

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Cabinet** held in **Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham** on **Wednesday 14 March 2018** at **10.00 am**

Present:

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

Cabinet Members:

Councillors A Napier (Deputy Leader of the Council), J Brown, O Gunn, L Hovvels, O Johnson, C Marshall, K Shaw and B Stephens

Apologies:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Joy Allen

Also Present:

Councillors J Clare, S Dunn, J Shuttleworth and A Surtees

1 Public Questions

There were no public questions.

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2018

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4 Welfare Assistance Scheme 2018/19 [Key Decision: CORP/R/18/03]

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director of Resources and the Director of Transformation and Partnerships which provided Cabinet with the outcome of a review of the Welfare Assistance Scheme, which has been overseen by the Council's Poverty Action Steering Group, and, outlined proposals for changes to the policy and delivery arrangements from April 2018 (for copy see file of minutes).

Cabinet members welcomed the review and changes proposed to the existing policy, and emphasised the importance of continuing with the scheme that was vitally important to reach the most vulnerable as it made a real difference to people's lives. Thanks for all the work that had gone into this were made to those involved from the council, its partners and the voluntary sector.

5 Consultation Feedback on the Proposal for Changes to the Charging Policy for Non-Residential Social Care Services [Key Decision: AHS/03/17]

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director of Adult and Health Services and the Corporate Director of Resources which provided Cabinet with the results of the consultation exercise on proposals to make changes to the non-residential charging policy in relation to the Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG) applied for people who receive social care services (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

6 Proposal to Change the Age Range of Wingate Infant School from 4-7 to 4-11 from 1 September 2018 to create a Primary School and to Close Wingate Junior School as a Registered School on 31 August 2018 [Key Decision: CYPS/04/17]

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services which sought approval to change the age range of Wingate Infant School from 4-7 to 4-11 from 1 September 2018 to create a Primary School and to close Wingate Junior School as a registered school on 31 August 2018, taking account of the Local Authority's duties as prescribed in the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to secure sufficient places, and to ensure good outcomes for all children and young people in the local area (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

7 Forecast of Revenue and Capital Outturn 2017/18 – Period to 31 December 2017

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Resources which provided Cabinet with information on the following:

- (a) forecast revenue and capital outturn for 2017/18;
- (b) forecast for the Council's Council Tax and Business Rates Collection Fund position at 31 March 2018;
- (c) use of earmarked, cash limit and general reserves.

The report also sought approval of the budget adjustments and proposed sums outside of the cash limit (for copy see file of minutes).

Cabinet members in welcoming the report commended finance officers on their accurate forecasting and bringing together the report. Members spoke of the continuation of the austerity measures, and the difficulties that were being faced by authorities.

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

8 Update on the delivery of the Medium Term Financial Plan 7

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Transformation and Partnerships which provided an update on the progress made at the end of December 2017 on the delivery of the 2017/18 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP7) (for copy of report see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

9 Quarter Three 2017/18 Performance Management Report

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 third quarter of the 2017/18 financial year (for copy see file of minutes).

It was pointed out that despite austerity it was pleasing to see that the authority and its partners were still delivery high quality services, and that all those who had contributed be commended.

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

10 County Durham Partnership Update

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Transformation and Partnerships which provided an update on issues being addressed by the County Durham Partnership (CDP) including the board, the five thematic partnerships and all area action partnerships (AAPs). The report also includes updates on other key initiatives being carried out in partnership across the county (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the report be noted.