

CABINET DECISIONS ON REPORTS PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED BY THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE OSC

The following reports were presented to the OSC on 8 and 27 June 2018 for comment prior to determination by the Cabinet on 14 June and 10 July.

The following are extracts from those Cabinet minutes.

(1) Northumberland Local Plan - Draft Plan

The report sought approval for the publication of the Northumberland Local Plan - Regulation 18 Draft Plan for consultation.

The Leader introduced the report, paying tribute to officers and the progress which had been achieved to both meet the timeframe set by the Government and still produce a robust plan. The previous plan had been withdrawn because of a lack of confidence in the robustness of the figures, particularly on housing and population numbers, and because of the proposed amount of development on the green belt.

Mr Johnston detailed the key points of the report, including the proposed engagement plan, and Councillor Reid commented that the main concern from Scrutiny had been around the engagement plan. It was important that everyone had the opportunity to comment and get involved, and that it was vital to ensure the digital capacity was there. He complimented officers for the work done. The Leader advised that a very comprehensive website consultation tool was being used which made getting involved very accessible.

Members endorsed the positive comments expressed about the tremendous effort which had been made by officers in getting to the current point. Additional comments included:-

- Those who had previously been involved in the engagement process were commended. The opportunity to get involved again was to be welcomed and it was vital that everyone did.
- The plan contained an important focus on economic activity in rural areas especially in regard to heritage assets and the transport infrastructure.
- The plan reflected the needs of the county and took into account the needs of established neighbourhood plans. There was a focus on jobs and employment and protection for important areas of land.
- The document reflected the input of both members and skilled staff. It acknowledged the importance of the green belt and proper consultation.

RESOLVED unanimously that:-

- (a) the Northumberland Local Plan – Regulation 18 Draft Plan (Appendix A) be approved for consultation;
- (b) authority be delegated to the Interim Executive Director: Place, in

consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning, Housing and Resilience to approve any non-material amendments to the final text of the consultation document prior to commencement of the formal consultation; and

- (c) the report of the Communities and Place OSC be noted.

(2) Northumberland Markets Strategy 2018-2023

The report provided Cabinet with an update on achievements against the 2010 - 15 strategy action plan, an update on the process taken to review the strategy and sought approval of the proposed Markets Strategy 2018 - 2023 (copy attached to the signed minutes as Appendix E, along with the report of the Communities and Place OSC circulated at the meeting).

The report was introduced by Councillor Sanderson who expressed support for the Markets Strategy, and advised that a watching brief would be maintained as trends, customers and traders were constantly changing. Some interesting and innovative ideas were being put forward and the Markets Manager was ambitious and keen to innovate.

Councillor Reid referred to the report from Communities and Place OSC and drew members' attention to the comments made. Things did move very quickly in the retail world so the Authority needed to be open to the possibility of future change or face the risk of some markets failing.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the Markets Strategy 2018 - 2023 and the Markets Strategy Action Plan be approved; and
- (b) the report of the Communities and Place OSC and the comments made be noted.