

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

At a **Special Meeting of Cabinet** held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Durham on **Wednesday 29 September 2021** at **9.30 am**

Present:

Councillor A Hopgood (Leader of the Council) in the Chair

Cabinet Members:

Councillors R Bell, T Henderson, J Rowlandson, E Scott, P Sexton and M Wilkes

Apologies:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S McDonnell, A Shield and J Shuttleworth

Also Present:

Councillors E Adam, B Avery, I Cochrane, O Gunn, C Hood, C Hunt, G Hutchinson, M Johnson, P Jopling, L Maddison, J Miller, P Molloy, K Shaw, D Sutton-Lloyd and S Zair.

1 Declarations of Interest

Councillor E Scott advised that she did not have a declaration to make however would not be participating in the discussion or decision in respect of both items relating to the durham county council headquarters. This was due to her previous involvement in matters relating to the headquarters on behalf of the city of durham parish council. She would leave the room while the matter was being considered.

In those circumstances, the Leader proposed that the agenda be re-ordered to provide for Councillor Scott only needing to leave the meeting once. Cabinet agreed to re-order the agenda items accordingly.

2 Leisure Transformation New Build Site Selection Update [Key Decision: REG/07/21]

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth which provided an update on the due diligence activities undertaken since Cabinet approved the site preferences for three proposed new build leisure facilities in March 2021 subject to further due

diligence and feasibility work. The report sought approval of the final site selection for two of the three new build leisure centres at Chester-le-Street and Bishop Auckland, and highlighted the need to carry out further due diligence on the sites at Seaham before making a final decision. The report also provided an update on the wider programme of leisure centre improvements across the County (for copy of report see file of minutes).

A number of questions were received relating to the implications for Woodhouse Close, Sunnydale, and Tindale Crescent, and responses were provided by Councillor J Rowlandson. These were from Mrs T Tucker, and Councillors M Johnson, and R Yorke (asked by Councillor E Adam) . A written response would be provided to the question submitted by Ms S Watson who could not be present at the meeting.

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

3 Review of Durham Light Infantry (DLI) Collection and Archive and the potential future use of the former DLI Museum & Art Gallery and Grounds at Aykley Heads

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth which presented the findings of the Durham Light Infantry review. The report outlined an approach to bring back into use the former building as an exhibition centre, gallery and café venue (for copy of report see file of minutes).

Councillor E Scott responded to the question from Councillor K Shaw about consultancy fees, and officer time undertaken as part of the review.

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

4 Quarter One, 2021/22 Performance Management Report

The Cabinet considered a report of the Interim Corporate Director of Resources which presented an overview of progress towards achieving the key outcomes of the council's corporate performance framework and highlighted key messages to inform strategic priorities and work programmes. The report covered performance in and to the end of quarter one, April to June, 2021.

Cabinet members welcomed the comprehensive report, and thanked staff who continue to go above and beyond to deliver services.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

Councillor E Scott left the room.

5 Review of Durham County Council Headquarters

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth and Interim Corporate Director of Resources on the review of Durham County Council Headquarters. The report follows the decision made by Cabinet on 16 June 2021, that a review be carried out into the options for use of the newly constructed Durham County Council Headquarters at the Sands in Durham City. The review report provided Cabinet with the evidence from the review findings and made a series of recommendations linked to the evidence (for copy of report see file of minutes).

A number of questions were received by members. These were from Councillors K Shaw, E Adam, A Surtees (asked by Councillor J Miller), O Gunn, and D Sutton-Lloyd. These included costs of the review, the sale of the new building, occupancy of the current building by staff, effect on job creation, decision making, and the common land inquiry. These were responded to by Councillor R Bell.

Members thanked officers for all of their work in bringing this report to Cabinet in the short timeline.

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

6 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 item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely discussion of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

7 Review of Durham County Council Headquarters

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth and Interim Corporate Director of Resources on the review of Durham County Council Headquarters (for copy of report see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the report be approved.