

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Cabinet** held at the County Hall, Durham on **Wednesday 8 February 2012 at 10.00 a.m.**

Present:

Councillor S Henig in the Chair

Cabinet Members:

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

Other Members:

Councillors Armstrong, Arthur, Bailey, Blakey, Chaplow, Graham, Gray, N Harrison, Hopgood, Jopling, D Myers, R Ord, Simmons, Todd, Turnbull, Wilkes, Wilkinson. Williams and Zair

1 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2 Medium Term Financial Plan 2012/13 – 2015/16 and Revenue and Capital Budget 2012/13

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director, Resources and Assistant Chief Executive that provided comprehensive information to enable Cabinet to make recommendations for a 2012/13 balanced budget to the County Council meeting on 22 February 2012 (for copy see file of Minutes).

Cabinet members spoke at length about the financial position that the Authority was in due to the unprecedented levels of cuts of funding. All those involved in the budget setting process were thanked for their hard work, which would allow Cabinet to make recommendations for a balanced budget to Council.

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

3 Housing Revenue Account Medium Term Financial Plan 2012/13 to 2016/17 and 2012/13 Budget

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director, Resources and Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development that provided information to enable Cabinet to make recommendations on the Council's Housing

Revenue Account (HRA) Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for 2012/13 to 2016/17 and the 2012/13 budget to the County Council meeting on 22 February 2012 (for copy see file of Minutes).

It was pointed out that the recommendations in the report be amended to reflect that the principles used to split the Council's loans into two separate pools, be as outlined in paragraph 38 of the report, and not 36 as printed.

Resolved:-

That the recommendations in the report be made to full Council.

4 Council Plan and Service Plans 2012 - 2016

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive that provided a draft of the Council Plan for 2012-16 for consideration and comment before being submitted for approval by Council on 22 February 2012 (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

5 Update on the Delivery of the 2011/2015 Medium Term Financial Plan

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive that provided an update on the progress made at the end of quarter 3 on the delivery of the 2011/12 to 2014/15 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

6 Library Strategy

Key Decision AWH04/11

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Adults Wellbeing and Health that sought approval for consultation on the Council's strategy for library services, and proposals to deliver the Medium-Term Financial Plan savings in respect of library services. It described proposals for changes to the County's library services, which will require public consultation, as well as setting out proposals for the future management of library services (for copy see file of Minutes).

It was pointed out that there had already been submissions received, and that these would be included as part of the consultation exercise.

In response to questions raised, clarification was provided on the criteria used for the difference in the proposed number of opening hours between the town centre libraries as opposed to the community libraries. Cabinet members pointed out that although the proposals for consultation were that most libraries would be operating at reduced hours, all would remain open.

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.