

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Cabinet** held in Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham on **Wednesday 20 November 2013 at 10.00 a.m.**

Present:

Councillor S Henig (Leader of the Council) in the Chair

Members of Cabinet:

Councillors N Foster, L Hovvels, O Johnson, A Napier, M Nicholls, M Plews, B Stephens and E Tomlinson

Apologies:

An apology for absence was received from Councillor J Brown

Other members:

Councillors J Armstrong, D Bell, J Chaplow, J Clare, M Dixon, J Gray, O Gunn, S Guy, I Jewell, C Kay, C Potts, J Shuttleworth, P Stradling and R Todd.

1 Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 9 and 30 October 2013 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2 Declarations of interest

Councillor E Tomlinson, declared an interest in item 7, due to his position as Chairman of North Pennines AONB.

3 Proposal to change the age range of Sacriston Nursery and Infant School from 3-7 to 3-11 from 1 September 2014 to create a Primary School and to discontinue the use of Sacriston Junior School from 31 August 2014 Key Decision: CAS/05/13

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Children and Adult Services which sought approval to change the age range of Sacriston Nursery and Infant School from 3-7 to 3-11 from 1 September 2014 to create a Primary School and to discontinue the use of Sacriston Junior School from 31 August 2014 (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

- 4 Proposal to change the age range of Delves Lane Junior School from 7-11 to 3-11 from 1 April 2014 to create a Primary School and to discontinue the use of Delves Lane Infant School from 31 March 2014**
Key Decision: CAS/04/13

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director , Children and Adult Services which sought approval to change the age range at Delves Lane Junior School from 7-11 to 3 – 11 from 1 April 2014 to create a primary School and to discontinue the use of Delves Lane Infants School from 31 March 2014 (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

- 5 Shildon Masterplan**
Key Decision: R&ED/01/13

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director Regeneration and Economic Development which provided a detailed programme of activity that would be undertaken in the Shildon town centre over the next 3-5 years to ensure future sustainability through investment and marketing of the town's key development opportunities.

The Masterplan also provided the strategic context for delivery and sought to establish key principles to co-ordinate and guide this activity (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

- 6 Energy Reduction Proposals for Chilton: Creation of a Social Enterprise**
Key Decision: R&ED/04/13

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director Regeneration and Economic Development which advised of recent progress towards creating a social enterprise group in the Chilton community for the delivery of the Green Energy Fund, and sought agreement for the selection, administration and governance procedures of such a group (for copy see file of minutes).

Cabinet members congratulated all those who had been involved in setting up the group. Councillor C Potts, one of the local members who had been involved expressed her thanks and appreciation for the assistance provided.

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

7 Street Lighting Policy Review
Key Decision: NS/21/13

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director Neighbourhood Services which sought approval for adoption of a revised Street Lighting policy following consultation (for copy see file of minutes).

Councillor Shuttleworth sought clarification on why there is a general presumption that street lighting should not be provided in national parks, areas of outstanding national beauty, sites of scientific interest and other dark areas, and suggested that if implemented this may be detrimental to road safety and fear of crime. In responding Councillor Stephens advised that the policy details where street lighting would be provided, and in-line with national standards it should not be provided on rural roads in this zone due to light pollution and loss of amenity. It would still be provided if there was an overriding road safety issue which could not be overcome through other means, and lighting will not be removed from residential areas whether in urban or rural areas. He advised that there will be consultation with local members, and Town and Parish Councils on the removal of any street light.

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

8 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 further included updates on other key initiatives being carried out in partnership across the County (for copy see file of Minutes).

Cabinet members commented upon the high level of public participation and success of the AAPs consultation events on the Council's MTFP. Members of the public were able to discuss council services and influence how the savings could be achieved. Although the events were ongoing, with the final ones in December, members thanked all those who had been involved.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

9 Quarter 2 2013/14 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 reported other significant performance issues for the second quarter of 2013/14.

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

10 Update on the delivery of the Medium Term Financial Plan 3

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which provided an update on the progress made at the end of September 2013 on the delivery of the 2013/14 to 2016/17 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP3) (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

11 Review of Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS), Council Plan and Service Plans

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which provided an update on the development of the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) and Council Plan and agreed the draft objectives and outcomes for each priority theme. The report also includes feedback from the County Durham Partnership (CDP) Away Day and Member seminars and next steps (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

12 Mid-Year Report for the Period to 30 September 2013 on Treasury Management Service

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director Resources which provided a mid year treasury review, alongside a forward looking annual treasury strategy and backward looking performance, against the previous strategy (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

13 Forecast of Revenue and Capital Outturn 2013/14 for General Fund and Housing Revenue Account

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director Resources which provided a forecast of 2013/14 revenue and capital outturn for the period to 30 September 2013 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.

14 Exclusion of the Public

Resolved:

That under Section 100(A) 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.

15 Assistance Given Towards Strategic Companies in County Durham

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director Regeneration and Economic Development and Corporate Director, Resources relating to the Assistance Given Towards Strategic Companies in County Durham (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.