

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

At a meeting of the **Cabinet** held at County Hall, Morpeth on Thursday 14 June 2018 at 5.00 pm.

PRESENT

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

CABINET MEMBERS

Homer, C.
Jones, V.
Oliver, N

Sanderson, H.G.H.
Wearmouth, R.

OTHER MEMBERS

Bawn, D.
Beynon, J.
Castle, G.
Davey, J.G.
Dodd, R.R.
Gobin, J.J.

Grimshaw, L.
Reid, J.
Roughead, G.
Seymour, C.
Swinburn, M.
Swithenbank, I.C.F.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Bainbridge, V.
Hadfield, K.

Henry, L
Jackson, D.

Johnston, P.
Lally, D.
McEvoy, C.

Executive Director of Adult Care
Committee Services and Scrutiny
Manager
Legal Services Manager
Service Director, Education and
Skills
Executive Director of Place
Chief Executive
Executive Director of Children's
Services

Ch.'s Initials.....

Robson, S.
Sanderson, J.

Scarr, B.

Turner, M.

Principal Planner, Planning Policy
Senior Planning Manager (Planning
Policy)
Executive Director of Finance and
Deputy Chief Executive
Head of Property and Capital
Programming

Around 6 members of the press and public were present.

7. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Daley and Riddle.

8. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on Tuesday 8 May 2018 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair, subject to Minute No. 4(1)(a) reading as follows:-

- a) Haydon Bridge High School be kept open as an 11-18 secondary school, in order to maintain secondary education in Haydon Bridge; **Cabinet recommend Council to approve funding of a support plan of £1.54m to support the school for at least 3 years**; it be noted that Haydon Bridge High School will come back under the control of the local authority and will continue as a maintained school for at least three years or until the RSC can broker an appropriate sponsor;

9. REPORT OF THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PLACE

Northumberland Local Plan - Draft Plan

The report sought approval for the publication of the Northumberland Local Plan - Regulation 18 Draft Plan for consultation (copy attached to the signed minutes as Appendix A).

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 The previous plan had been withdrawn because of a lack of confidence in the robustness of the figures, particularly on housing and population numbers, and because of the proposed amount of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.

10. REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Arch Transition and Establishment of New Company

The report sought approval from Cabinet for the planned closure of Arch Corporate Holdings and the creation of a new replacement company to be known as Advance Northumberland, together with consequential changes to subsidiary companies (copy attached to the signed minutes as Appendix B).

Councillor Oliver reminded members of the background to the situation and the issues of concern. The report today was about the creation of a new holding company.

Councillor Bawn reported from Scrutiny, which had met immediately prior to Cabinet. The Committee had had a full debate on the issue and clarity had been sought on a number of matters. There had been some concern about matters not included in the report but reassurances had been provided regarding progress reports being brought forward. The Committee had felt it was important for reports to be made to the Local Area Councils to keep local members informed of issues in their patch.

The Committee had voted on a motion to recommend to the Cabinet that the proposals be rejected. This had been defeated by 6 votes to 3, with 1 abstention.

Members felt it was key that the new company should focus on the Council's corporate strategy and improving lives in Northumberland, and that it be open to clear scrutiny. Councillor Oliver confirmed that there would be a clear separation of responsibilities and that the Audit Committee would have full access to Advance Northumberland.

RESOLVED unanimously that:-

- (a) Cabinet approve the closure of Arch Corporate Holdings;
- (b) Cabinet approve the establishment of a replacement Holding Company to be known as Advance Northumberland and associated subsidiaries which focuses on priorities set by the Council in the Corporate Plan;
- (c) Cabinet approve the development of revised governance arrangements that will address:
 - The establishment of an Operating Agreement between the Council and the new company, setting out how the company will deliver the Council's requirements including key performance indicators
 - Reserved matters for the Council
 - The arrangements for formally managing performance and governance;
- (d) Cabinet approve the appointment of the Chief Executive as the Council's shareholder representative for the new company; and
- (e) the comments from Corporate Services and Economic Growth OSC be noted.

11. REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

(1) Northumberland Draft School Organisation Plan

The report requested Cabinet to review the draft School Organisation Plan for Northumberland and approve the publication of the plan in July 2018, subject to seeking comments from schools and other partners.

The report also outlined the results of the statutory consultation processes for the expansion of The Dales School in Blyth (through the creation of a satellite school in Ashington) and of Hexham Priory School on proposals to increase the number of places available for children and young people with Special Educational Needs in the county. Cabinet was asked to formally approve the proposed increases in places at these schools (copy attached to the signed minutes as Appendix C).

RESOLVED that:-

a) Cabinet note:

- the content of the draft School Organisation Plan and its purpose;
- that the School Organisation Plan would be effective from 2018 to 2021, but would be refreshed on an annual basis to reflect changed data and school circumstances.
- that the School Organisation Plan will be circulated to schools and other partners for comment before publication in July 2018 if approved;
- the feedback from the formal consultations on the proposals to;
 - Expand The Dales School in Blyth by creating an additional 50 places on a satellite site in Ashington to be called Ashdale;
 - Expand Hexham Priory School to accommodate a further 32 places at its site in Hexham.

b) Cabinet approve:

- the publication of the School Organisation Plan in July 2018 (subject to comment as noted in Recommendation 1);
- the proposal to expand The Dales School in Blyth by 50 places for children and young people with Special Educational Needs via the creation of the satellite Ashdale site in Ashington, but with a modification of the implementation date to 1 December 2018 in the light of necessary adjustments to the project timeline. The Governing Body of The Dales School would be consulted with regard to this proposed modification.
- the proposal to expand the building of Hexham Priory School to provide suitable accommodation for another 32 places children and young people with Special Educational Needs but with a

Ch.'s Initials.....

