

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

At a Meeting of **Cabinet** held in **Council Chamber, County Hall, Durham** on **Wednesday 7 July 2021** at **9.30 am**

Present:

Councillor A Hopgood in the Chair

Cabinet Members:

Councillors R Bell (Deputy Leader of the Council), T Henderson, S McDonnell, J Rowlandson, E Scott, A Shield, J Shuttleworth and M Wilkes

Apologies:

An apology for absence was received from Councillor P Sexton

Also Present:

Councillors B Avery, R Crute, S Deinali, C Hood, P Jopling, K Shaw and R Yorke

1 Public Questions

There were no public questions.

2 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2021 were agreed as a correct record to be signed by the Chair.

3 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations.

4 Medium Term Financial Plan(12), 2022/23 - 2025/26 and Review of the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme [Key Decision: CORP/R/21/02]

The Cabinet considered a report of the Interim Corporate Director of Resources which provided an update on the development of the 2022/23 budget and the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP(12)) covering the period 2022/23 to 2025/26. The report also considered a review of the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2022/23 (for copy see file of Minutes).

In response to a question from Councillor Crute about the impact of the austerity measures the council had faced since 2010, Councillor Bell provided an update and in doing so referenced that the detail was mainly to be found in the body of the report. Councillor Bell and other cabinet members thanked officers for this very comprehensive report and welcomed the budget setting timeline. They explained the significant uncertainty over local government finance, the challenges faced, issues of fair funding and with public health funding which is being taken up with central government. Until the council was made aware of the funding settlement later in the year uncertainty would continue however it was important to plan in the medium term and advised of the level of deficit based on current assumptions. Cabinet members were pleased to support the continuation of the local council tax reduction scheme.

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

5 2020/21 Final Outturn for the General Fund and Collection Fund

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

- (a) final revenue and capital outturn for the General Fund for 2020/21;
- (b) final outturn for the Council's Council Tax and Business Rates Collection Fund for 2020/21;
- (c) use of and contributions to earmarked, cash limit and general reserves in year and at year end together with the closing position regarding balances held at 31 March 2021; and
- (d) achievement of Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) (10) savings targets in 2020/21.
(for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

6 Quarter Four, 2020/21 Performance Management Report

The Cabinet considered a report of the Interim 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 Leader and cabinet members commended the staff of the council for all of their hard work during the pandemic. Whether on the front line or working at home they had worked tirelessly to provide the services and it was acknowledged that this had not been easy.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

7 County Durham Partnership Update

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

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

8 Selective Licensing - amendment to a designation

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth which provided information on a delegated decision that was made for an urgent amendment to the areas approved by Cabinet in September 2020, under the designation for areas meeting the condition of 'high levels of a significant and persistent problem with anti-social behaviour', for selective licensing (for copy see file of minutes). Councillor Rowlandson in responding to a question from Councillor Shaw provided an update on the awaited decision by the Secretary of State. He thanked the teams across the council, and in particular the regeneration, economy and growth team who had supported this and many other initiatives to create better housing and places for residents.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.