

## **DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL**

### **CABINET**

**AT A MEETING** of the **CABINET** held at the County Hall, Durham on **THURSDAY 18 July 2002 at 10.00 a.m.**

#### **PRESENT**

**Councillor Manton** in the Chair

#### **Members of the Cabinet**

Councillors Barker, Cox, Davies, N C Foster, Hodgson, Pendlebury, Ross, Mrs Smith and Walker.

#### **Other Members**

Councillors J Armstrong, Dormer, Douthwaite, Fenwick, Mrs Fergus, Knox, Henderson, Mrs Howarth, Mrs Hunter, Lightley, Marshall, Martin, Myers, Nicholls, O'Donnell, Pye, Scott, Shuttleworth, Thompson, Forster and Mrs Wright.

#### **A1 Minutes**

The Minutes of the meetings held on 1 and 4 July 2002 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### **A2 Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Ross declared an interest in respect of Minute No. A18, as a member of the Waste Management Company.

Councillor Pendlebury declared an interest in respect of Minute No. B 24 as a Board member of Teesside Airport.

#### **A3 Dental Health of Five Year Old Children**

The Cabinet considered a Report of the Director of Education (for copy see file of Minutes) about a request received from County Durham and Darlington Health Authority and its successor organisations, for support in principle for the introduction of fluoridated milk in County Durham Schools and a suggested way forward.

In addition David Landes, Consultant in Dental Public Health for County Durham and Darlington Health Authority, gave an informative presentation to Cabinet on the background to, the benefits of and approach to the Health Authority's proposals for the introduction of fluoridated milk.

#### **Resolved:**

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

#### **A4 Sustainable Environment Policy**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Head of Overview and Scrutiny (for copy see file of Minutes) on the initial findings of a Scrutiny Working Group that is considering the Council's sustainable environment policy.

**Resolved:**

That the proposals in the report be supported.

#### **A5 Industrial Action**

The Chief Executive reported of the position relating to the Industrial Action that took place on 17 July 2002. Meetings were to continue to be held with the Unions on an ongoing basis and the Employers were to meet on Friday 19 July to discuss the matter further in the light of the industrial action.

#### **A6 Budget Strategy 2003/2004 and Beyond**

The Cabinet considered a Report of the County Treasurer (for copy see file of Minutes) about the issues which need to be considered as part of the budget process, as well as proposing an outline strategy for the preparation of the County Council's Revenue and Capital budget for 2003/04 and the start of work for a longer term financial plan.

Members also discussed, in broad terms, issues emerging from the Review of the Revenue Support Grant formula upon which the Government had recently issued a Consultation Paper for comments by 30 September 2002.

**Resolved:**

That the recommendation in the report be approved.

#### **A7 Regional Devolution in England**

The Cabinet considered a Report of Chief Executive (for copy see file of Minutes) seeking members views on the Government's White Paper on regional devolution in England to enable the Authority to respond.

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

#### **A8 Asset Management Plan**

##### **(i) Corporate Property Officer's Report and Property Monitoring Report 2001/02**

The Cabinet considered a Report of the Director of Corporate and Legal Services (for copy see file of Minutes) informing members of the Corporate Property Officer's (CPO) report in conjunction with the 2001/02 out-turn data for all areas of property monitoring.

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

**(ii) Asset Management Plan Capital Strategy Statement**

The Cabinet considered a Report of the Director of Corporate and Legal Services (for copy see file of Minutes) about the Asset Management Plan Capital Strategy Statement

**Resolved:**

That the recommendation in the report be approved.

**A9 DfES Asset Management Plan Modernisation Budget**

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Director of Corporate and Legal Services, the Director of Education and the County Treasurer (for copy see file of Minutes) about the application of the 2002/03 and 2003/04 New Deal for Schools Modernisation Budget.

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

**A10 National Association of Councillors**

The Cabinet considered a Report of the Director of Corporate and Legal Services (for copy see file of Minutes) about whether the County Council should take up membership of the National Association of Councillors.

**Resolved:**

That the County Council be recommended to take up membership of the National Association of Councillors on the basis detailed in the report.

**A11 LSPs and the CDSP – Funding and Administrative Support**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Head of Corporate Policy (for copy see file of Minutes) about the emerging funding and administrative support issues for the seven LSPs and the County Durham Strategic Partnership.

**Resolved:**

That the recommendation in the report relating to Option 3, be approved.

**A12 Social Services Inspectorate Star Ratings Progress Report**

The Cabinet considered a Report of the Director of Social Services (for copy see file of Minutes) about the position in relation to the SSI Star Ratings.

