

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Cabinet** held in **Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham** on **Wednesday 19 March 2014** at **10.00 a.m.**

Present:

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

Members of Cabinet:

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

Apologies:

An apology for absence was received from Councillor N Foster

Other Members:

Councillors J Armstrong, D Bell, C Carr, J Clare, M Dixon, S Graham, S Guy, I Jewell, R Lumsdon, J Shuttleworth, T Smith, P Stradling, R Todd and M Williams

1 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 February 2014 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2 Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

3 Council Plan and Service Plans 2014 - 2017

Key Decision: CORP/A/03/14/01

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive on the draft Council Plan for 2014-17 before being submitted for approval by Council on 2 April 2014 (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

4 School Admission Arrangements Academic Year 2015/2016

Key Decision: CAS/03/14

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services on the proposed admission arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools for the 2015/16 academic year (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

5 County Durham Plan and Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule: Submission

Key Decision: R&ED/01/14

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development which advised on the comments received following the final statutory consultation on the Pre-Submission Draft version of the County Durham Plan and the Community Infrastructure Levy Draft Charging Schedule (for copy see file of minutes).

Cabinet members referred to the extensive consultation process that had been undertaken, and thanked all those who had been involved.

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

6 Homesteading Scheme

Key Decision: R&ED/03/14

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development which sought approval for the introduction of a discounted sales scheme for long term empty homes owned by either the Council or housing associations in County Durham (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

7 Review of the Garden Waste Collection Service

Key Decision: NS/19/13

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director Neighbourhood Services which detailed the results of the garden waste consultation, and, sought approval to introduce a charge for the collection of garden waste from the kerbside from 2015 (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

8 Forecast of Revenue and Capital Outturn for the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account – Period to 31 December 2013

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 31 December 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.

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

The Cabinet received a report of the Assistant Chief Executive updating on the progress made at the end of December 2013 on the delivery of the 2013/14 to 2016/17 Medium Term Financial Plan (for copy see file of minutes).

Cabinet members commented on the successful processes that were in place to deliver the plan, and congratulated all for their involvement.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

10 Quarter 3 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 and reported on other significant performance issues for the third quarter of 2013/14 (for copy see file of minutes).

Cabinet members were pleased to report that 80% of the reported indicators were either approaching, meeting or exceeding targets. Members commented on some of the achievements that had been made by the Authority, and were delighted that the Council had been awarded the 2014 Local Government Chronicle 'Council of the Year'.

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

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11 Sustainable Community Strategy

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which presented the renewed Sustainable Community Strategy is the overarching plan for County Durham which sets out our optimistic and ambitious vision for the future and sets the direction for the work of the County Durham Partnership (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendation contained in the report be approved.

12 The Early Years Strategy

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director Children and Adults Services which presented The Early Years Strategy which sets out the council and partners' ambitions to deliver high quality support and provision for children from pre-birth to 5 years old (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

13 Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services which presented the Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report which sets out the work of multi-agency partners to ensure effective arrangements are in place to safeguard and protect vulnerable children and young people from abuse and neglect. The report sets out achievements in 2012/13 and priorities and challenges for 2014 (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.