

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Cabinet** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Spennymoor on **Wednesday 12 September 2012 at 10.00 a.m.**

Present:

Councillor S Henig in the Chair

Cabinet Members:

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

Other Members:

Councillors K Thompsn, Todd, and Williams.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Stephens.

1 Minutes

The Minutes of the meetings held on 11 and 24 July 2012 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman (for copy see file of Minutes).

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3 Tax Discount on Unoccupied Properties. Key Decision CORP/R/12/01

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Resources which set out a proposed Local Council Tax Support Scheme (LCTS) to be implemented from 1 April 2013 and proposed a number of technical changes to Council Tax discounts on empty properties in order to generate additional council tax income for the Council with effect from 1 April 2013 (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

**4 Introduction of a Countywide Allotment Lettings Policy
Key Decision NS/16/12**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services which provided an update following the consultation exercise undertaken in relation to the introduction of a countywide allotment lettings policy, and sought authorisation for the updated policy to be formally adopted (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

5 The County Durham Plan: Evidence Base

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development which sought approval for a number of evidence base documents that support the preparation of the County Durham Plan (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

6 Quarter 1 2012/13 Performance Management Report

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which presented progress against the council's corporate basket of performance indicators (PIs) and report other significant performance issues for the first quarter of 2012/13 (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

7 Update on the delivery of the Medium Term Financial Plan 2

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which provided an update on the progress made at the end of the first quarter this year on the delivery of the 2012/13 to 2015/16 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP 2) (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

8 Forecast of Revenue and Capital Outturn 2012/13 for General Fund and Housing Revenue Account – Period to 30 June 2012

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which provided a forecast of 2012/13 revenue and capital outturn for the period to 30 June 2012 for the Council's General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

9 Social Care Reform

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services which provided a summary of the following documents published by the Department of Health on 11th July 2012 (for copy see file of Minutes):

- Reforming Care and Support White Paper
- Draft Care and Support Bill
- Progress Report on Social Care Funding

Resolved:-

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

10 Redesign of County Durham Care and Support Day Services

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services which presented findings following the review of County Durham Care & Support (CDCS) in house day services, reported the outcome of a consultation on a proposed re-design and reconfiguration and made

recommendations in light of the need to make services more inclusive; ensure value for money; and meet the requirements of the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services highlighted amendments to the report, one in paragraph 62 which should read: The consultation on the redesign of CDCS day services has identified that a majority of service users believe that the changes proposed would have a negative impact on them (31.9% thought the impact would be major and a further 20.6% thought it would be minor). Their concerns focus largely on the sustainability of the alternative premises; changes to meals arrangements; and the difficulty of changing services for vulnerable people and affecting their established routine. The other amendment to the Equality Impact Assessment on page 275 which referred to question 9 of the consultation questionnaire which should read:

- Over a half of respondents felt that the proposed changes would have a major or minor negative impact.

Resolved:-

That the amendments to the report be noted, and the recommendations contained in the report be approved.