**Resolved:**

That the recommendation in the report be approved.

**A13 Progress Report on Quality Protects Management Action Plan 2002/2003**

The Cabinet considered a Report of the Director of Social Services (for copy see file of Minutes) about the Quality Protects Management Action Plan 2002/2003.

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

**A14 North West and South West Durham Task Forces: Progress Report**

The Cabinet considered a Report of the Director of Economic Development and Planning (for copy see file of Minutes) about progress in the North West Durham and South West Durham Task Force areas. The County Durham Economic Development Forum would consider the reports on 6 August.

(Councillor Manton asked the Director of Economic Development and Planning to further discuss the specific issues raised in relation to Craghead and South Moor with Councillor Marshall at the conclusion of the meeting).

**Resolved:**

- 1) That the recommendation in the report be approved.
- 2) That the Director of Economic Development and Planning arrange a seminar to inform elected members of recent initiatives that are being pursued.

**A15 North Pennines AONB: Management Plan**

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Director of Economic Development and Planning and the Director of Environment and Technical Services (for copy see file of Minutes) seeking approval for the North Pennines Partnership to produce a Management Plan for the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) on behalf of Durham County Council and other partners.

**Resolved:**

That the recommendation in the report be approved.

**A16 Local Transport Plan – Annual Progress Report 2001/02**

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Director of Economic Development and Planning and the Director of Environment and Technical Services (for copy see file of Minutes) seeking endorsement of the Annual Progress Report (APR) for 2001/02 prior to its submission to Government Office for the North East (GONE) before 31 July 2002.

**Resolved:**

That the recommendation in the report be approved.

**A17 Urban Renaissance**

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Director of Economic Development and Planning and the Director of Environment and Technical Services (for copy see file of Minutes) about progress and to agree an Urban Renaissance programme for implementation.

Members raised the need to add Horden, Deaf Hill and Trimdon Station to the list of smaller centres/villages in Appendix 2.

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations in the report be approved, subject to the additions to Appendix 2.

**A18 Waste Management DEFRA's Waste Minimisation and Recycling Fund**

The Cabinet considered a Report of the Director of Environment and Technical Services (for copy see file of Minutes) about the successful outcome of a bid to DEFRA's £140m Waste Minimisation and Recycling Fund.

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

**A19 Sure Start 6<sup>th</sup> Wave**

The Cabinet considered a Report of the Director of Education (for copy see file of Minutes) about the latest developments in Sure Start and to outline their implications.

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

**A20 School Holiday and Term Dates 2003/2004**

The Cabinet considered a Report of the Director of Education (for copy see file of Minutes) about proposed school holidays and term dates, professional development or in-service training days and pupil school holidays for the 2003/2004 academic year for Community, Community Special and Voluntary Controlled Schools.

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

**A21 Achievement of Schools in Recent Artsmark Awards**

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Director of Education and the Director of Cultural Services (for copy see file of Minutes) about of the Impressive achievement of schools in recent Artsmark Awards.

**Resolved:**

That the report be noted.

**A22 Education Capital Programme - Private Finance Initiative (PFI)**

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Director of Education, the Director of Corporate and Legal Services and the County Treasurer (for copy see file of Minutes)

providing an update on the issue of surplus school places in the LEA and the particular capital and financial implications of that and a possible way forward by the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) route.

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

**A23 Exclusion of the Public**

**Resolved:**

That under section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 7,8 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the said Act.

**B24 Teesside International Airport Limited**

The Cabinet considered a Report of the Director of Corporate and Legal Services (for copy see file of Minutes) seeking approval to start the process aimed at securing a strategic partner to participate in the growth and development of Teesside International Airport.

The report also proposes the establishment of a joint committee and suggests how the costs of the procurement exercise might be met.

**Resolved:**

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

**B25 Rent Review: Former Weighbridge at Chester-le-Street**

The Cabinet considered a Report of the Director of Corporate and Legal Services (for copy see file of Minutes) proposing a rent review of the former Weighbridge Office at Chester le Street, which is leased to the Girl Guides Association.

**Resolved:**

That the recommendation in the report be approved.

**B26 Sale of Land and Premises at King James 1 Community College, Bishop Auckland**

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Director of Corporate and Legal Services and the Director of Education (for copy see file of Minutes) proposing an extension to the 'option' period associated with the partnership proposals for the disposal site at King James 1 Community College, Bishop Auckland.

**Resolved:**

That the recommendation in the report be approved.