

## **DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL**

At a Meeting of **Cabinet** held in **Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham**, on **Wednesday 12 December 2018** at **10.00 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, K Shaw and B Stephens

**Also Present:**

Councillors J Clare, R Crute, G Darkes, L Maddison, A Patterson, H Smith, A Surtees, K Thompson and M Wilkes

**1 Public Questions**

There were no public questions.

**2 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**3 Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**4 Mainstream Primary and Secondary Formula Funding 2019-20 and Transfer to High Needs Block [Key Decision: CORP/R/18/06]**

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services and the Corporate Director of Resources which sought agreement for the local funding formula for mainstream primary and secondary schools for 2019/20, which will apply to maintained schools from 1 April 2019 and academies from 1 September 2019. The report provided information on the outcome of the consultation that has been undertaken, the application that has been made to the Secretary of State for Education to agree to a transfer of funding from the Schools Block Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) to the High Needs Block DSG, equivalent to 0.5% (£1.535 million), and, the impact on the local funding formula for mainstream primary and secondary schools for 2019/20. The report also set out proposals for the use of council reserves in 2019/20 to augment the High Needs budget, in response to the significant budget pressures being experienced in this area and to reduce the size of the transfer from the Schools Block for which the

Council will need to seek Secretary of State for Education approval (for copy see file of minutes).

Sally Green, Chair of the Schools Forum explained to the Cabinet the position being faced by schools, and thanked the authority for listening to their concerns, for its continuing support and the measures being taken to assist to address the issues.

Cabinet members welcomed the feedback from the schools forum and thanked the forum for their hard work. They spoke of the funding difficulties for schools, that they would continue to lobby the government for additional resources for schools budgets, and they hoped that the government would listen.

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

**5 Council Activity Report**

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

**Resolved:**

That the report be noted.

**6 Quarter Two 2018/19 Performance Management Report**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Transformation and Partnerships which presented progress towards achieving the key outcomes of the Council's corporate performance framework (for copy see file of minutes).

**Resolved:**

That the report be noted.

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

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Transformation and Partnerships which provided information on the progress made at the end of June 2018 on the delivery of the 2018/19 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP8) (for copy see file of minutes).

**Resolved:**

That the report be noted.

## **8 Town and Village Centres - Way Forward**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services which set out proposals for an enhanced approach to the regeneration of towns and villages across the county. The report sought to:

- (a) Confirm the continuation of town centre regeneration in line with the suite of established masterplans for the main centres;
- (b) Highlight the opportunities for a renewed regeneration focus in towns and villages across the county; and
- (c) Highlight opportunities for concerted programmes of activity to make step change improvements in selected centres.

(for copy see file of minutes).

Councillor C Marshall responded to the questions from Councillor Wilkes about the type of work and areas that the funding would be spent on, how it would be determined, and the resourcing of the programme.

Cabinet members noted the amount of work that had gone into this and of the consultation including with local members. All were thanked for their hard work in this area.

### **Resolved:**

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

## **9 Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Review – Role of the Social Worker from a Child's Perspective**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Transformation and Partnerships which presented the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee review report on the Role of the Social Worker from a Child's Perspective (for copy see file of minutes).

Councillor H Smith, presented the report on behalf of Councillor C Potts, Chairman of the working group who was unable to be present. She provided detail on the scope of the review and its findings. She 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 Smith for her presentation and asked that their thanks be conveyed to Councillor Potts 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 Joint targeted area inspection (JTAI) of the multi-agency response to domestic abuse in Durham – Improvement Action Plan**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services which provided an update on the Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) of the multi-agency response to children living with or experiencing domestic abuse in County Durham, and, presented the Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) for approval (for copy see file of minutes).

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

**11 Regional Adoption Agency Arrangements**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services which sought agreement for the future structure of adoption services for County Durham to meet the requirements of Government to be part of a Regional Adoption Agency (RAA). The report also requested the Cabinet to consider Durham's position in relation to the Host Model (for copy see file of minutes).

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.