

# DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

## CABINET

At a meeting of **Cabinet** held remotely via Microsoft Teams at **9.00 am** on **Wednesday 16 December 2020**

### Present

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

### Cabinet Members

Councillors O Gunn, L Hovvels, C Marshall, A Napier, A Patterson, K Shaw, B Stephens and A Surtees

### Apologies

Councillor J Allen

## 1 Public Questions

There were no public questions.

## 2 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2020 were agreed as a correct record and would be signed by the Chair.

## 3 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

## 4 County Durham Plan: Minerals and Waste Development Plan Document and Parking and Accessibility Supplementary Planning Document

**[Key Decision: CORP/R/20/04]**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth which sought approval to commence work on the Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations Development Plan Document, and, the Parking and Accessibility Supplementary Planning Document and the timetable for their preparation in a new Local Development Scheme (for copy see file of minutes).

Councillor Marshall, Portfolio Holder for Economic Regeneration, explained that the Council approved the adoption of the County Durham Plan at their meeting held on 21 October 2020, and, whilst the County Durham Plan is a comprehensive document covering all aspects of planning, it is necessary to supplement the Plan with more detailed development management policies and non-strategic site allocations. Cabinet noted the documents will be published for consultation in the new year and encouraged members of the public to participate in the consultation process.

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

## **5 Quarter Two Performance Management Report 2020/21**

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).

The Chair, Councillor Simon Henig, Leader of the Council, commended officers for the detailed report which included a summary of the major challenges faced during 2020, including the economic downturn. He added that areas of concern, arising from the impact of COVID-19, will continue to be monitored.

Councillor Napier, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Finance, referred to the many areas of excellent performance commenting this was testament to the hard work and dedication of staff and local members, and, he thanked all those who had continued to deliver services to such a high standard.

Councillor Napier spoke of the impact of deindustrialisation on County Durham and how the Council had worked hard, over the years, to provide more and better paid jobs. He expressed concern at details in the report of the recent increase in the Universal Credit claimant count, saying this illustrated the impact of COVID-19. Councillor Napier also referred to uncertainty with regard to a combination of factors including the impact of COVID-19, the position on the UK transition, and, the lack of information from government on the Shared Prosperity Fund. He called upon government to ensure County Durham receives its fair share of the fund, and, to make clear its intentions to level up the County.

**Resolved:**

That the report be noted.

## **6 Transport Asset Management Plan – Annual Update**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change which provided Cabinet with an annual update on the Transport Asset Management Plan (TAMP) (for copy see file of minutes).

Councillor B Stephens, Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Local Partnerships, pointed out that the Council had continued to invest in its highway assets, despite reductions in government funding and he highlighted that the Council had been awarded a maximum efficiency score by the Department for Transport and was one of only two councils nationally, to achieve accredited status for highway asset management. In moving the report, he praised the good work of the highway teams.

### **Resolved:**

That the recommendations in the report be approved.