

## **DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL**

At a Meeting of **Cabinet** held in **Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham** on **Wednesday 10 June 2015** at **10.00 am**

### **Present:**

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

### **Members of Cabinet:**

Councillors A Napier (Deputy Leader of the Council), J Brown, N Foster, L Hovvels, O Johnson, M Plews, B Stephens and E Tomlinson

### **Also Present:**

Councillors J Armstrong, J Clare, P Conway, I Geldard, B Graham, N Martin, H Nicholson, P Stradling, A Surtees and M Wilkes

### **1 Public Questions**

There were no questions received from members of the public.

### **2 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 April 2015 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **3 Declarations of interest**

Councillors Plews and Tomlinson declared interest in item 5 due to their positions on the County Durham Housing Group Board, and took no part in the discussion of the item.

### **4 Proposal to Enlarge Sherburn Village Primary School from 1 September 2015 and to close Sherburn Hill Primary School as a separate school on 31 August 2015**

**Key Decision: CAS/01/15**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services (for copy see file of Minutes) which sought approval to enlarge Sherburn Village Primary School from 1 September 2015 and to close Sherburn Hill Primary School as a separate school on 31 August 2015.

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

**5 Housing Stock Transfer - Completion Update**  
**Key Decision: R&ED/01/15**

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development and the Corporate Director, Resources (for copy see file of Minutes) which updated Cabinet on the completion of the transfer of ownership of the Council's housing stock to the new County Durham Housing Group Ltd and its component housing management organisations; Dale & Valley Homes Ltd, Durham City Homes Ltd and East Durham Homes Ltd on 13 April 2015.

The Cabinet thanked all those who had been involved in the transfer which had been a detailed and lengthy process.

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

**6 Update on the delivery of the Medium Term Financial Plan 4**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive (for copy see file of Minutes) which confirmed that the 2014/15 to 2015/16 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP 4) had been successfully delivered.

**Resolved:**

That the report be noted.

**7 Quarter 4 2014/15 Performance Management**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive (for copy see file of Minutes) which presented progress against the council's corporate basket of performance indicators and reported other performance issues for the 2014/15 financial year.

**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 (for copy see file of Minutes) which provided an update on issues being addressed by the County Durham Partnership and detailed key initiatives being carried out in partnership across the County.

### **Resolved:**

That the report be noted.

## **9 Corporate Complaints Review**

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Assistant Chief Executive and the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services (for copy see file of Minutes) which requested approval of the revised Corporate Complaints Policy.

### **Resolved:**

That the recommendation contained in the report be approved.

## **10 Educational Attainment/Standards Report 2014-15**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services (for copy see file of Minutes) which summarised the support and intervention provided to ensure the best educational outcomes for children and young people in Durham. The report detailed results from tests and examinations at Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4/5 for 2014.

Cabinet members commented on the excellent results, and this was a good news story. They congratulated all who have been involved including young people, schools, and the school improvement service.

### **Resolved:**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

## **11 Safe Durham Partnership Plan Refresh 2015-18**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services (for copy see file of Minutes) which presented the refresh of the Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2015-18 for agreement.

### **Resolved:**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

**12 Local Government Declaration on Alcohol**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services (for copy see file of Minutes) which provided an overview of the development and purpose of the Local Government Declaration on Alcohol.

**Resolved:**

The recommendation contained in the report be approved.

**13 Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) County Durham**

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services and Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development (for copy see file of Minutes) which outlined action being taken to secure Youth Employment Initiative funding for County Durham to enable further action to be taken to reduce youth unemployment.

Cabinet members welcomed the approach being taken in tackling further youth unemployment.

**Resolved:**

That the report be noted.

**14 Assessing Development Proposals in County Durham in the Light of the Inspector's Interim Report on the County Durham Plan**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development (for copy see file of Minutes) which detailed a Policy Position Statement which provided a consistent approach to determining planning applications in light of publication of the Inspector's Interim Report of the County Durham Plan.

Councillor N Foster responded to questions from Councillors Wilkes and Martin regarding the delegated decision made to enter into judicial review, and student accommodation issues in the city in particular Article 4 directions, the issue of need, and the kings lodge application.

**Resolved:**

That the recommendation detailed in the report be approved.