

## **DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL**

At a meeting of **Cabinet** held in **Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham** on **Wednesday 16 March 2016 at 10.00 am**

### **Present:**

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

### **Members of the Cabinet:**

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

### **Also present:**

Councillors J Armstrong, H Bennett, J Clare, M Dixon, A Hopgood, B Kellett, A Liversidge, O Temple and M Williams

### **1. Public Questions**

There were no public questions.

### **2. Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings held on 10 and 17 February 2016 were confirmed as correct records.

### **3. Declarations of interest**

Councillor Tomlinson declared an interest in item 5 as a school governor of Crook Primary School.

### **4. Council Plan and Service Plans 2016-2019 [Key Decision: CORP/A/03/16/1]**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which provided a draft of the Council Plan for 2016-19, for consideration and comment before being submitted for approval by Council on 13 April 2016, and consideration of service plans (for copy see file of minutes).

### **Resolved:**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

**5. Proposal to change the Age Range of Crook Primary School from 4-11 to 3-11 from 1 September 2016 and to close Crook Nursery School as a separate school on 31 August 2016 [Key Decision: CAS/07/15]**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services which sought approval to change the age range of Crook Primary School from 4-11 to 3-11 from 1 September 2016 and to close Crook Nursery School as a separate school on 31 August 2016 taking account of the Local Authority's duties as prescribed in the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to secure sufficient places, and to secure good outcomes for all children and young people in their local area (for copy see file of minutes).

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

**6. Review of Home to School / College Transport Policy [Key Decision: CAS/04/15]**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services which provided details of the recent consultation on possible changes to the Council's Home to School/College Transport Policy. It provided an analysis of the responses and made recommendations for changes to the existing policy which would apply from 1 September 2016 (for copy see file of minutes).

A response which provided further detail of the consultation that had taken place was made to the questions received from Councillor Hopgood.

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

**7. Proposal to change the Age Range of Trimdon Grange Infant and Nursery School from 3-7 to 3-11 from 1 September 2016 and to close Trimdon Village Community Infant and Trimdon Junior School as separate schools on 31 August 2016 [Key Decision: CAS/08/15]**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services which sought approval to change the age range of Trimdon Grange Infant and Nursery School from 3-7 to 3-11 from 1 September 2016 and to close Trimdon Village Community Infant and Trimdon Junior School as separate schools on 31 August 2016, taking account of the Local Authority's duties as prescribed in the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to secure sufficient places, and to secure good outcomes for all children and young people in their local area (for copy see file of minutes).

Cabinet members advised that all of the information which had been made during the consultation period together with the very late submissions had been considered.

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

**8. Houses in Multiple Occupation Article 4 and Interim Student Accommodation Policy [Key Decision: RED/06/16]**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development which requested Cabinet to:

- Note and endorse the Article 4 Direction for Durham City that was made on 17 September 2015 has been confirmed through delegated powers;
- Note and endorse the making of a new Article 4 Direction to cover Framwellgate Moor, Pity Me and Newton Hall; and
- Recommend that full Council adopt the Interim Policy on Student Accommodation.

(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 5**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which provided an update on the progress made at the end of December 2015 on the delivery of the 2015/16 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP5) (for copy see file of minutes).

**Resolved:**

That the report be noted.

**10. Quarter Three 2015/16 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), Council Plan and service plan actions and reported other performance issues for the third quarter of the 2015/16 financial year, covering the period October to December 2015 (for copy see file of minutes).

Cabinet members advised that despite the austerity measures in place the performance indicators showed that the authority and its partners were still delivery high quality services, and on behalf of all members of the Council that the staff and its partners be commended.

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

**11. Forecast of Revenue and Capital Outturn 2015/16 for General Fund and Housing Revenue Account – Period to 31 December 2015**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Resources which provided Cabinet with an updated forecast of 2015/16 revenue and capital outturn, based on the period to 31 December 2015 for the Council's General Fund and Housing Revenue Account. The report also included the updated forecasts for the Council Tax Collection Fund and Business Rates Collection Fund (for copy see file of minutes).

Councillor Tomlinson complimented officers of the Authority and of the housing groups in finalising the transfer of its housing stock to County Durham Housing Group Ltd.

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

**12. Proposal for Changes to the Charging Policy for Non-Residential Social Care Services**

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director, Resources and Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services which sought Cabinet approval to begin consultation on proposed changes to the non-residential charging policy for people who receive social care services (for copy see file of minutes).

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

**13. Educational Attainment / Standards Report 2015**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services which summarised how Durham County Council's education department continues to provide support and intervention, including intensive support for schools in most need, to ensure the best educational outcomes for children and young people in Durham. It also set out the results from tests and examinations at the Early Years Foundation Stage, Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4/5 for 2015 which, when compared with national averages, provide the key outcome measures for early years, primary and secondary education respectively (for copy see file of minutes).

**Resolved:**

That the report be noted.

#### **14. Care Connect Consultation and Proposed New Charging Policy**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development which informed Cabinet of the outcomes of the consultation with Care Connect customers and recommended the introduction of a contributory charge to those who currently receive a free service, and, an increase in the current charge to those who self-pay for the service (for copy see file of minutes).

Councillor Tomlinson in responding to the questions raised by Councillor Temple provided clarification on the support that would be available in the transitional period, and that the impact of the proposals would be carefully monitored.

#### **Resolved:**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.