

## **NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL**

### **CABINET**

At a meeting of the Cabinet held at County Hall, Morpeth on Tuesday 12 March 2024 at 10.00 am.

### **PRESENT**

Councillor G. Sanderson  
(Leader of the Council, in the Chair)

### **CABINET MEMBERS**

Horncastle, C.	Renner Thompson, G
Jones, V.	Riddle, J.
Pattison, W.	Stewart, G.
Ploszaj, W.	Watson, J.G.

### **OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Bradley, N.	Executive Director for Adults, Aging & Wellbeing
Gerrard, S.	Director of Law and Corporate Governance
Hadfield, K.	Democratic and Electoral Services Manager
Hunter, P.	Assistant Chief Executive
Kingham, A.	Executive Director for Children, Young People and Education
Neilson, S. (remote)	Executive Director for Place and Regeneration
O'Neill, G.	Executive Director for Public Health (DPH), Inequalities & Stronger Communities
Paterson, Dr H.	Chief Executive
Willis, J. (remote)	Executive Director for Transformation and Resources (S151)

### **86. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Wearmouth.

## 87. MINUTES

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 13 February 2024, as circulated, be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

## 88. REPORT OF THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR CORPORATE SERVICES

### Financial Performance 2023-24 – Position at the end of December 2023

The report informed the Cabinet of the current and forecast financial position for the Council against the Budget for 2023-24 (copy attached to the signed minutes).

**RESOLVED** that:-

(a) Cabinet approve the following:

- the re-profiling to the Capital Programme of £47.326 million from 2023-24 to 2024-25 to reflect estimated expenditure levels in the current financial year. £4.738 million of this has already been factored into the 2024-25 to 2027-28 Medium Term Financial Plan.
- the utilisation of £2.000 million from the Business Recovery Reserve to fund additional financial support for Active Northumberland in recognition of significant inflationary pressures and to allow Active Northumberland to maintain reserves at a sufficient level to facilitate an orderly closure of the business and transition to the new leisure provider. Any funds remaining upon the winding up of the business will transfer back to the Council to support leisure services in Northumberland.

(b) Cabinet note the following:

- the projected overspend on services of £3.527 million and the assumptions outlined in this report.
- the projected net overspend of £0.510 million after the utilisation of the reserves.
- £2.000 million underspend on the Todstead Landslip scheme resulting in only £3.000 million of the £5.000 million allocation from the Severe Weather Reserve being required.
- the supplementary estimates at Appendix A and the required changes to the budgets.
- the delivery of the approved savings at Appendix B.
- the use of the contingency shown at Appendix L.
- the use of reserves shown at Appendix M.

- the virements requested by services shown at Appendix N.
- the details of capital project reprofiling shown at Appendix O.

**89. REPORT OF THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR CORPORATE SERVICES**

**Summary of New Capital Proposals considered by Officer Capital Strategy Group**

The report summarised proposed amendments to the Capital Programme considered by the Capital Strategy Group (copy attached to the signed minutes).

**RESOLVED** that:-

**(a) A197 Bothal Terrace, Ashington**

- 1) Cabinet note the capital grant secured of £0.200 million via Sustrans from the Department for Transport (DfT) 6 National Cycle Network (NCN) Activation Programme.
- 2) Cabinet approve the proposed spend and amend the capital programme in 2024-25 to include the capital grant of £0.200 million.

**(b) Wooler Visitor Infrastructure**

- 3) Cabinet approve the spend of £0.106 million to carry out the works detailed in section 6.
- 4) Cabinet approve the amendment to the Capital Programme to reallocate £0.106 million from the Strategic Regeneration Projects – Wooler Visitor Infrastructure to the Wooler Parking project in 2024-25.

**(c) Energising Blyth Strategic Acquisitions**

- 5) Cabinet approve the amendment to the Capital Programme to reallocate £0.634 million (£0.382 million in 2023-24 and £0.252 million in 2024-25) from the Energising Blyth Acquisitions Project to the Strategic Acquisitions project.

**(d) Prudhoe Waterworld Soft Play**

- 6) Cabinet approve the spend of £0.060 million to replace the existing soft play area at Prudhoe Waterworld in 2024-25.
- 7) Cabinet approve the amendment to the Capital Programme to reallocate £0.060 million from the Prudhoe Waterworld project to the Prudhoe Waterworld Soft Play project in 2024-25.

**CHAIR**.....

**DATE**.....