

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Cabinet** held at the County Hall, Durham on **Wednesday 25 January 2012 at 10.00 a.m.**

Present:

Councillor S Henig in the Chair

Cabinet Members:

Councillors Foster, Hovvels, Napier, Nicholls, Plews, Stephens, Vasey and B Young

Other Members:

Councillors Armstrong, Arthur, Bailey, Blakey, Carr, Chaplow, Dixon, Gray, N Harrison, Hopgood, E Huntington, Jopling, Martin, Naylor, Rowlandson, Stradling, Temple, Todd, Tomlinson, Wilkes, Wilkinson and Williams

1 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 December 2011 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

**3 Review of Learning Disability Respite services and recommendations on changes to the in- house services
Key Decision AWH/03/11**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Adults, Wellbeing and Health that presented findings following the review of Durham County Council (DCC) learning disability respite services, and made recommendations on the future of Dean Lodge in light of the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP), and taking account of the results of the consultation detailed in the report (for copy see file of Minutes).

Cabinet members explained the difficult decisions that they were being required to make as a result of the financial constraints on the Authority, and provided assurances that if they did agree to close Dean Lodge, service users would continue to receive respite services and that the Authority would work closely with them on the transition to an alternative provision.

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

**4 Management Options Appraisal Phase 1: Setting up of a Charitable Trust to Manage the Council's Sport, Leisure, Cultural and Library Services
Key Decision NS/05/2011**

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services and Corporate Director, Adults Wellbeing and Health which set out details of the Management Options Appraisal undertaken to establish the most suitable option(s) available for the future management of a range of services including Sport and Leisure, facilities and services, Museums, Libraries, and Outdoor learning centre at Middleton-in-Teesdale. An 'in principle' decision was sought for the potential transfer of some, or all, of these services to a Non-Profit Distributing Organisation (NPDO) subject to further work to establish the best option for the Council whilst agreeing a project plan and milestones to deliver this project (for copy see file of Minutes).

Clarification was provided to Councillor Jopling on the questions she had raised concerning the impact that a charitable trust would have on community facilities in her area.

In response to questions raised, Cabinet members explained that at this stage various options would be explored, and that members were encouraged to take part in the consultation process, prior to a report being brought back for Cabinet to consider in September.

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

5 Annual Report of the Director of Public Health County Durham and Director of Public Health Darlington 2010/11

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Public Health, County Durham that presented the joint 2010/11 annual report of the Director of Public Health for County Durham and the Director of Public Health for Darlington (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

6 NHS Reforms

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director of Adults, Wellbeing and Health, and Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services that provided an update on recent developments in relation to NHS reforms (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

7 Transfer of Public Health Functions to Local Authority

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Public Health, County Durham that provided an update on recent developments related to the transition of some public health functions to local authorities from 1 April 2013 (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

Prior to the next item of business, the Leader of the Council and other cabinet members congratulated all those involved in the Children and Young People's service on the judgment recently announced by Ofsted following their inspection of the Safeguarding and Looked After Children service. The service was only the second local authority in the country to be graded as outstanding overall in this area of work.

8 Children and Young People's Services: Ofsted Assessments and Inspections

The Cabinet noted a report of the Corporate Director, Children and Young People's Services that provided the outcomes of the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills' (Ofsted) Annual Performance Assessment of services for children in County Durham, together with the outcomes of Ofsted inspection activity in a range of settings provided by the County Council (for copy see file of Minutes).

9 Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership: Governance

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development that provided an overview of current governance and management arrangements for the Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership (HoT) within the framework of the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) national scheme; its relationship with Durham County Council (DCC) and Barnard Castle Vision (BCV); and recommendations as to the future governance of the Partnership during the main implementation phase, programmed to last from late 2011 to early 2016 (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

10 North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Building Design Guide And Planning Guidelines

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development that considered the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Building Design Guide and Planning Guidelines and which sought agreement to recommend that Council endorses them as supplementary guidance to be included as part of the County Durham Plan (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

11 European Social Fund, Families with Multiple Problems Programme

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development, Corporate Director, Children and Young People's Services and Corporate Director, Adults Well Being and Health that provided an update on the Department for Work and Pension's preferred bidder for the North East Contract Package Area (CPA) to deliver the European Social Fund (ESF) Support for Families with Multiple Problems provision and identified the implications for County Durham, and which sought approval for the Corporate Director to utilise delegated powers to enter into negotiations and complete contract documentation and deliver the programme in County Durham (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

13 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 items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the said Act.

14 The Former Easington Colliery School

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development relating to the Former Easington Colliery School (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.