

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

At a meeting of the **Cabinet** held at County Hall, Morpeth on Tuesday, 13 March 2018 at 10.00 am.

PRESENT

Councillor P.A. Jackson
(Leader of the Council, in the Chair)

CABINET MEMBERS

Homer, C.
Jones, V.

Oliver, N.
Sanderson, H.G.H.

OTHER MEMBERS

Davey, J.G.
Dodd, R.

Flux, B.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Elsdon, A.
Hadfield, K.

Henry, L.
Lally, D.
Turner, M.

Director of Finance
Committee Services and Scrutiny
Manager
Legal Services Manager
Chief Executive
Head of Property and Capital
Programming

Four members of the press and public were in attendance.

71. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Daley, Riddle and Wearmouth.

72. MINUTES

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

(a) Thursday 8 February 2018

Ch.'s Initials.....

- (b) Tuesday 13 February 2018
- (c) Tuesday 20 February 2018

73. REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Progress in Integrating Health and Social Care in Northumberland

The report updated the Cabinet on the progress made on integrating health and social care services in Northumberland and recommended the extension of the existing Partnership Agreement for adult social care with Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust for a further two years, with some modifications described in the report, and the extension of the partnership agreement for NHS Continuing Health Care with Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group (copy attached to the signed minutes as Appendix A).

Councillor Jones introduced the report, referring to the partnership working which had begun in 2002 and which the Authority benefitted from. The Partnership agreement had substantial benefits for the coordination of health and social care for individuals, providing a seamless service for those needing health and social care support.

The Leader echoed these comments and spoke strongly in support of the now well developed partnership arrangements, which had proved invaluable during the recent spell of bad weather. The arrangements were now seen as an exemplar by other Authorities and he was pleased to report that officials from the Irish Health Service had recently visited to learn how the partnership arrangements worked in practice.

RESOLVED unanimously that:-

1. the progress being made in Northumberland on integrating health and social services be noted;
2. approval be given to the extension of the Partnership Agreement with Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust for a further two years from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2020;
3. the Partnership Agreement be broadened to enable some public health functions currently provided by Northumbria Healthcare under contract to be included within the scope of the partnership, and to support the flexible use of management capacity across the two organisations, as set out in the report;
4. approval be given to a renewed Partnership Agreement with Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), under which the CCG will continue to delegate to the Council its functions of commissioning, case managing and administering NHS Continuing Health Care services and other related services; subject to the Chief Executive confirming that the forthcoming report of a review of the arrangement by NHS England raises no issues which call for this

arrangement to be reconsidered. The ongoing agreement will be open-ended, with either party permitted to give six months' notice, and an annual joint review to confirm that it remains up to date;

5. it be noted that the partnership arrangements will continue to operate on the basis that all financial risks associated with the Council's statutory social care functions rest with the Council, and all financial risks associated with statutory NHS responsibilities rest with NHS organisations, and that the proposed modifications to the agreements will not require the transfer of any member of staff to a different employer; and

6. authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with relevant Cabinet members, to approve the necessary detailed modifications to the text of the two Partnership Agreements to implement these decisions, and to sign the modified agreements.

74. REPORT OF THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 24 JANUARY 2018

Policing and Crime Act 2017 - Request from Police & Crime Commissioner for Northumbria

Council, at its meeting on 1 November 2017, referred a request from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Northumbria to be co-opted as a member of the authority for the purposes stated in the attached report under statutory amendments brought into effect last year by the provisions of the Policing and Crime Act 2017, to the Communities and Place OSC for consideration. The Committee considered that request at their meeting on 24 January 2018, and the report set out the Committee's recommendations to Cabinet (copy attached to the signed minutes as Appendix B).

The Leader spoke to the report as Councillor Reid had been unable to attend. It was disappointing that the PCC had not accepted the invitation to attend Scrutiny and explain how she felt she could add value to the operation of the day to day service. The invitation to the PCC remained open to do this, though it should be noted that the Fire Service already had close working relationships with the Police and other partners.

Mr Henry highlighted to Cabinet that it may wish to endorse the decision taken by Council on this matter on 21 February, as well as making its own decision on Scrutiny's recommendations.

