

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a **Special meeting of Cabinet** held in the **Council Chamber, County Hall, Durham** on **Tuesday 29 August 2023** at **9.30 am**

Present:

Councillor A Hoggood (Leader of the Council)

Cabinet Members:

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

Apologies:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Chris Hood, Councillor Susan McDonnell and Councillor John Shuttleworth

1 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest in relation to the item of business on the agenda.

2 Amendments to the Charitable Scheme Brandon Colliery Miners' Welfare Hall

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth and the Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change which sought approval from Cabinet, acting in its role as Trustee of the Charitable Scheme known as Brandon Colliery Miners' Welfare Hall, to approach the Charity Commission to alter the scheme. Approval was also sought to delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth to complete the actions needed to alter the scheme.

In moving the report, Councillor J Rowlandson, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Resources, Investment and Assets explained that the charitable scheme in operation Brandon Community Association did not have any form of written agreement. The most appropriate way to address the issue was to vary the existing conditions in conjunction with the Charity Commission and thus enable Brandon Community Association to have a legal interest in the hall to both enable and attract future capital investment.

Councillor M Wilkes, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Climate Change explained that a lot of work had been previously across the County in terms of encouraging and building strong groups and committees. Brandon Welfare Hall had an excellent committee. In this specific case, neither the council nor the occupier had beneficial ownership. On that basis it was difficult to understand how any funding could be secured to ensure the long-term sustainability of the centre for the local community. Councillor Wilkes was fully supportive to move forward with this viable solution for the community of Brandon.

Resolved:

That the recommendation in the report be approved.