

## **DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL**

At a Meeting of **Cabinet** held in **Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham**, on **Wednesday 11 July 2018 at 10.00 am**

### **Present:**

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

### **Cabinet Members:**

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

### **Also Present:**

Councillors J Clare, R Crute, S Dunn, B Kellett, M McKeon and J Shuttleworth

### **Apologies:**

Apologies were received from Councillor J Allen and J Brown.

### **1 Public Questions**

There were no public questions

### **2 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **3 Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations made.

### **4 Medium Term Financial Plan(9), 2019/20-2022/23 and Reviews of the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme, Council Tax Discounts and Business Discretionary Rate Reliefs [Key Decision: CORP/R/18/01]**

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director of Resources and Director of Transformation and Partnerships which provided an update on the development of the 2019/20 budget and the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP(9)). The report included 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 explained that despite the significant challenges being faced by the authority as a result of the continual austerity measures being imposed by the government, through diligent planning the authority was in the best position it could be and able to maintain front line services, and protect the most vulnerable. There were concerns on the public health funding and the negative impact if any cuts to it were made by government, and they would continue to lobby on this.

Officers and cabinet colleagues were thanked for their hard work and enabling Cabinet to consider the position early in the process.

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

**5 Treasury Management Outturn 2017/18**

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 2018 (for copy see file of minutes).

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

**6 2017/18 Final Outturn for the General Fund and Collection Fund**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Resources which provided information on the following:

- (a) final revenue and capital outturn for the General Fund for 2017/18;
- (b) final outturn for the Council's Council Tax and Business Rates Collection Fund for 2017/18;
- (c) use of and contributions to earmarked, cash limit and general reserves.

(for copy see file of minutes).

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

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

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Transformation and Partnerships which provided confirmation that the 2017/18 Medium Term Financial Plan 7 has been successfully delivered (for copy see file of minutes).

**Resolved:**

That the report be noted.

## **8 Stronger Families Phase 2 Progress Report**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services which presented progress of the County Durham's Stronger (Troubled) Families Programme (for copy of report see file of minutes).

### **Resolved:**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

## **9 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 a summary of the following Children and Young People's Services Annual Reports and Plans:

- (a) The Youth Justice Plan 2018/19.
- (b) The Annual Report of Fostering Panels and the Fostering Service 2017/18.
- (c) The Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2017/18 and Young People's Annual Report 2017/18

(for copy see file of minutes).

Cabinet members spoke of the excellent work being undertaken in partnership, and asked that their thanks be conveyed to the Boards, Panels, and foster carers.

### **Resolved:**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

## **10 Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report 2017-2018**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services which presented the Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report for April 2017 – March 2018 (for copy of report see file of minutes). The Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services advised that the reports would be forwarded for the information of full council, and overview and scrutiny.

Cabinet members advised of the excellent work undertaken by members of the Corporate Parenting Panel in raising its profile, and that their thanks be conveyed to all members of the Panel through its Chairman.

### **Resolved:**

That the report be noted.

## **11 Lumiere Festival 2019 and 2021**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services which informed Cabinet of the evaluation of the 2017 Lumiere Festival and sought approval for resources to stage a special 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lumiere festival in 2019 with a further event in 2021 (for copy see file of minutes).

### **Resolved:**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

## **12 Update on Rail Issues**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services which informed Cabinet on current rail issues and to agree a position for the Council on key rail infrastructure and service improvements to help boost the economy of County Durham (for copy see file of minutes).

Cabinet members spoke of the huge importance that rail has on the region and for its economy. Members would work with the appropriate authorities to ensure Durham and the north east has enhanced train services rather than a reduction. Councillor Marshall moved an additional recommendation to those listed in the report which was 'Call on the government to give a commitment to publicly run the East Coast main line indefinitely, giving greater accountability and putting people before profits'.

### **Resolved:**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved, together with the additional recommendation moved and seconded as detailed above.

## **13 Exclusion of the public**

### **Resolved:**

That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

## **14 Integra61 Financial Support [Key Decision: REAL/03/18]**

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services and the Corporate Director of Resources regarding financial support for the Integra61 project (for copy see file of minutes).

### **Resolved:**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

**15 Business Durham – Purchase of Additional Properties [Key Decision: REAL/04/18]**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services the purchase of additional properties for Business Durham (for copy see file of minutes).

Councillor Marshall responded to the question from Cllr Dunn, one of the local members.

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.