Cabinet, 14 June 2018

modification of the implementation date to 1 November 2018 in the light of necessary adjustments to the project timeline. The Governing Body of Hexham Priory School would be consulted with regard to this proposed modification.

c) in reaching a decision on the Statutory Proposals for The Dales School and Hexham Priory School in Recommendation 2), Cabinet take into account:

- The Department for Education's (DfE) 'Guidance for decision-makers: Statutory guidance for decision-makers deciding prescribed alteration and establishment and discontinuance proposals, April 2016' and the 'Making 'prescribed alterations' to maintained schools; Statutory guidance for proposers and decision makers April 2016' attached to this report at Appendix 5a and Appendix 5b respectively.

d) Cabinet note:

The impact of the proposals to expand The Dales and Hexham Priory Schools is set out in the relevant Statutory Proposals attached at Appendices 2 and 3 of the report.

e) the report of the Family and Children's Services OSC be noted.

(2) Regional Adoption Agency

The development of a Regional Adoption Agency (RAA) for the North East is subject to approval in September 2018 by the Cabinets of each of the participating local authorities: Gateshead MBC, Newcastle City Council, North Tyneside Council, Northumberland County Council and South Tyneside Council (the Constituent Councils). The report provided an update on the progress of the development of the proposals for the RAA and sought authority to undertake consultation with stakeholders on the current proposals to create the RAA. It was also proposed that North Tyneside Council would act as the host authority for the RAA with the other participating authorities delegating their adoption functions, pursuant to the Local Government Act 2000, to North Tyneside Council (copy attached to the signed minutes as Appendix D).

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the progress undertaken with respect to the proposal for the adoption services of Gateshead MBC, Newcastle City Council, North Tyneside Council, Northumberland County Council and South Tyneside

Council to be combined to create a Regional Adoption Agency to be known as “Adopt North East” be noted;

- (b) it be noted that the preferred business model for “Adopt North East” is a local authority hosted model which will operate through the delegation of the Constituent Councils’ adoption functions to a host local authority pursuant to Sections 9EA and 9EB of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Authorities (Arrangements for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012;
- (c) Cabinet note the proposal for North Tyneside Council to act as the Lead and Host Authority for “Adopt North East” and that it is proposed that the new arrangements will commence in early December 2018;
- (e) Cabinet note the draft summary Business Case associated with the delivery of “Adopt North East” and the associated funding proposals (Appendix 1);
- (f) Cabinet agree that the Authority consults jointly with the other participating authorities on the proposals for “Adopt North East” with the relevant stakeholders, as set out in the report;
- (g) it be noted that a further report will be submitted to Cabinet in September 2018 seeking final approval of the proposals following the receipt and analysis of the consultation exercise, the finalisation of the Final Business Case and agreement of appropriate Heads of Terms for a legal agreement to be entered into by the Constituent Councils; and
- (h) the report of the Family and Children’s Services OSC be noted.

12. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ADULT CARE

Extra Care and Supported Housing Strategy

The report sought approval for a strategy for the development of housing schemes designed to enable people to live independently (copy attached to the signed minutes as Appendix E).

Councillor Jones set out a detailed background to the report and thanked Scrutiny for the positive support to the report’s proposals. Ms Bainbridge added that the report set out the direction of travel, scope, definition and opportunities with North of Tyne and investors who wanted to work with the Authority.

Members welcomed this initiative which showed clear leadership and felt it was very important to provide these kind of facilities in order to allow people to remain within their own communities when they got to the stage of needing help. It was hoped that this could be done in smaller communities also. The Leader commented that the report clearly set out the scale of the challenge and the level of need right across the county. The planned delivery programme, working with the private sector, or alone where appropriate, would ensure the need was met.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the draft strategy be endorsed;
- (b) the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and the Executive Director for Place be asked to carry forward detailed planning for supported housing schemes in individual locations – initially focusing on the list set out in the strategy, but also responding to any opportunities which arise;
- (c) it be noted that some schemes can be developed without Council funding, but that some are likely to require financial support. Funding to support these developments is being sought through the North of Tyne combined authority. In any case where Council funding is required for the viability of schemes, detailed business cases will be prepared; and
- (d) the report of the Health and Wellbeing OSC be noted.

13. 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 meetings held on 13 April 2018 and 11 May 2018 (copy attached to the signed minutes as Appendix F).

(1) Alnwick Juniors 3G Pitch Utility Installation Costs

RESOLVED that County Council be recommended to approve the additional budget requirement of £95,000 to be funded from the 'contingency fund for grant funded projects' allocation within the MTFP;

(2) Healthy Pupils Capital Fund

RESOLVED that County Council be recommended to accept the new grant award of £243,000 and approve the proposed process for its allocation to maintained schools.

(3) Car Parking

Councillor Sanderson commended this proposal to members which was a result of excellent collaborative working with town and parish councils, and officers.

RESOLVED that County Council be recommended to note the update and approve the provision of a capital allocation to enable the implementation of the immediate, high priority actions detailed in the approved parking study action plans for Alnwick, Morpeth, Berwick, & Hexham totalling £289,000 – as set out in Appendix A – to be funded from the £10m parking provision within the MTFP.

CHAIR.....

DATE.....