RESOLVED unanimously that:-

- (a) the recommendations from the Communities and Place OSC, as set out in its report, be accepted in full, and the Commissioner's request be refused for the following reasons
 - (i) the Cabinet had not received from the Commissioner a satisfactory explanation as to how she believed her ability to attend, speak and vote at meetings of the Cabinet would achieve the objectives of the provisions of the Policing and Crime Act 2017 in relation to greater

collaborative working between the emergency services and the enhancement of the democratic accountability of Northumbria Police and Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service and, that, in any event

- (ii) the Cabinet considered that greater collaborative working between Northumbria Police and Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service could be achieved by more effective and meaningful strategic and operational partnership working between the two services without the need for the Commissioner's formal involvement as a co-opted member of the authority which would add little or nothing, it was felt, to the democratic accountability of either service; and
- (b) the decision of Council taken on 21 February 2018 to accept the recommendations of the Communities and Place OSC and refuse the request of the Commissioner to attend, speak and vote at meetings of the Council in relation to fire and rescue service matters, be agreed and endorsed.

75. REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PROPERTY AND CAPITAL PROGRAMMING

Summary of New Capital Proposals considered by Officer Capital Strategy Group

The report summarised proposed amendments to the Capital Programme considered by the officer Capital Strategy Group at its meeting held on 9 February 2018 (copy attached to the signed minutes as Appendix C).

(a) Ellington Junior Football Club

Councillor Homer spoke in support of the project. She had visited the Club and had been impressed by the enthusiasm and the amount of funding which had already been raised. There was a lot of interest from other groups who were keen to use the facilities, which highlighted potential additional income.

Councillor Oliver felt the initiative should be encouraged as much as possible. Three pitches was an excellent achievement and the return to the community for the investment would be enormous.

RESOLVED that County Council be recommended to endorse the project and approve a maximum grant award of £167,593, to be funded from the existing provision within the Medium Term Financial Plan for "Contingency to Support Grant Funded Projects."

(b) Country Parks Investment Programme

Councillor Sanderson supported the project which would see all parks benefit from some attention. The country parks were a very important asset for the Authority and were badly in need of investment. It was important to note that

income levels from car parking charges were only estimates at this stage though it was hoped that they would be achieved in the first year. He also pointed out that an exception had been made for the organised run at Druridge Bay Country Park.

RESOLVED that County Council be recommended to approve the

- re-introduction of parking charges at Druridge Bay, Plessey Woods and Bolam Lake and,
- proposed investment programme and associated new budget requirement of £997,000 - to be funded by the re-introduction of parking charges.

(c) Craster Car Park

Members welcomed this much needed initiative, which had been developed with the support of the Parish Council and local community. It was expected that it would be completed for next summer.

RESOLVED that County Council be recommended to approve the proposed extension and associated budget requirement of £300,000, to be met from the existing car parking provision within the MTFP.

(d) Solar PV Panel County Hall

Councillor Oliver welcomed the proposal which would provide significant savings and also offered an opportunity to be environmentally responsible.

RESOLVED that County Council be recommended to approve the proposed installation of solar panels at County Hall and associated budget requirement of £251,878 to be met from the Renewable Energy Provision within the MTFP.

(e) AIn Valley Railway Cycleway

The Leader commended the officer work which had levered in funding for this very worthwhile project. He felt sure it would increase the tourism offer and that the route would be very well used. Members supported the project and felt it was very much to be encouraged given the importance of cycling and walking to local tourism.

RESOLVED that County Council be recommended to approve the proposed grant award of £170,000 subject to successful application for 100% RDPE grant support.

(f) Pothole Action Fund Grant

Councillor Sanderson welcomed this funding from the DfT along with the £420,000 funding provided by the Council. The recent bad weather had made the task of dealing with potholes even greater but he had confidence in the expertise of the crews and staff to tackle the problem. He also complimented the Northumberland Gazette for its responsible reporting and pointed out that Northumberland was not alone in having road condition issues. He cautioned that the situation would take time to fully address and would need additional financial support.

RESOLVED that County Council be recommended to accept the additional grant award of £930,771 and to increase the budget allocation accordingly.

CHAIR.....

DATE.....