplan Updates include a profile unique to each location, which reflects upon the role of the settlement within the County.

The documents provide a high level overview of what has recently been delivered in the town and a section highlighting actions and further work to be delivered in the future.

The Masterplan Updates highlight and reflect the range of activities that have been undertaken in each location including town centre improvements, highways infrastructure improvements, education facilities, health and social wellbeing provision. They also identify the development of new businesses, housing development and new community facilities.

The Masterplan Updates reflect activities undertaken by the Council directly as well as partners and stakeholders including the private sector and sets out actions and future programmes for activities identified by the AAPs. The AAPs have set their own priorities in each locality which is reflected in past and future actions as set out in Masterplan Updates. The Masterplans highlight some significant opportunities across each of the locations.

The intention of proposing Masterplans for larger Towns was to ensure that the Council had a way of communicating its ambition and financial commitment to delivering on local priorities. The intention is that Cabinet and the AAPs will receive further updates in the future.

Decision

The Cabinet agreed that the Masterplan Updates for Consett, Crook, Newton Aycliffe, Durham City, Chester le Street and Stanley:

- be approved to provide an update on activity in the Towns for the community; and
- that the Masterplan Updates are taken through the relevant Area Action Partnership meetings for discussion.

Colette Longbottom
Head of Legal and Democratic Services
16 December 2016