

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Cabinet** held at the County Hall, Durham on **Wednesday 18 April 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, E Bell, J Bell, Blakey, Bleasdale, Carr, Chaplow, Dixon, Graham, Gray, N Harrison, Hugill, Lethbridge, Naylor, R Ord, Shuttleworth, Stelling, Stradling, Temple, Todd, Walker and Williams

1 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meetings held on 29 February and 7 March 2012 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3 Review of Access to and Provision of Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) Key Decision NS/08/11

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services which provided the outcomes from the public consultation of the Household Waste Recycling Centre Review, and recommended the level of HWRC service in County Durham that will form the basis of the upcoming re-procurement of contracts to operate the sites through a competitive tender process, and the alterations to current operational policies in relation to HWRC Permits, acceptable vehicles and opening hours (for copy see file of Minutes).

In response to comments made by Councillors Stelling and Temple about the Broomsdene site at Consett, Cabinet members spoke at length about the site and the reasons for it not being viable to keep open.

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

**4 Seaham and Murton Masterplan
Key Decision R&ED/05/12**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development that sought approval of the masterplan that provides the detailed programme of activity that is taking place or is planned in Seaham and Murton by the Council and its partners (for copy see file of Minutes).

Councillor E Bell advised of his support for the plan, and spoke about the regeneration of the area.

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

**5 Crook Masterplan
Key Decision R&ED/04/12**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development that provided information on a programme of proposed regeneration intervention for Crook, and timescales for the delivery of initial elements of the proposed programme (for copy see file of Minutes).

Councillor Bailey expressed his support for the plan and of the excellent work being undertaken on the regeneration of the town. In the absence of Councillor Tomlinson, Councillor Foster advised of the member's support for the masterplan.

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

**6 Bishop Auckland Masterplan
Key Decision R&ED/06/12**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development that provides the detailed programme of activity that is taking place or is planned in Bishop Auckland by the Council and our partners (for copy see file of Minutes).

Councillor Lethbridge advised of his support for the plan, and that through regeneration the area is changing and attracting many more visitors.

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

7 Children and Young People's Services: Ofsted inspection of local authority Fostering Service

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Children and Young People's Service that provided the outcomes of the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) inspection of Durham County Council Fostering Service (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Corporate Director, Children and Young People's Service emphasised that all seven judgments were outstanding, and that no single recommendation for improvement had been made. He thanked the officers in his service for this remarkable achievement. Cabinet members congratulated the Corporate Director and his staff.

Resolved:-

That the report be noted.

8 Localisation of Council Tax Benefit: Introduction of the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme from 1 April 2013

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Resources that provided an overview of the Government's proposals to localise Council Tax Benefit, through the introduction of the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme from 1 April 2013, and to highlight the potential implications for the Council and its residents (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

9 Armed Forces Community Covenant

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive that recommended the Council enters into a Community Covenant with the Armed Forces to support the active Armed Forces community in County Durham as well as ex service personnel and their families (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

10 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 report be received.

11 Evaluation of the 2011 Lumiere Festival

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director, Adults Well Being and Health, and Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development on the evaluation work which has been undertaken on the 2011 Lumiere programme and the next steps to be taken to ensure that a complete picture is available to members when they consider whether to commission a Lumiere programme for 2013 (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

12 Annual Enforcement Programme Children and Young Persons (Protection from Tobacco) Act 1991 and Anti Social Behaviour Act 2003

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services that reviewed enforcement activities under the Children and Young Persons (Protection from Tobacco) Act 1991, the Anti-social Behaviour Act and the Licensing Act 2003 for the period April 2011 to March 2012 and sought approval of a new enforcement programme for 2012/13 (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

13 Annual Review of the Constitution

The Cabinet considered a report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services that presented proposals for the revision of the Council's Constitution (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services advised of an additional revision to the delegations to the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services relating to the determination of applications for approval of drainage systems.

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved, together with the additional delegation referred to by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

14 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 1 of Schedule 12A to the said Act.

15 Waste Disposal and Treatment Services

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Resources relating to the Waste Disposal and Treatment Services, and the Waste Management Company.

Resolved:-

That the recommendations in the report be approved.