

Electoral division(s) affected:

All

Purpose of the Report

To provide information to the Council on issues considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 14 June 2023 to enable Members to ask related questions by no later than midday 3 working days before the day of the meeting

Contents

Item 1 – Annual Enforcement Programme. Tackling underage sales of age restricted products and sales of illicit and non-compliant age restricted goods

Item 2 - County Durham Housing Strategy Principles and Priorities Paper

Item 3 - Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans

Item 4 - Barningham Parish Meeting: Application for Order Conferring Functions of a Parish Council

Item 5 - Home to School Transport Services – Consultation Outcomes

1. Annual Enforcement Programme. Tackling underage sales of age restricted products and sales of illicit and non-compliant age restricted goods – Cabinet Portfolio Holder – Councillor John Shuttleworth, Portfolio Holder for Rural Communities and Highways

We considered a report of the Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change which reviewed enforcement activities relating to the underage sales and illicit age restricted products over the period April 2022 to March 2023 and sought approval of a new enforcement programme for 2023/2024.

Decision

We

- (a) noted the enforcement activity undertaken during 2022/2023;
- (b) approved the proposed enforcement programme for 2023/2024

2. County Durham Housing Strategy Principles and Priorities Paper – Cabinet Portfolio Holder – Councillor James Rowlandson, Portfolio Holder for Resources, Investment and Assets

We considered a report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth which sought agreement to the Housing Strategy Principles and Priorities Paper which was attached at Appendix 2 for public consultation.

Decision

We

- (a) agreed the Housing Strategy Principles and Priorities Paper for consultation from 26 June 2023 to 18 August 2023;
- (b) delegated authority to the Corporate Director for Regeneration Economy and Growth in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Investments and Assets to prepare and consult on a draft Housing Strategy based on the outcome and feedback received from the consultation on the Housing Strategy Principles and Priorities Paper; and
- (c) requested that a report be presented to a future meeting of the Cabinet in Spring 2024 advising of the outcome of the consultation on the draft Housing Strategy and seeking approval of the final Housing Strategy.

3. Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans – Cabinet Portfolio Holder – Councillor E Scott, Portfolio Holder for Economy and Partnerships

We considered a report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth which sought approval to formally adopt eight further Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs) for Bishop Auckland, Consett, Crook, Peterlee, Seaham, Spennymoor, Shildon and Stanley.

Decision

We approved the remaining eight LCWIPs for Bishop Auckland, Consett, Crook, Peterlee, Seaham, Spennymoor, Shildon and Stanley.

4 Barningham Parish Meeting: Application for Order Conferring Functions of a Parish Council – Cabinet Portfolio Holder – Councillor R Bell, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance

We considered a report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services regarding an application which had been made by Barningham Parish Meeting for an order conferring upon it functions of a parish council.

Decision:

We:

- (1) Agreed that by Order under section 109 of the Local Government Act 1972 conferred upon Barningham Parish Meeting those of the powers available to a parish council to incur expenditure set out in the draft Order appended to the report;
- (2) Delegated authority to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to execute the said Order and send copies to the Secretary of State, subject to Barningham Parish Meeting agreeing to discharge the cost of any additional insurance premium associated with the indemnity mentioned at (3) below; and
- (3) Agreed that an indemnity be provided to the Proper Officer of Durham County Council for the purposes of undertaking the duties of a Parish Trustee under Section 13 of the Local Government Act 1972.

5 Home to School Transport Services – Consultation Outcomes – Cabinet Portfolio Holders - Councillor T Henderson, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People’s Services, Councillor R Bell, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Finance and Councillor E Scott, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Economic Regeneration and Partnerships

We considered a joint report of the Corporate Director of Children and Young People’s Services, Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth and Corporate Director of Resources which presented the outcomes of the public consultation on Durham County Council’s Home to School Transport Service for Children and Young People.

Decision

We agreed

- (a) a charge for the Standard and Maintained Concessionary scheme of £2.00 to align to the Bus Service Improvement Plan offer for the 2023/24 academic year;
- (b) that in the event of the withdrawal of this fare in the future, that the annual charge for the concessionary schemes be aligned to commercial child travel fares;
- (c) in principle to phase out the Maintained Concessionary scheme subject to further appraisals of the options available to achieve this and their associated impact on stakeholders and Transport arrangements, with a further report to Cabinet on the findings and recommendations;
- (d) to undertake a review of the needs of those individual children who are in receipt of single person transport and/or a passenger

- assistant to ensure that the most appropriate transport assistance relevant to their needs is provided;
- (e) to review the existing Personal Travel Budget Scheme and promote this as a travel option to parents;
 - (f) to develop a Travel Training scheme in partnership with schools and parents;
 - (g) to undertake a trial of Pickup Points for Children with SEND to assess the effectiveness of this option, which is developed in coproduction with a small number of Special Schools and parents;
 - (h) to review those routes which are currently assessed as unsafe to determine the feasibility of making them safe and also review the current configuration of school transport journeys with an initial focus on those schools which have the highest number of vehicles and/or cost associated with transporting pupils to their school;
 - (i) to review the suggestions and alternative procurement options raised during the consultation, especially those which can have the most impact on efficiency, effectiveness, safety and environmental issues;
 - (j) to receive reports on any future potential changes to Home to School Transport Policy arising from the recommended programme of work outlined in the report

Background Papers

Cabinet Agenda and Reports

[Cabinet - 14 June 2023](#)

Councillor A Hopgood,
Leader of the Council
11 July 2023