

## DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Cabinet** held in **The Council Chamber, Crook Council Offices, Crook, Co Durham, DL15 9ES** on **Wednesday 12 July 2017** at **10.00 am**

### **Present:**

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

### **Cabinet Members:**

Councillors J Allen, J Brown, O Gunn, L Hovvells, O Johnson, C Marshall, A Napier, K Shaw and B Stephens

### **Also present:**

Councillors J Clare, S Dunn, M McKeon, A Patterson and A Surtees

### **1 Public Questions**

A written response would be made to a question received from a member of the public who could not be present at the meeting, about the building that formerly housed the DLI museum.

### **2 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 June 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **3 Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **4 Medium Term Financial Plan (8), Council Plan, Service Plans 2018/19-2021/22 and Reviews of the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme, Council Tax Discounts and Business Discretionary Rate Reliefs Key Decision: CORP/R/17/02**

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director of Resources and the Director of Transformation and Partnerships which provided an update on the development of the 2018/19 budget, the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP)(8)) and Council Plan / Service Plans 2018/19 to 2021/22. The report also considered reviews of the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme, Council Tax discounts and Business Rates Discretionary Rate Relief (for copy see file of minutes).

Cabinet members spoke about the financial outlook of the authority continuing to be challenging, and of the various uncertainties affecting the finances including deterioration of the public finances, brexit, policies to be introduced following the general election, and public sector pay. The achievement of £41m in savings over the next four years which is on top of the savings of over £200m which have already been made will need to be made. Despite the huge cut to finances the authority have still balanced its budget which is commendable to all. It was pointed out that all services would be looked at again to find savings going forward. The Cabinet were delighted however to continue to provide the local council tax reduction scheme, and also the introduction of support for care leavers.

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

**5 Treasury Management Outturn 2016/17**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Resources which provided information on the Treasury Management outturn position for the year ended 31 March 2017 (for copy see file of minutes).

**Resolved:**

That the recommendation in the report be approved.

**6 2016/17 Final Outturn for the General Fund and Collection Fund**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Resources which provided Cabinet with details of the revenue and capital outturn for the General Fund for 2016/17, and the 2016/17 outturn for the Collection Fund in respect of Council Tax collection and Business Rates collection (for copy see file of minutes).

Cabinet members commented on the speed that finance officers had been able to produce the detailed financial position included in the report, and asked that their thanks be relayed to the team.

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations contained 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 confirmed that the 2016/17 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP 6) had been successfully delivered (for copy see file of minutes).

**Resolved:**

That the report be noted.

**8 Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2016-17**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Adult and Health Services which presented the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) Annual Report 2016-17, provided information on the current position of the County Durham Safeguarding Adults Board and outlined achievements during 2016/17 and plans for 2017/18 (for copy see file of minutes).

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

**9 Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Report 2016/17**

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director of Adult and Health Services, the Corporate Director of Children and Young Peoples Services and the Director of Public Health which presented the Health and Wellbeing Annual Report 2016/17 (for copy see file of minutes).

The work undertaken by the Board and its partners was commended.

**Resolved:**

That the recommendation in the report be approved.

**10 Self Evaluation of Local Area Special Education Needs and Disability Reforms**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services which provided Cabinet with an overview of the Self-Evaluation of the implementation of the Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Reforms (for copy see file of minutes).

**Resolved:**

That the report be noted.

**11 Children and Young People's Services Annual Reports and Plans**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services which provided an executive summary of the Youth Justice Plan 2017/19, the Annual Report of Fostering Panels and the Fostering Service 2016/17 and the Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2016/17 (for copy see file of minutes).

Members praised the work that had been undertaken on the training of taxi drivers in raising their awareness on both child exploitation, and dementia. Taxi drivers were also thanked for their attendance at these events which had been in their own time.

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

**12 Durham County Council's Response to Housing White Paper Consultation**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services which presented Durham County Council's response to the Housing White Paper (for copy see file of minutes).

**Resolved:**

That the recommendation in the report be approved.

**13 Regeneration of Peterlee - Re-provision of Peterlee Library**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services which detailed the process for vacating the existing library site to allow for the disposal of land and re-providing the service within Peterlee Leisure Centre (for copy see file of minutes).

The Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services in presenting the report advised that Cabinet members had been provided with a copy of the Equality Impact Assessment which had been undertaken, and that a copy had been published on the council's website.

Cabinet members welcomed the move, and in doing so thanked the two local members for all their hard work in progressing this.

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.