

## **DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL**

At a Meeting of **Cabinet** held in **Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham** on **Wednesday 15 January 2020** at **10.00 am**

### **Present:**

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

### **Cabinet Members:**

Councillors J Allen, L Hovvels, C Marshall, A Napier, A Patterson, K Shaw, B Stephens and A Surtees

### **Also Present:**

Councillors E Adam, B Avery, A Batey, J Clare, R Crute, A Hopgood, B Kellett, J Shuttleworth, J Turnbull and M Wilkes

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Chair advised that it was the last cabinet meeting that Ian Thompson, Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services would attend prior to leaving the council later in the month. Cabinet members wished him well for his future and noted there would be the opportunity at the council meeting to express their thanks and best wishes.

### **1 Public Questions**

There were no public questions.

### **2 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **3 Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **4 Selective Licensing Scheme [Key Decision: REAL/05/19]**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services which sought approval for the introduction of a Selective Licensing Scheme (SLS) for privately rented homes in parts of County Durham (for copy see file of minutes).

### **Resolved:**

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

## **5 Leisure Transformation [Key Decision: REAL/11/19]**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services which sought an in-principle agreement to a transformation programme for leisure centres (for copy see file of minutes).

Councillor Marshall in responding to questions from Councillor Wilkes explained that it was the first step in modernising leisure facilities across the county and was to be seen in the context of the work on towns and villages to improve opportunities for communities. The report was to agree headlines and confirm the budget, then they would look to involve local people and ensure local councillors are at the centre of the process. A programme would be developed to inform local members of the timescales for their facilities and future public engagement.

Cabinet members welcomed the proposals to develop leisure services noting that this involved a comprehensive review of the service provision and would be a major investment which would improve lives of those in county Durham. They commented on the amount of work that had already been undertaken and looked forward to developing the proposals further.

### **Resolved:**

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

## **6 Roads and Street Works Permit Scheme [Key Decision: REAL/10/19]**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services which sought approval for the introduction of a street works permit scheme with the implementation of the County Council of Durham Roads and Street Works permit scheme and a new staffing structure (for copy see file of minutes).

### **Resolved:**

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

## **7 High Needs Block Funding for SEND and Inclusion Support**

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 an update on spend and pressures on the High Needs Block (HNB) of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) which supports Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) and inclusion support services for children and young people (for copy see file of minutes).

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

**8 Council Activity Report**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Executive which provided an update on progress towards delivering some of the council's key priorities (for copy see file of minutes).

Cabinet members commented on the vast range of activity being undertaken in the county ranging from culture, sport and leisure activities to the measures in place to reduce fuel poverty and help vulnerable people. They thanked officers, members and partners for the work undertaken.

**Resolved:**

That the report be noted.

**9 Local Lettings Agency**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services which provided an update on the governance structure of the Local Lettings Agency (LLA) and provided a general update on the scheme (for copy see file of minutes).

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

**10 County Durham Enhanced Engagement with Children and Young People**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services which sought agreement for the implementation of a number of recommendations to enhance how the Council engages with children and young people (for copy see file of minutes).

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

## **11 WASPI Concessionary Travel Scheme**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services which proposed the introduction of a discretionary local travel concession to assist women across County Durham who have been most impacted by the changes to the Government's State Pension Age (SPA) (for copy see file of minutes).

### **Resolved:**

That the recommendation in the report be approved.

## **12 Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Communities review of Durham County Council's proposed allotment policy**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Resources which presented the findings and recommendations of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee's review on Durham County Council's proposed allotment policy (for copy see file of minutes).

Councillor E Adam, Chair of the Environment and Sustainable Overview and Scrutiny Committee presented the report and the findings from the review. Cabinet members thanked the Chair and its members for the work they had undertaken and welcomed the comprehensive review report.

### **Resolved:**

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

## **13 Humanitarian Support in County Durham**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Adult and Health Services which provided an update on County Durham's support for vulnerable refugees and sought approval to participate in the UK's global resettlement programme following the conclusion of the current resettlement schemes in 2020 (for copy see file of minutes).

### **Resolved:**

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

#### **14 Health Protection Assurance Annual Report 2018-19**

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director of Adult and Health Services and Director of Public Health which provided an update on health protection assurance arrangements in County Durham (for copy see file of minutes).

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

#### **15 Exclusion of the Public**

**Resolved:**

That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 and 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

#### **16 Leisure Transformation [Key Decision: REAL/11/19]**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services which provided detailed business planning information in respect of the proposed transformation programme for leisure centres (for copy see file of minutes).

Councillor Marshall responded to questions from Councillor Wilkes about future provision.

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

#### **17 North East First Credit Union Financial Support [Key Decision: CORP/R/20/01]**

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director of Resources and Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services which outlined the financial support provided to North East First Credit Union (for copy see file of minutes).

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations in the report be approved.