

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Cabinet** held in the **Council Chamber, County Hall, Durham on Wednesday 18 March 2020 at 10.00 am**

Present:

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

Cabinet Members:

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

Apologies:

Councillors O Gunn and L Hovvels

Also Present:

Councillors H Liddle, J Shuttleworth, A Watson, M Wilkes and M Wilson

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Leader of the Council advised of the unprecedented and challenging times ahead as a result of the outbreak of Covid-19. He emphasised that the council would do all it could in this emergency situation to protect the most vulnerable, and that it would need to make changes to the services it provides so that it could target its resources in the most effective way, and in doing so its operation may look very different. The council would ensure that it kept its communications with its residents and businesses of high importance. He went on to advise that in the circumstances there would be no formal committee meetings of the council being held or convened until the end of March and that this position would be kept under review.

1 Public Questions

There were no public questions.

2 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 February 2020 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4 Local List of Historic Parks, Gardens and Designed Landscapes [Key Decision: REAL/01/2020]

The Cabinet considered a report of the Interim Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services which sought approval for the adoption of a Local List of Historic Parks, Gardens and Designed Landscapes for County Durham, and, sought approval of a review process to update and add to the Local List on a 5 year cycle (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

5 Options for the future of the two schools that constitute the Durham Federation

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services and the Corporate Director of Resources which outlined the educational and financial sustainability issues, and, presented a set of options for the future of Durham Community Business College and Fyndoune Community College, which jointly comprise the Durham Federation. (for copy see file of minutes).

In response to the questions and comments made by Councillor H Liddle, one of the local members, of which included the allocation of places at an alternative school, school transport, safe walking to school, community facilities, and inclusion of community of Sacriston in consultation, Councillor Napier in noting these advised that these would be picked up in the consultation and a written response would be made to the member.

Councillor Henig advised that the questions submitted by the parish council had been made after the deadline had passed, and that he would ask that a written response be made to the parish council.

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

6 Council Activity Report

The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Executive which provided an update on progress towards delivering the council's key priorities of tackling envirocrime and helping town and villages thrive (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

7 Quarter Three, 2019/20 Performance Management Report

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Resources 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.

8 Forecast of Revenue and Capital Outturn 2019/20 – Period to 31 December 2019

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

- (a) updated forecast revenue and capital outturn for 2019/20;
- (b) updated forecast for the council tax and business rates collection fund position at 31 March 2020;
- (c) updated forecast use of earmarked, cash limit and general reserves and estimated balances to be held at 31 March 2020.

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

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

9 Update on the delivery of the Medium Term Financial Plan 9

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Resources which provided an update on the position of the delivery of the 2019/20 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP9) (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

10 County Durham Partnership Update

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Adult and Health Services which provided an update on issues being addressed by the County Durham Partnership, and, included an update on other key initiatives being carried out in partnership across the county (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

11 Durham County Council Festival & Events Programme 2020/21

The Cabinet considered a report of the Interim Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services which outlined the 2020/21 festivals and events programme and sought agreement for allocation of funding (for copy see file of minutes).

In response to a question from Councillor Watson about Consett cycling race and funding by the county council, Councillor Allen advised that the council was open to considering additional investment for this event and awaited a comprehensive business strategy from project genesis to consider the proposal in detail.

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

12 County Durham Joint Commissioning Strategy for Children and Young People and their Families 2019-20

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services and Corporate Director of Adult and Health Services which presented the County Durham Joint Commissioning Strategy for Children and Young People and their Families (2019-2021) (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

13 Council housing delivery - Durham County Council development potential

The Cabinet considered a report of the Interim Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services which provided an update in terms of the potential for the Council to develop and own social housing stock, Council Housing, going forward, and, identified the next steps in respect of developing a business case assessing the long term strategy and scale of the opportunity (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the report be approved.