

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Cabinet** held in **Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham** on **Wednesday 15 November 2017** at **10.00 am**

Present:

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

Cabinet Members:

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

Also Present:

Councillors D Bell, J Blakey, J Clare, R Crute, S Dunn, M McKeon, A Patterson, J Shuttleworth and A Surtees

1 Public Questions

Councillor C Marshall in responding to a question from Mr R Cornwell about the consultation on the Lettings Board in Durham City which took place early in the year, advised of the process for considering the responses made and the next steps.

2 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 October 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4 Council Tax Base 2018/19 and Forecast Surplus on the Council Tax Collection Fund as 31 March 2018 [Key Decision: CORP/R/17/03]

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Resources which determined the Council's Tax Base for all domestic properties liable to pay council tax and reported on the estimated collection fund surplus as at 31 March 2018 (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

5 Review of School Provision in County Durham: Ensuring Financial Sustainability of Schools [Key Decision: CORP/R/17/01]

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services, and the Corporate Director of Resources which described the financial challenge being experienced by schools across the county. The report proposed that the Council implements a strategic review of educational provision on a locality basis across the county, to ensure that County Durham has an appropriate mix and number of high performing, financially sustainable schools (for copy see file of minutes).

Councillor O Gunn provided a detailed response to a question from Councillor J Shuttleworth about the financial position of Wellfield and Wolsingham Schools, and the information that had been provided to local councillors.

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

6 County Durham Plan Progress Report and the Council's Response to the Planning for the Right Homes in the Right Places Consultation [Key Decision: REAL/03/17]

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services which updated Members on the current position with the County Durham Plan and outlined the timetable for taking it forward through the agreement of a new Local Development Scheme (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

7 Forecast of Revenue and Capital Outturn 2017/18 – Period to 30 September 2017 Consultation

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Resources which provided Cabinet with information on the forecast revenue and capital outturn for 2017/18; the forecast for the Council's Council Tax and Business Rates Collection Fund position at 31 March 2018; and the use of earmarked, cash limit and general reserves. The report also sought approval of the budget adjustments and proposed sums outside of the cash limit (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

8 Mid-Year Review Report on Treasury Management for the period to 30 September 2017

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Resources which provided information on the treasury management mid-year position for 2017/18 and sought approval of a revision to the Council's Investment Strategy (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

9 Review of Humanitarian Support in County Durham

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Director of Transformation and Partnerships, and Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services which outlined the findings of the evaluation of the first year of delivering resettlement support under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (SVPRS) and considered future support for the programme. The report also provided an update on other humanitarian support schemes in the county and informed Members about the government's national scheme for accommodating asylum-seekers, and considered approaches received from the Home Office to encourage County Durham to participate in asylum-seeker dispersal (for copy see file of minutes).

Cabinet members acknowledged the work that had been undertaken in supporting the programme, and asked that their thanks be conveyed to those involved including staff, volunteers, members, schools and partners.

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.