

## **NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL**

### **CABINET**

At a meeting of the **Cabinet** held in Committee Room 1, County Hall, Morpeth on Tuesday 14 January 2020 at 10.00am.

### **PRESENT**

Councillor W. Daley  
(Deputy Leader of the Council, in the Chair)

### **CABINET MEMBERS**

Homer, C.R.  
Jones, V.  
Oliver, N.

Riddle, J.R.  
Sanderson, H.G.H.  
Wearmouth, R.

### **OTHER MEMBERS**

Dodd, R.

### **OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Angus, K.

Aviston, S.  
Hadfield, K.

Hand, C.  
Henry, L.  
Jackson, D.

Roll, J.

Executive Director of HR/OD and  
Deputy Chief Executive  
Head of School Organisation  
Committee Services and Scrutiny  
Manager

Executive Director of Finance  
Legal Services Manager  
Service Director, Education and  
Skills

Democratic Services Manager

1 member of the press was in attendance.

Ch.'s Initials.....

### **73. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Jackson.

### **74. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the following meetings of Cabinet, as circulated, be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair:-

(1) **Tuesday 2 December 2019**

(2) **Tuesday 10 December 2019**

### **75. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Homer declared a personal interest in respect of item 5 on the agenda (Proposal to Launch a to Support Uniformed Services and Groups within Northumberland) through her involvement with 224 Hexham Air Cadets.

Following a query from Councillor Oliver regarding the need for disclosure on the urgent business matter, Mr Henry confirmed there was no interest to declare.

### **76. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

#### **National Funding Formula and School Funding**

The report updated Cabinet regarding the National Funding Formula (NFF) and the implications for 2020/21 School Funding in Northumberland (copy attached to the signed minutes as Appendix A, along with the report of the Family and Childrens' Services OSC circulated at the meeting).

Councillor Daley introduced the report highlighting that this had been considered by Schools Forum and FACS Scrutiny. The consultation process had resulted in only six responses which he felt indicated a good level of agreement with the proposed model.

He referred to the issues raised with the national funding formula and the effect on high schools where a three tier model was in operation, and was pleased to note that the representations, led by the Headteacher of Queen Elizabeth High School, seemed to have been listened to. He also drew

members' attention to the report from FACS OSC which had been circulated, and which was supportive of the report's recommendations.

Mrs Aviston highlighted the main points of this annual report. The proposed 4.1% increase in funding from the previous year had been welcomed by schools, and the reasons for the increase were set out in the report. The higher rate of pupil funding would continue to be protected where possible with the use of capping and scaling to ensure overall affordability, and the potential use of an increased Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) level had also been agreed to assist those schools receiving the lowest levels of increase in overall funding.

Councillor Oliver queried whether the change made regarding the disadvantage to high schools in three tier systems had been a national one and Mr Jackson confirmed that it had. It had been a national issue but the call for change had been led by the Headteacher at Queen Elizabeth High School, resulting in the change in policy nationally.

**RESOLVED** that:-

- (a) the proposals for the phased implementation of the National Funding Formula in 20/21, in line with the recommendation of the Schools Forum meeting of 20 November 2019 and the results of the subsequent consultation exercise held with schools be approved;
- (b) approval of the final formula values be delegated to the Executive Director of Adult Social Care & Children's Services and the Lead Member for Children's Services and Deputy Leader of the Council in line with the principles agreed at Schools Forum on 20 November 2019, once the final budget allocations were released by the Department for Education in December 2019;
- (c) Cabinet approve the transfer of up to 0.5% funding from the Schools' Block to the High Needs Block, in line with recommendation of the Schools Forum meeting of 20 November and the results of the subsequent consultation exercise held with schools; and
- (d) the report of the Family and Children's Services OSC be noted.

## **77. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF HR/OD AND DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

### **Proposal to Launch a to Support Uniformed Services and Groups within Northumberland**

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Cabinet was asked to consider a report about the launch of a fund to support and promote the role of uniformed services and associated groups within Northumberland which promote volunteering, and celebrate good work and learning opportunities. The report also presented the application process for a Northumberland Uniformed Services and Associated Groups Fund (copy attached to the signed minutes as Appendix B).

Councillor Daley introduced the report, referring to these groups as the hidden heroes in Northumberland, and he was delighted of the opportunity to support them. Involvement in these groups had a long term impact on young people as they progressed through life, and he hoped that the publicity surrounding the launch of the fund would inspire greater participation in communities where this was currently limited.

Mrs Angus advised that the fund would be publicised very quickly once agreed and applications would be assessed quarterly.

Councillor Homer agreed that these groups got involved in fantastic activities and gave young people from all backgrounds the opportunity to do things they would not normally get to do. Many business leaders had started out as scouts or guides and these roles clearly stood them in good stead in later life. These groups supported good activities and did lots of volunteering and support from the fund would enable them to do more of this, thereby helping those who needed it the most.

Councillor Oliver fully supported the fund and asked if the awards could be tied into the Local Area Councils to promote local groups. Councillor Daley agreed this could be looked at.

Councillor Wearmouth asked that, once the date for applications to go live had been identified, members be informed so that they could promote it.

**RESOLVED** that:-

- (a) the application process for the USAGE OF be endorsed;
- (b) the opportunity to promote the USAGE OF as part of the wider community initiatives supporting groups across Northumberland be welcomed; and
- (c) Cabinet approve up to £25,000 of funding from the Council's contingency to support the positive impact of community volunteering, celebrating good work, promoting campaigns and learning opportunities (including trip costs including accommodation\* see note).

**78. LOCAL AREA COUNCIL FEEDBACK**

Cabinet was asked to receive feedback from recent Local Area Council meetings (copy attached to the signed minutes as Appendix C).

**RESOLVED** that the feedback be noted.

**79. URGENT BUSINESS**

The Chair had agreed to the consideration of one item of urgent business. The report was urgent because of the need to have a member appointed to the Parish Council involved so they could fill their vacancies.

**REPORT OF THE LEGAL SERVICES MANAGER**

**Local Government Act 1972 - Section 91  
Sandhoe Parish Council**

The report sought Cabinet’s agreement to appoint Councillor Nicholas Oliver to Sandhoe Parish Council for the sole purpose of enabling the parish council to appoint to the vacancies currently on the authority (copy attached to the signed minutes).

Mr Henry spoke briefly to the report. The temporary appointment of Councillor Oliver would ensure that the Parish Council could make some co-options, and delegation was being sought to the Chief Executive for any future occasions to enable a more flexible response to be made.

**RESOLVED** that:-

- (a) Cabinet agree to appoint Councillor Nicholas Oliver to Sandhoe Parish Council by order under section 91 of the Local Government Act 1974 for the sole purpose of enabling the parish council to appoint, as far as they are able, to the vacancies on the authority at present; and
- (b) Cabinet agreed to delegate the power under section 91 of the 1974 Act to appoint members in this manner to the Chief Executive in respect of any future requirements in this regard.

**CHAIR**.....

**DATE**.....

Ch.’s Initials.....  
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