

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Cabinet** held in Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham on **Wednesday 19 December 2012 at 10.00 am**

Present:

Councillor S Henig (in the Chair)

Cabinet Members:

Councillors Foster, Hovvels, Napier, Nicholls, Plews, Robson, Stephens

Also Present:

Councillors J Armstrong, Blakey, Bowman, M Dixon, J Gray, N Harrison, G Huntington, R Ord, Shuttleworth, Stradling, and J Turnbull

Apologies:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Napier, Vasey and B Young

1 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2 Local Council Tax Support Scheme, Review of Discretionary Council Tax Discount on Unoccupied Properties and Calculation of Council Tax Base 2013/14

Key Decision: CORP/R/12/02

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Resources which provided detail of the outcome of the consultation on the Local Council tax Support Scheme (LCTSS) and the proposed changes to Council tax discounts on empty properties, including second homes, plus the withdrawal of the 'double taxation' payments currently provided to some parish and town councils (for copy see file of minutes).

In responding to a question from Councillor G Huntington, Cabinet members advised of the assistance that the Authority was proposing to provide to help Town and Parish Councils manage the changes introduced by the Government.

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

3 Medium Term Financial Plan (3), Council Plan and Service Plans 2013/14 - 2016/17

Key Decision: CORP/A/10/12/1

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director, Resources and Assistant Chief Executive which provided and update on the following:

- (i) Autumn Statement and Local Government Finance Settlement.
- (ii) 2013/14 Budget.
- (iii) Development of the 2013/14 – 2016/17 MTFP (3) Model.
- (iv) MTFP consultation to date.
- (v) Equality Impact Assessments.
(for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be agreed.

4 Welfare reform update

Key Decision: CORP/A/12/12/2

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which provided an update on policy developments in relation to Welfare Reform including what action the council is taking to prepare for the implementation of the reforms and sought approval to the proposed approach to the localisation of the Social Fund in County Durham (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be agreed.

5 Exclusion of the Public

Resolved:

That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item 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.

6 Sale of Land at Pont Lane, Leadgate

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development which sought authority to exchange a parcel of land at Watling Wood, Villa Real, Consett which is currently held in a statutory capacity for a parcel of land lying to the north east of Fourth Street, Leadgate (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be agreed.