

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Cabinet** held in Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham on **Wednesday 10 April 2013 at 10.00 a.m.**

Present:

Councillor S Henig (Leader of the Council)

Members of the Committee:

Councillors Foster, Hovvels, Napier, Nicholls, Plews and C Robson

Apologies:

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

Also Present:

Councillors Armstrong, Arthur, Carr, Shuttleworth, Todd, Tomlinson and Williams

The Leader in making reference to the meeting being the last prior to the local elections on 2 May 2013, thanked all of the Cabinet members for their hard work during the term, and paid particular thanks to Councillors Vasey and B Young who were not standing for re-election.

1 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2013 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3 School Admission Arrangements Academic Year 2014/15 Key Decision CAS/01/12

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services which presented the proposed admission arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools for the 2014/15 academic year. It is a statutory requirement of all admission authorities that admission arrangements for 2014/15 are determined by 15 April 2013 and published on their website not later than 1 May 2013 (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

4 NHS reforms and the transfer of public health functions to Durham County Council

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services and the Director of Public Health County Durham which provided an update on developments in relation to NHS reforms, including the transfer of public health functions to Durham County Council from NHS County Durham (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Leader thanked all those involved in the transfer of functions to the Authority.

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

5 Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy 2012-15

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services and Director of Public Health County Durham which provided an update on the County Durham Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy 2012/15 (for copy see file of Minutes).

Cabinet members expressed their thanks for the work undertaken across the Partnership.

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

6 Annual Report of the Director of Public Health, County Durham and Director of Public Health, Darlington 2011/12

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services and Director of Public Health County Durham which presented the joint 2011/12 annual report of the Director of Public Health, County Durham and Director of Public Health, Darlington (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

7 Educational Attainment/ Standard Report 2012

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services which set out the results from Key Stage 2 tests and GCSE (and equivalent) examinations for 2012. These are seen as the key outcome measures for Primary and Secondary education respectively (for copy see file of Minutes).

Cabinet members in referring to the high standard of results achieved, thanked all those involved for their dedication and hard work, which together with the investment made had led to the level of improvement in performance.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

8 School Funding Reforms 2013/14 & Schools Financial Performance Monitoring

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director, Resources and Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services which provided an update on changes to the way in which schools are funded, and the impact on schools and Council services as a result of those changes. In addition the report sought to review the existing financial governance arrangements within schools regarding budgetary control performance (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

9 Housing Benefits Service Update

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Resources which provided a progress report on the improvements made in the Housing Benefits Services during 2012/13 (for copy see file of Minutes).

Cabinet members asked that their thanks be conveyed to officers in the benefits service for the improvements and the excellent recovery in service that had been made.

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

10 New Byelaws for Acupuncture, Tattooing, Semi-permanent Skin Colouring, Cosmetic Piercing and Electrolysis

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services which sought approval to create new byelaws in respect of acupuncture, tattooing, semi-permanent skin colouring, cosmetic piercing and electrolysis. This followed a report to Council on 20 February 2013 that adopted the legislation to enable the local authority to create byelaws (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

11 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 which presented details of 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 2012 to March 2013 and sought approval of the proposed enforcement programme for 2013/14 (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

12 County Durham Partnership Update

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which provided an update on issues being addressed by the County Durham Partnership (CDP) including summaries from the Board, the five Thematic Partnerships and all Area Action Partnerships (AAPs). The report also included updates on other key initiatives being carried out in partnership across the County (for copy see file of Minutes).

Cabinet members referred to the high level of participation by members of the public in the AAPs meetings and organised events, which were very successful and nationally recognised.

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

13 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.

14 Freemans Reach, Durham

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development and Corporate Director, Resources which sought approval relating to the terms to lease a new Office Building and Energy Centre at Freemans Reach, Durham (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.