

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Cabinet** held in **Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham**, on **Wednesday 14 November 2018** at **10.30 am**

Present:

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

Cabinet Members:

Councillors J Allen, J Brown, O Gunn, L Hovvels, O Johnson, C Marshall, A Napier, and B Stephens

Apologies:

Councillors K Shaw

Also Present:

Councillors J Grant, A Hopgood, M McKeon, J Robinson, J Shuttleworth and M Wilkes.

1 Public Questions

There were no public questions.

2 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 October 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3 Declarations of interest

Declarations of interest were made by Councillor S Henig, and Councillor C Marshall in connection with item 5, due to family connections with one of the schools. Both left the room during consideration of the item.

4 Council Tax Base 2019/20 and Forecast Surplus on the Council Tax Collection Fund as at 31 March 2019 [Key Decision: CORP/R/18/02]

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Resources which determined the Council's Tax Base for all domestic properties liable to pay council tax, for 2019/20 and reported on the estimated collection fund surplus as at 31 March 2019, which will need to be distributed to the principal precepting authorities in 2019/20 (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

Prior to the next item Councillors S Henig and C Marshall left the room and did not take part in the deliberations. Councillor Henig vacated the Chair for item 5.

Councillor A Napier (Deputy Leader of the Council) in the Chair for item 5.

5 Review of School Provision – Future options for Wellfield School as part of the Education Review in County Durham [Key Decision: CYP5/02/18]

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Director of Children and Young People's Services and the Corporate Director of Resources which provided details of the work that has been undertaken as part of the review of education provision in County Durham which was agreed by Cabinet on 15 November 2017. The report made recommendations in relation to Wellfield School which would also impact on Tanfield School (for copy see file of minutes).

Councillor Gunn responded to questions raised by Councillor Hopgood about the council's policy on school deficit budgets.

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

6 Council Activity Update

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Transformation and Partnerships which updated on work to support some of the council's key priorities (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

7 Forecast of Revenue and Capital Outturn 2018/19 – Period to 30 September 2018

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

- (a) forecast revenue and capital outturn for 2018/19;
- (b) forecast for the council tax and business rates collection fund position at 31 March 2019;
- (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 spoke of the continuing financial pressures the Authority were facing, including to the children and young people's service and schools, and that it was continuing to lobby central government on these issues.

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

8 Mid-Year Review Report on Treasury Management for the period to 30 September 2018

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Resources which provided information on the treasury management mid-year position for 2018/19 (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

9 Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Review of Suicide Rates and Mental Health and Wellbeing in County Durham

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Transformation and Partnerships which provided the Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee review report into suicide rates and mental health and wellbeing in County Durham (for copy see file of minutes).

Councillor J Robinson, Chairman of the Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee presented the report to Cabinet, and provided detail on the scope of the review and its findings. He thanked Members, officers, partners, and everyone who had been part of the working group.

Cabinet Members welcomed the review and its findings, and thanked Councillor Robinson and the scrutiny group for the work undertaken. A response to their findings in line with the recommendations in the report would be provided.

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

10 Speed Management Strategy

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services which updated on speed management on the public highway and sought approval for a public consultation to be undertaken on the proposed Speed Management Strategy which has been developed in partnership with Durham Constabulary (for copy see file of minutes).

Councillor Stephens responded to questions from Councillor Wilkes about funding the implementation of additional 20 mph zones around schools in the county.

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

11 Future Options for Schools in the Horden area, as part of the Education Review in County Durham

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services and the Corporate Director of Resources which provided details on the work that has been undertaken as part of the review of education provision in County Durham which was agreed by Cabinet on 15 November 2017. The report made recommendations in relation to primary schools in the Horden area, namely Cotsford Infant and Junior Schools (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.