

# **DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL**

## **Cabinet**

At a Meeting of the **Cabinet** held in **Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham**, on **Wednesday 14 December 2016** at **10.00 am**

### **Present**

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

### **Cabinet Members:**

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

### **Apologies:**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor O Johnson.

### **Also Present:**

Councillors J Armstrong, J Clare, P Conway, M Dixon, B Graham, A Liversidge, T Nearney, J Shuttleworth and A Surtees.

### **1. Public Questions**

There were no public questions.

### **2. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2016 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **3. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations.

### **4. Medium Term Financial Plan (7), Council Plan, Service Plans 2017/18-2019/20 and 2017/18 Budget [CORP/R/16/02]**

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director, Resources and Director of Transformation and Partnerships which provided an update on the development of the 2017/18 budget and the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP(7)) reflecting upon the content of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Autumn Statement Review published on 23 November 2016. The report also provided an update on the Council Plan and Service Plans (for copy see file of minutes).

Councillor J Armstrong, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board advised Cabinet of the discussions that had taken place at two recent

meetings of scrutiny, and that overall they agreed with Cabinet on the handling of the austerity measures, including the reserves. They had agreed there was a robust consultation process in place, and made some suggestions on the MTFP model as detailed in the report. He advised that the next meeting is to take place on 26 January when further consideration would be given.

Cabinet members spoke of the continuing austerity measures being faced by the council, and the recent statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer about the significant deterioration in the national finances which could stretch into the next parliament. It was hoped that the austerity measures on this authority would not continue into the next term as this council had made more than its share of cuts, with savings of £250m. They would continue lobbying the government on this. There was also uncertainty on social care funding, and a statement was awaited from government.

They advised of the consultation that had taken place in the autumn with over 3,000 members of the public taking part, and 2,000 forms completed, with over 60% agreeing that the council's proposed approach was a reasonable way forward. Cabinet members thanked members of the public, and scrutiny for their involvement in the consultation. The final settlement was expected shortly, and Cabinet would consider this at its meeting in January, prior to consideration on the budget at the February council meeting.

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

**5. Housing White Paper: Local Plan Update**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Local Services which updated Cabinet on the Housing White Paper which the Secretary of State has announced will be published in January, and the impact this will have on the timing of the preparation of the County Durham Plan (for copy see file of minutes).

**Resolved:**

That the recommendation in the report be approved.

**6. Quarter 2 2016/17 Performance Management Report**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Transformation and Partnerships which presented progress against the Council's corporate performance framework by Altogether priority theme for the second quarter of the 2016/17 financial year, covering the period July to September 2016 (for copy see file of minutes).

Cabinet members pointed out that despite the austerity measures being faced by the authority, performance overall was continuing to do very well, and this was a credit to the hard work of both staff and members working together.

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

**7. Update on the delivery of the Medium Term Financial Plan 6**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Transformation and Partnerships which provided an update on the progress made at the end of September 2016 on the delivery of the 2016/17 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP6) (for copy see file of minutes).

**Resolved:**

That the report be noted.

**8. Overview and Scrutiny Review – Alcohol and its Demand on Emergency Services**

The Cabinet considered a report of Director of Transformation and Partnerships which presented the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee review report on Alcohol and its demand on Emergency Services, which was attached to the report at Appendix 2 (for copy see file of minutes).

Councillor T Nearney, Chairman of the Alcohol and its Demand on Emergency Services Working Group presented the report to Cabinet, and provided detail on the scope of the review and its findings. He thanked Members, officers, partners, and everyone who had been part of the working group.

Cabinet Members thanked Councillor Nearney and the scrutiny group for the review work, and would provide a response to their findings in line with the recommendations in the report.

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

**9. Transformation Programme**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Transformation and Partnerships which informed Cabinet of progress to date of the Council's Transformation Programme (for copy see file of minutes).

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

**10. Annual Report of the Fostering Panels and the Fostering Service 2015/16**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Children and Young People's Services which presented the Annual Report of the Fostering Panels and the Fostering Service 2015-16 (for copy see file of minutes).

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

**11. Strategy for School Organisation and the Pattern and Provision of Schools across County Durham**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Interim Corporate Director, Children and Young People's Services which sought approval for the Council's overarching strategy for school organisation, pattern and provision of schools across County Durham (for copy see file of minutes).

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

**12. Schools 20 mph Part-Time Speed Limits Project – Update Report**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Local Services which provided Cabinet with an update on the Schools 20 mph Part-time Speed Limits Project including details of the additional 33 schools selected (for copy see file of minutes).

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

**13. County Durham Business & Enterprise Framework**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Local Services which provided an overview of the Business and Enterprise Framework developed by the CDEP Business, Enterprise and Skills Working Group, to replace the Business, Enterprise and Skills Strategy (2012), and, requested that Cabinet adopt the framework (for copy see file of minutes).

**Resolved:**

That the recommendation in the report be approved.

#### **14. Masterplan Updates**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Local Services which requested Cabinet to consider the Masterplan updates for Consett, Crook, Newton Aycliffe, Durham, Chester-le-Street and Stanley, and, to endorse that the Masterplan Updates be taken through the relevant Area Action Partnership meetings for discussion (for copy see file of minutes).

#### **Resolved:**

That the recommendations in the report be approved.