

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

Cabinet

At a Meeting of the **Cabinet** held in the **Main Hall, The Glebe Centre, Murton, Seaham, Co Durham** on **Wednesday 18 January 2017** 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 Hovvells, O Johnson, A Napier, M Plews, B Stephens and E Tomlinson

Also Present:

Councillors J Armstrong, J Clare, P Conway and H Nicholson

1. Public Questions

There were no public questions.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2016 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations.

4. County Durham Partnership Update

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Transformation and Partnerships which provided an update on issues being addressed by the County Durham Partnership (CDP) including the board, the five thematic partnerships and all area action partnerships (AAPs). The report also included updates on other key initiatives being carried out in partnership across the county (for copy see file of minutes).

Cabinet members welcomed the detail of the report which emphasised the broad range of partnership working taking place.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

5. Welfare reform and poverty issues

The Cabinet considered a joint report of Director of Transformation and Partnerships, and the Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services which provided an update on the welfare reform programme and the wider issues of poverty and the council's response so far through its poverty action plan, with a particular focus on child poverty. The report included an analysis of the implications for the County (for copy see file of minutes).

The Cabinet welcomed the report and the amount of work being undertaken through the programme, with some of it being undertaken only by this Authority. It was felt important to share what was being undertaken so consideration would be given to how to further broaden the knowledge of this work possibly with MP's and Lords.

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

6. DurhamWorks Programme – Youth Employment Initiative

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Interim Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services, and the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services which provided an update on the DurhamWorks Programme – Youth Employment Initiative (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

7. Children's Services Update

The Cabinet considered a report of the Interim Corporate Director of Children's Services which provided an update on the local, regional and national developments in relation to Children's Services. In addition, the report provided an update on progress following the outcome of the Ofsted Inspection of Children's Services in February 2016, the pressures facing the Service, workforce initiatives and strategic programmes aimed at reducing these pressures.

The report also provided an update on the Stronger Families Programme, Child Sexual Exploitation and the work of the Local Safeguarding Children

Board. The national policy context was attached to the report (for copy see file of minutes).

Cabinet members commented on the excellent work that had been undertaken to improve the service following the Ofsted inspection last year, and although there were some challenges ahead vast improvements had been made which included to staff morale. The Interim Corporate Director was congratulated for her work on this area since taking up the position with the Authority.

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

8. Masterplan Updates

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services which requested Cabinet to consider and agree Masterplan Updates for Peterlee, Seaham, Spennymoor, Shildon, Barnard Castle and Bishop Auckland, and, to endorse that the Masterplan Updates be taken through the relevant Area Action Partnership (AAP) meetings for discussion (for copy see file of minutes).

Cabinet members welcomed the work that would be undertaken through each of the masterplans. Councillor Stephens pointed out that the reference in the Shildon masterplan to Morrisons supermarket should be changed to the B and M Store.

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the report be approved.